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Press contact: Matt Gray, AOP Projects Manager, email: mgray@operaprojects.org phone: 718-398-4024
Press material is available at: www.operaprojects.org

**AMERICAN OPERA PROJECTS PRESENTS
TARIK O'REGAN'S HEART OF DARKNESS**

**A CONCERT WORKSHOP AND LIBRETTO READING
OF THE OPERA-IN-PROGRESS**

NEW YORK, NY, October 6, 2006— On November 3rd and November 4th, 2006 at 8pm **AMERICAN OPERA PROJECTS (AOP)** will present a concert workshop and libretto reading of **Tarik O' Regan's HEART OF DARKNESS** based on the novella by Joseph Conrad. The November 3rd performance will be held at South Oxford Space in Fort Greene, Brooklyn, the home of American Opera Projects. The November 4th performance will be held at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, NJ. Both performances will feature a panel discussion with O' Regan and British artist and librettist for *Heart of Darkness* **Tom Phillips**.

Currently under development with American Opera Projects, *Heart of Darkness* is the latest work from composer Tarik O' Regan, whose CD *Voices* was released to much acclaim in Europe and North America. O' Regan has been singled out by *The Observer* (London) as "**one of the most original and eloquent of young composers... tonal but cutting-edge**" and by *The London Times*, which noted, "**O'Regan's gift for lyric flight seems boundless. You might have to reach back to Vaughan Williams's *Serenade to Music*, or even Tallis, to find another British vocal work so exultant. He's a composer of generous passion and imagination...**" *Heart of Darkness* is being written as an opera in one act for 8 singers and 13 instruments. The performances on Nov. 3rd & 4th, will be performed with singers and piano accompaniment, led by AOP Artistic Director **Steven Osgood**. Singers scheduled to perform include **Robert Hoyt** (Orlando Opera, Toledo Opera), and **Michael Zegarski** (NYCO, Opera Theater of St. Louis).

Voted **one of the 100 best novels of the 20th Century** by The Modern Library, Joseph Conrad's masterpiece *Heart of Darkness* follows Marlow, a riverboat captain, on a voyage into the African Congo at the height of European colonialism. Astounded by the brutal depravity he witnesses, Marlow becomes obsessed with finding Kurtz, a notorious ivory trader stationed farther along the river. "All that happens in Conrad's seminal novella, which heralded the 20th century," explains composer Tarik O'Regan, "still goes on in the world's many hearts of darkness as we enter the 21st. Though the theatres of human degradation migrate from place to place among nations and continents they continue to conform to the old recipes."

Audiences first heard music from *Heart of Darkness* in June 2006 when AOP presented the first concert reading of scenes from the opera-in-progress at South Oxford Space in Fort Greene, Brooklyn. Just blocks away from the Brooklyn Academy of Music, South Oxford Space will also be the first of two locations in November to present the latest scenes from *Heart of Darkness*. Scenes will also be presented at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, NJ where librettist Tom Phillips is in residence. Mr. Phillips' set designs for *Heart of Darkness*, as well as additional artwork from his esteemed career, will be available for viewing at the concert.

American Opera Projects' **HEART OF DARKNESS** performs at 8pm on **November 3rd, 2006** in the Great Room at South Oxford Space (138 S. Oxford St. in Ft. Greene, Brooklyn). To reserve tickets call: 718-398-4024. Tickets are \$15 (\$12 for students/seniors). On **November 4th, 2006**, AOP's **HEART OF DARKNESS** performs at 8pm at the Institute for Advanced Study (Wolfensohn Hall; Einstein Drive, Princeton, NJ). Admission is free. Reservations are encouraged. To reserve tickets for Nov. 4 call: 609-734-8175.

Founded in 1988, **American Opera Projects (AOP)** has gained international recognition as an arts organization devoted to creating, developing, and presenting new American opera and experimental music theatre. AOP is led by Charles Jarden, Executive Director, and Steven Osgood, Artistic Director.