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**Bon Appétit ~ Savor the Opera,**  
**The 2010 Saratoga Opera Ball**

**Saratoga Springs, NY (July 8, 2010)** – Thursday, July 1<sup>st</sup> marked an extraordinary evening when Lake George Opera at Saratoga held its 8<sup>th</sup> annual Saratoga Opera Ball entitled Bon Appétit ~ Savor the Opera. Each year this extraordinary gala raises funds to underwrite the Company's Educational Fund and Apprentice Artist Program. This year's gala featured magnificent live and silent auctions, dancing to renowned band Spare Parts, a unique operatic experience called Bon Appétit, and fabulous desserts made especially for the Opera Ball by the Lake George Baking Company.

The 8<sup>th</sup> annual Opera Ball was indeed an evening to savor thanks to Ball Chairwoman Nancy Smith. Nancy acted as the chairperson for the second year in a row and created every centerpiece by hand with help from friend and Saratoga Signatures co-worker Dan Czech. The centerpieces and decorations were marvelous thanks to the inspired work of these two.

Opera Board of Directors President Theodore F. Newlin III and his wife Carol were the evening's honorary chairs and Reel Seafood Restaurant owner Legrande Serras served as the gala's auctioneer. The success of the annual Saratoga Opera Ball helps to ensure the future of the Apprentice Artist Program, which is the 2nd oldest young artist program in the country. Guests were treated to a one-woman opera featuring a Julia Child character, baking a cake. Once again, this stand-alone event raised not only funds for the opera, but reminded guests that support for the arts is imperative, necessary, entertaining and enjoyable.

Guests at the Opera Ball included Robert & Marcia Miller, Norbert & Susan Woods, Sam Palazzole, Dan & Sally Nolan, Jeff & Judy Killeen, Patricia Gallagher & Fred Schwerin, Christine McDonald, Alan Janosy & Denise Polit, Kevin Johnson, Anne Palamountain, Larry Hamilton & Lois Matthews, Michael

Fieldman and his sister Dorothy (Michael has a role in LGOopera's *Carmen!*), Bobbie Cromer, Tom & Theresa Lloyd, Joseph & Marie Erkes, Kenneth & Ursula MacAffer, Dr. & Mrs. Anthony Tartaglia, Jim & Rosemary Eberlein, Wallace & Adeline Graham, Guy & Helen Mastrion, Christopher Cernik & Lauri Lossi, Bill Harris & Holly Katz, Anthony Cirillo, Richard & Patricia Killeen, Larry & Nancy Hart, Lionel & Debbie Barthold, Don & Karen Ranck, Jim & Karen Carminucci, Amy Supparits, Elliott & Cathy Masie, Ralph & Lauri Blasting, Robert Woods & Mary Kelly, Peter Flaherty, Frank Scherry and Barbara Hayes, Mary Huber & Peg Hyland, Sheila Parkert, Blair & Phyllis Bynum, Carol Meisel & David Crystal, Murray & Martha Ann Parks, LGOopera at Saratoga Artistic Director Curtis Tucker and his wife Cathy, Paula Blonder, Art & Terry Lowenthal and many other wonderful guests.

Highlights of the evening included the auctioning off of an on-stage cameo appearance in a 2011 LGOopera at Saratoga production. There were two winners for this rare opportunity. Michael Fieldman, who appears in this season's *Carmen* and acted in the Company's 2007 production of *La Traviata*, will once again take to the stage in 2011. Board President Ted Newlin was the other cameo winner, with the caveat that someone else besides himself appear on-stage. Board member Denise Polit graciously agreed to take his place!

All in all, a fabulous evening was had by all who attended. A special thanks goes to Nancy Smith of Saratoga Signatures and the entire Opera Ball committee.