



FORMERLY LAKE GEORGE OPERA

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Opera changing its name to Opera Saratoga; Celebrates 50th Anniversary in 2011

Saratoga Springs, NY (November 18, 2010) – Innovative and exciting changes are underway for Lake George Opera. Not only is the Company changing its name and celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2011, a new Young Artist Program Director has been hired and the Board of Directors has welcomed nine new members.

Opera Saratoga

In 2011, the Company will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Lake George Opera, while launching a new era, re-named as Opera Saratoga. The opera company, that once was a dream founded on the majestic shores of Lake George, is now a major performing arts organization serving over 40,000 individuals annually. For several years, the Company has considered a name change to reflect its permanent residency in Saratoga Springs. The Company has been producing opera at the Spa Little Theater for the past fourteen seasons and considers the lovely, intimate theater to be its home.

The time has come, as the Opera celebrates the accomplishments of its history, to fully embrace its home and increase the public commitment to its community and surroundings. The Opera serves a key role among the community's rich professional artistic offerings and by operating under the name Opera Saratoga, the Company will further enhance this region's standing as a home to nationally recognized cultural, artistic and educational interests. Even though the Company's name is changing to Opera Saratoga, the tradition and commitment of producing opera of the highest quality and educating young people on the magic of the arts will remain intact. Saratoga Springs Mayor Scott Johnson welcomes the name change in celebration of the 50th Anniversary. "Certainly, 50 years is a special time to reflect upon

both the past and the future. The transition to Opera Saratoga recognizes the valued and preeminent role the opera company holds in the Saratoga community and beyond", stated Mayor Johnson.

50th Anniversary Celebration

Established in 1962 by opera lovers and aficionados, the Company has gained recognition across New York State and beyond by "giving voice to the arts" through high caliber productions, instruction of young people through various education programs and by conducting the second oldest Apprentice Artist Program in the country. To commemorate this milestone, the Opera has many wonderful performances and events planned to observe the Company's 50th Anniversary, including a free concert in Congress Park on the 4th of July and mainstage performances of *Die Fledermaus*, *Così fan Tutte* and a special *50th Anniversary Concert* featuring Opera alumni. *Die Fledermaus* and *Così fan Tutte*, were produced in the Opera's inaugural year, and new productions in 2011 will pay homage to the Company's rich history. Returning singers will include Corinne Winters, Adriana Zabala, Elizabeth Pojanowski, Kyle Pfortmiller, Curt Olds, Andrew Garland, and others. The Anniversary Concert, a musical retrospective of the Company's fifty years, will feature other special guests. Visit the Opera's website at operasaratoga.org to receive additional information.

New Young Artist Program Director

Last season, the Opera lost a very dear friend and colleague. John Douglas passed away in July of 2010 after serving as the Director of Young Artist Programs and Chorus Master with the Opera for the past nine years. John conducted many performances throughout the years, but his main love was working with young singers and pianists. Each year he helped select twelve coveted Apprentice and Studio Artists from over 800 applicants.

For the 2011 season, the Opera will welcome Laurie Rogers as the new Director of Young Artist Programs. Ms. Rogers is currently a member of the music staff at the Dallas Opera and has served as Assistant Conductor for the Opera Company of Philadelphia over the course of thirteen seasons. She is a New England Conservatory of Music alumna and has been a coach and accompanist for Green Mountain Opera, Arizona Opera, Washington National Opera, Boston Lyric Opera, Sarasota Opera, Pittsburgh Opera, Glimmerglass Opera, and others. Ms. Rogers is a faculty member of The Professional Advantage in Mercatello sul Metauro, Italy; she has also taught at the Lake Placid Institute for the Arts, the Chautauqua Institution Voice School and the New England Conservatory Opera Department, and accompanies regularly for the Philadelphia Orchestra. She was integrally involved in the creation of Richard Danielpour's *Margaret Garner* and David DiChiera's *Cyrano*, and most recently helped prepare the world premiere of Jake Heggie's *Moby-Dick* at the Dallas Opera. "I am grateful and honored by the offer." Ms. Rogers said in speaking of her new position within the Company. "It is very poignant for me given the role John Douglas had in the very beginning of my career." Ms. Rogers succeeds John Douglas in this role after he succumbed

to cancer in July. Curtis Tucker, Opera Saratoga's Artistic Director had this to say about the hiring of Ms. Rogers. "With Laurie's experience at numerous prominent opera companies, and especially the Opera Company of Philadelphia, she brings a wealth of expertise to our company and to the aspiring singers of our Apprentice Artist and Studio Artist Programs. She will have an immediate and substantial impact. I am thrilled to have her join us!"

Nine New Members Join Opera Board

Opera Saratoga was pleased to welcome nine new members to its Board of Directors in 2010. The board expansion comes at a pivotal time in the Company's history. "We're delighted to accompany the 50th anniversary and name change with a significant strengthening and broadening of our Board, to help us fully leverage this unique coming of age in Saratoga," said Opera Board President Ted Newlin. The new Board members come from a variety of backgrounds and encompass different talents. New members include Joseph Erkes of Menands; Lawrence Hamilton of Saratoga Springs; Marjorie Karowe of Schenectady; Guy Mastrion of Saratoga Springs; Joel Moss of Saratoga Springs; Daniel Nolan of Albany; Dr. Denise Polit of Saratoga Springs; Rosemarie Rosen of Menands; Gordon Sutin of Saratoga Springs and Dr. Anthony Tartaglia of Delmar. Look forward to seeing these new faces around the Spa Little Theater!

For additional information on Opera Saratoga or the 50th anniversary season featuring *Die Fledermaus*, *Così fan Tutte* and a commemorative 50th Anniversary Concert, visit the Opera's website at operasaratoga.org.