

AMERICAN OPERA PROJECTS



AMERICAN OPERA PROJECTS PRESENTS THE WORLD PREMIERE OF STAGED SONG CYCLE "MODEL LOVE" / FELSENFELD-ENO MONODRAMA "NORA, IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS" COMPLETES EVENING OF MUSIC AT KAPLAN PENTHOUSE

Brooklyn, NY – On Sunday, October 2, 4pm and 7:30pm, American Opera Projects will present the world premiere of **Model Love**, a humorous staged song-cycle about contemporary relationships with jazz and rock elements by composer J. David Jackson based on texts by British comedian Henry Normal, and the one-act opera monodrama **Nora, In the Great Outdoors**, music by Daniel Felsenfeld and libretto by Will Eno, that continues the final scene of Henrik Ibsen's **A Doll's House** moments after Nora abandons her family. The event will be held at Lincoln Center's Stanley H. Kaplan Penthouse. Tickets are \$25, \$50 for VIP reserve seating, available at www.operaprojects.org.

"Fun, energetic and curious song cycle interested in M-M-W threesome. R U what I M looking 4?" **Model Love** is a 30-minute song cycle fusing contemporary art song with blues, jazz, and rock set for three singers (soprano, baritone, tenor) chamber orchestra and rock band. Based on texts from *Nude Modelling for the Afterlife* by BAFTA award winning poet/comedian Henry Normal with music by J. David Jackson, *Model Love* mixes musical styles and genres in a way that humorously (and accurately) represents the variegated emotions and situations of contemporary love affairs. **Crystal Manich** (Opera Omnia's *Giasone*) directs. **J. David Jackson** conducts.

Using an icy climate crossed with a fragile-yet-eruptive emotional state of mind as musical grist, **Nora, In the Great Outdoors** is a take on the ending of Ibsen's seminal "A Doll's House," especially its famous final stage direction, the first collaboration between composer Daniel Felsenfeld and playwright Will Eno. The monodrama takes over immediately where Ibsen leaves off, when the heroine abandons her family, her marriage her security, and perhaps the most famous slammed door in the history of drama. Commissioned by American Opera Projects, *Nora, In the Great Outdoors*, is a monodrama for soprano and piano trio and will star **Kirsten Chambers** in the title role. **Keith Chambers** conducts.

MEDIA RELEASE

Sunday, October 2, 2011
4pm and 7:30pm
Stanley H. Kaplan Penthouse
Rose Building,
Lincoln Center, 10th Floor
65th St. & Amsterdam Ave.
New York, NY

American Opera Projects
presents:

Model Love
(world premiere)
A song cycle by J. David Jackson
Based on texts by Henry Normal
Rosalie Sullivan, mezzo
Jeremy Little, tenor
Gregory Gerbrandt, baritone
Crystal Manich, director
J. David Jackson, conductor

with

**Nora in the Great
Outdoors**
A monodrama by
Daniel Felsenfeld
Libretto by Will Eno
Kirsten Chambers, soprano
Mary Birnbaum, director
Keith Chambers, conductor

Tickets:
General Admission: \$25
VIP Reserve Seating: \$50

Info:
www.operaprojects.org/events

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Press Photos:
www.operaprojects.org/press

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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Model Love

J. David Jackson (composer, conductor) is the new Principal Guest Conductor of the Lisbon Chamber Orchestra. This season he returns to the Metropolitan Opera to cover four productions. Conducting credits include *Simon Boccanegra*, *Hansel and Gretel* and *Pique Dame* in New York, *Faust* in Genoa, *Elektra* in Istanbul, *Der Freischütz* in Bangkok, *Don Pasquale*, *Love of Three Oranges* and *Così fan Tutte* in Brussels, *War and Peace* in Toronto. His compositions have been heard in Brussels (Cello Sonata, Violin Fantasy), Frankfurt (Magnificat) and in the US (vocal and chamber works, opera *The Birth of Christ*). He recently completed his *Violin Concerto*, and is nearing completion of *Water, the Bearer of Love*, with texts by Propertius, Statius, Pliny and Homer. www.piperanselmi.com/jackson

Henry Normal (text) Henry Normal was born in Nottingham. His entertainment career began as a poet and stand-up comedian in the mid-Eighties. Henry has been responsible for creating, writing, executive producing and script-editing some of the best and award winning television comedy of the last decade. As a writer, he has worked with many of the UK's top comedians including Caroline Aherne, Dave Gorman, Craig Cash, John Thompson, Johnny Vegas and of course Steve Coogan, before setting up Baby Cow Productions in 1999 with Steve. Since 1999 he has devoted the majority of his time to running and building Baby Cow. He has executive produced all of Baby Cow's output and script edited many of the shows. www.babycow.co.uk

