

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

---



**Press contact:** Matt Gray, AOP Company Manager, email: [mgray@operaprojects.org](mailto:mgray@operaprojects.org), phone: 718-398-4024

**Press material is available at:** [www.operaprojects.org/press](http://www.operaprojects.org/press)

**AMERICAN OPERA PROJECTS TEAMS  
WITH BOSTON CLASSICAL ORCHESTRA TO PREMIERE SCENES  
FROM HERSCHEL GARFEIN'S OPERA  
"ROSENCRANTZ AND GULDENSTERN ARE DEAD"  
SATURDAY AND SUNDAY APRIL 10 AND 11**

**PERFORMANCE WITH SCHUMANN'S SYMPHONY NO. 2  
IN FANEUIL HALL COMPLETES BCO'S 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SEASON**

**BOSTON CLASSICAL ORCHESTRA (BCO)** in association with **AMERICAN OPERA PROJECTS (AOP)** will present select scenes from: *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, the first opera ever to be adapted from a play by Tony-winning playwright **Tom Stoppard**. The opera-in-development by **Herschel Garfein** (librettist, *Elmer Gantry*; composer, *American Steel*) will be presented with **Robert Schumann's Symphony No. 2** to cap BCO's 30<sup>th</sup> season in historic Faneuil Hall, on **Saturday, April 10 at 8 pm** and **Sunday, April 11 at 3 pm**. Music Director **Steven Lipsitt** conducts. Tickets from \$18-63 including discounts for senior citizens, teachers, and students (ID required) are available from Boston Classical Orchestra. Call 617-423-3883 or visit [www.bostonclassicalorchestra.org](http://www.bostonclassicalorchestra.org). P.O. Box 152, Newton MA 02468.

A pre-concert talk with WBUR's Mary Ann Nichols and Herschel Garfein will take place one hour before each performance. A post-concert conversation will be moderated by Charles Jarden, General Director of the American Opera Projects (NY). Panelists will be Richard Dyer, former chief music critic, the *Boston Globe*; the composer, Herschel Garfein; Esther Nelson, General and Artistic Director, Boston Lyric Opera; and BCO Music Director Steven Lipsitt.

*Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* is the first full-length opera to be adapted from a work by British playwright **Tom Stoppard**. Adapted and composed by Herschel Garfein, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* is based on the 1967 Tony Award-winning play that retells the story of *Hamlet* from the point-of-view of two minor characters in the Shakespeare play. Allowed only a highly restricted view of the tumultuous events of *Hamlet* unfolding around them, and deceived by nearly everyone, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern play games to pass the time and tirelessly devise strategies to make sense of their place in the grander scheme.

The cast of *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* will be Krista River, mezzo-soprano as Alfred; baritone Chad Sloan as Rosencrantz; baritone David Kravitz as Guildenstern; and bass Jeffrey Tucker as the Player, leader of the acting troupe, The Tragedians, whom

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern encounter in the wilderness. The actors, all vocal students at the New England Conservatory of Music, are portrayed by Lindsay Conrad, Ashley Kozak, Abigail Krawson, Lila Palmer, Sean Lair and Brock Johnson.

Herschel Garfein was the BCO's first-ever commissioned composer, who wrote "Places to Live" to celebrate the orchestra's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary season. Also on the program, the Second Symphony of Robert Schumann, honoring the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the composer's birth in 1810.

AOP's sold-out November 2009 staged workshop of *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* directed by **Mark Morris** (The Met's *Orfeo ed Euridice*, NYCO's *King Arthur*) was called "a perfect first exposure to opera" (*Time Out NY*). "Its melodies are memorable and toe-tapping... Garfein has all the makings of a post-millennial Carlisle Floyd."

### **Boston Classical Orchestra**

The Boston Classical Orchestra, one of the leading professional orchestras in Boston, presents outstanding performances of the great works of the Early Romantic, Classical and Baroque periods, and other masterpieces for chamber orchestra in an intimate, relaxed, and historical setting.

All programs are in historic Faneuil Hall and are given on Saturday evenings at 8 and on Sunday afternoons at 3. Students are offered a 50% discount. Senior citizens and teachers are offered \$3 discounts off each ticket.

### **American Opera Projects (AOP)**

For over 20 years, Brooklyn, NY's American Opera Projects (AOP) has been creating, developing and presenting exclusively new American opera and music theatre projects that have appeared at the Royal Opera House, London, the Lincoln Center Festival, Skirball Center at NYU, the Guggenheim Museum, Symphony Space, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, and many other national and international venues. AOP, based in Fort Greene, Brooklyn, has presented over 15 world premiere operas including Lee Hoiby's *This is the Rill Speaking* (2008), Stefan Weisman's *Darkling* (2006), and Paula Kimper's *Patience & Sarah* (1998). Upcoming productions of AOP-developed projects include *Séance on a Wet Afternoon*, the first opera by Stephen Schwartz, at New York City Opera in April 2011 and the world premieres of Jorge Martín's *Before Night Falls* at Fort Worth Opera in 2010 and Tarik O'Regan's *Heart of Darkness* at The Royal Opera House's Linbury Studio in 2011.

### **Steven Lipsitt**

Steven Lipsitt is in his eleventh season as Music Director of the Boston Classical Orchestra. Winner of the prestigious Dimitri Mitropoulos International Conducting Competition in 1996, Maestro Lipsitt has conducted the St. Petersburg Philharmonic (Russia), West Czech Symphonic Orchestra, Athens Camerata, Orchestra ton

Chromaton, State Symphony Orchestra of São Paulo, Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra (Canada), and, closer to home, Boston Ballet Orchestra, North Carolina Symphony, South Carolina Philharmonic, Colorado Symphony, Spokane Symphony Orchestra, Hudson Valley Philharmonic, and Norwalk Symphony Orchestra.

As an opera conductor, Steven Lipsitt has collaborated with Scottish Opera, English National Opera, the Kennedy Center Opera House, and Boston Lyric Opera.

### **Historic Faneuil Hall**

Built in 1742, Boston's historic Faneuil Hall is one of the most extraordinary concert halls in the Western Hemisphere. Not only is it a venue of unsurpassed historical significance and exceptional intimacy, Faneuil Hall also gives music lovers the remarkable experience of being able to thrill to performances of Classical and Romantic era masterworks in the very kind of hall where they might have received their world premieres.

**PRESS PHOTOS: [www.operaprojects.org/press](http://www.operaprojects.org/press)**

Release date: March 17, 2010

**END**