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AMERICAN OPERA PROJECTS AND
WORKS & PROCESS AT THE GUGGENHEIM
PRESENT THE CROWNING EVENT OF NEW YORK CITY'S MONTH-
LONG CELEBRATION OF NEW MUSIC AND OPERA

ROMULUS
BY LOUIS KARCHIN
WORLD PREMIERE
FOR TWO NIGHTS ONLY

NEW YORK, NY, April 8th, 2007— On Sunday, May 20th and Monday, May 21st, 2007 at 7:30pm, **AMERICAN OPERA PROJECTS (AOP)** wraps up its participation in a city-wide celebration of new music and opera (including New York City Opera's VOX, American Composer Orchestra's Underwood New Music Readings at Skirball Center, and Wall to Wall Opera at Symphony Space) with the World Premiere of composer **Louis Karchin's** one-act comic opera, **ROMULUS**, a co-production of AOP, **WORKS & PROCESS AT THE GUGGENHEIM** and the **WASHINGTON SQUARE ENSEMBLE**.

Romulus will be the first-ever world-premiere opera in the 23-year history of Works & Process at the Guggenheim and marks the 13th world premiere for American Opera Projects. AOP Executive Director Charles Jarden states, "This May, New York City will see an extraordinary amount of activity in new music and we are excited to present Louis Karchin's opera as a highlight among these events. AOP is delighted to be joining forces again with Works & Process, utilizing the wonderful theatre at the Guggenheim and attracting a wider audience than is possible in more traditional venues. Mrs. Cronson has creatively seen the potential of this theatre for many years and we are proud to be bringing another premiere work to her series after our successful collaboration with *Darkling*, in a concert version, in 2005."

Directed by **Peter Flynn** and starring a renowned cast of singers including **Katrina Thurman** (Opéra National de Lyon, Oper Bonn), **Thomas Meglioranza** (Opera Boston), **Steven Ebel** (New York City Opera), and **Wilbur Pauley** (The Met, NYCO, Lyric Opera of Chicago), *Romulus* is a comedy based on the **Alexandre Dumas, père** play about two bachelor scientists in 19th century Tyrolean Austria whose lives are upended when a newborn baby appears mysteriously in their house. The hour-long, fully-staged opera will be held at the Peter B. Lewis Theater of the Guggenheim Museum (1071 Fifth Ave., NYC) and will feature the 11-member **Washington Square Ensemble** in the pit under the baton of Mr. Karchin.

ROMULUS will perform at 7:30pm on May 20-21, 2007 at the Peter B. Lewis Theater in the Sackler Center for Arts Education at the Guggenheim Museum (1071 Fifth Ave., NYC). For tickets call: (212) 423-3587 or visit www.operaprojects.org. (\$15-\$24).

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A composer of music of "fearless eloquence" (*The New Yorker*), **Louis Karchin** has received acclaim for a compositional portfolio of over 50 works. His two recent extended vocal-instrumental song cycles for baritone, *Orpheus* (Best of 2005 new scores-Alex Ross, *The New Yorker*), and *American Visions*, garnered critical praise, and his cycle for soprano, *Songs of Distance and Light*, was hailed at its premiere by *The San Francisco Chronicle* as "a work of coruscating beauty... one of the signal new music events of the season." Mr. Karchin is Professor of Music in NYU's Faculty of Arts and Science, teaching an advanced graduate program in composition. Mr. Karchin is also Artistic Director of the **Washington Square Contemporary Music Society**.

Making his AOP debut, **Peter Flynn** brings his reputable skill for comedy direction to ROMULUS. His directing credits (aside from his very successful Broadway performing career) include off-Broadway hits *Henry and Mudge* and *Junie B. Jones* which was nominated for two Lucille Lortel Awards including Best Musical. New York and regional venues for which Peter has directed productions include Avery Fisher Hall, Playwright's Horizons, Williamstown Festival, St. Louis MUNY, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, the Arvada Center (Denver, CO), and the Pittsburgh City Theatre.

For over 23 years and in over 300 productions, **Works & Process at the Guggenheim**, produced by Mary Sharp Cronson, has explored the creative process by providing behind-the-scenes insight into extraordinary music, dance, opera, science, literary, and theatrical performances. Each performance is accompanied by discussions among creative collaborators. Following each performance there is a unique opportunity to meet the artists at a reception hosted in the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed rotunda. "*Works & Process at the Guggenheim, a popular series devoted to shedding light on the creative process through performance and discussion.*" - *The New York Times*

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. "*Bravo to AOP for supporting such controversial and ultimately important work.*" - *Opera Today*

The Washington Square Contemporary Music Society is now celebrating its 29th season and has emerged as one of New York's most pre-eminent organizations devoted to new music performance. The core ensemble known as **The Washington Square Ensemble** is comprised of first-rate, nationally recognized musicians and has attracted a large, loyal following. The society's concerts have been the subject of feature columns in *The New Yorker*, and critics from *The New York Times*, *New York Newsday*, *The Village Voice* and others have heralded its concerts - some as "best of season" events.