Crystal Manich (director) Directed *Giuseppe* for Opera Omnia, where she is co-founder and co-Artistic Director. Upcoming projects include *La traviata* and *L'elisir d'amore*. This year Crystal directed a new production of Handel's *Rinaldo* for Pittsburgh Opera where she also directed *La bohème* in 2009. www.crystalmanich.com

Rosalie Sullivan (mezzo) has performed at Carnegie Hall as the mezzo soloist in the Mozart *Requiem* and in the NY premiere of Stephen Edward's *Ave Maria Mass* with MidAmerica Productions. www.rosaliesullivan.com

Jeremy Little (tenor) Created the title role in Lowell Liebermann's *Miss Lonelyhearts*, and was a 2010 Grammy Nominee for his performance in the live recording of John Musto's *Volpone*. Jeremy is now in his fourth season with the Metropolitan Opera Chorus, appearing in over 20 productions each season.

Gregory Gerbrandt (baritone) 2010-2011 Season included Enrico in *Lucia di Lammermoor* with Hawaii Opera Theatre, Escamillo in *Carmen*, and Marcello in *La bohème* at the Natchez Opera Festival and The Crested Butte Music Festival. <http://gregorygerbrandt.com>

Model Love Chamber Orchestra and Rock Band:

Juan Pablo Horcasitas (pianist/music assistant) www.jphorcasitas.com

Nicole Camacho (flute) www.myspace.com/nicolelanacamacho

Janelle Reichman (clarinet/saxophone) <http://janellereichman.com/>

Sara Schoenbeck (bassoon) www.myspace.com/saraschoenbeck

Josh Modney (violin) www.joshuamodney.com

Victor Lowrie (violin) www.victorlowrie.com
Rose Bellini (cello) www.rosebellini.com
Eleonore Oppenheim (contrabass) www.eleonoreoppenheim.com
Stacey Shames (harp)
Taylor Levine (acoustic/electric guitar) www.myspace.com/taylorlevine
Linda Oh (bass guitar) www.lindaohmusic.com
Levy Lorenzo (percussion) www.levylorenzo.com

Nora, in the Great Outdoors

Daniel Felsenfeld (composer) created and produced the marathon concert *Music After* for the tenth anniversary of the September 11 attacks. His opera *The Last of Manhattan* was commissioned by and premiered at The Kitchen in New York City, and his opera, *Summer and All it Brings*, was presented at New York City Opera's VOX 2004: Showcasing American Composers.

Will Enos (librettist) play *The Flu Season* won the Oppenheimer Award for the best New York debut by an American playwright in 2004, and his play *Thom Pain (based on nothing)* was a finalist for the 2005 Pulitzer Prize in Drama. His play *Middletown* premiered at New York City's Vineyard Theatre in 2010 and at Steppenwolf in Chicago in 2011.

Keith Chambers (conductor) was appointed Assistant Conductor of New York City Opera in 2007 and is Director of the Victoria J. Mastrobuono Emerging Artist Program for Opera New Jersey. During the 2011-12 season, he conducts *Tosca* for the Martha Cardona Theater and *The Poe Project* for American Lyric Theater.

Mary Birnbaum (director) founded art.party.theater.company in 2009 and as its director has led collaborations with Flux Factory, American Opera Projects, The Foundry Theatre and Bryant Park. Assistant Director to Stephen Wadsworth at Seattle Opera, Juilliard, the Met and, most recently, on Master Class on Broadway at Manhattan Theatre Club.

Kirsten Chambers (Nora, soprano) Featured repertoire includes Elsa in *Lohengrin*, the title roles of *Turandot* and *Tosca*, and Chrysothemis in *Elektra*. She began the season with a return to Toledo Opera to cover Ariadne in *Ariadne auf Naxos* and continued with a cover of the title role of *Turandot* with Arizona Opera and a concert performance of the title role of *Tosca* with Opera Saratoga.

Mila Henry (pianist) www.milahenry.com
Josh Modney (violinist) <http://joshuamodney.wordpress.com/>
Rose Bellini (cellist) www.rosebellini.com

ABOUT THE PRODUCER

American Opera Projects' mission is to champion innovative works of music theater, to expand the art form, and to identify, develop and present new works by emerging and established talent. AOP's goal is to create a lasting legacy of relevant music theater and to inspire new audiences with a fresh appreciation for new opera and theater. AOP is a driving force behind the revitalization of contemporary opera and musical theater in the United States through its exclusive devotion to creating, developing, and presenting new American opera and music theatre projects. www.operaprojects.org

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