



Jeffrey Dinsmore, Marketing Manager
(609) 799-0700 ext. 104
JDinsmore@Opera-NJ.org

PO Box 3151, Princeton, NJ 08543
(609) 799-7700 www.Opera-NJ.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OPERA NEW JERSEY – Broadway Sensation to Join *Die Fledermaus* Cast!

February 2, 2009 PRINCETON, NJ – Opera New Jersey has announced that Broadway star Lisa Vroman will be stepping into the lead role of Rosalinde in its upcoming performances of Johann Strauss, Jr.'s delightful operetta *Die Fledermaus*. Regretfully, Ruth Ann Swenson has withdrawn due to illness.

“The role of Rosalinde requires a singer with vivacious exuberance, commanding stage presence, and incredible panache along with vocal acrobatics,” said Scott Altman, General and Artistic Director, “Lisa Vroman brings all those characteristics and a completely fresh dimension to the role; Opera New Jersey is thrilled to bring an artist of her caliber to our audiences.”

Ms. Vroman has the unique distinction of being among the first to play both Fantine and Cosette in *Les Miserables*, garnered Theatre Critics’ awards for her record-breaking run of Christine in *Phantom of the Opera*, and sang Johanna in the Emmy award winning production *Sweeney Todd in Concert* with Patty Lupone, George Hearn, and the San Francisco Symphony. Some additional highlights to her extensive career include Laurie in *The Tender Land*, Josephine in *HMS Pinafore*, Yum-Yum in *The Mikado*, and on separate occasions, performances for Queen Elizabeth, former President Clinton, and former Vice President Al Gore.

With a repertoire that ranges from Stravinsky to Weill to Broadway, Ms. Vroman is a frequent guest soloist with theater/opera companies and orchestras including San Francisco, Philadelphia, Chicago, Atlanta, National, Vancouver, and the Boston Pops under Keith Lockhart. Her solo CD, *Broadway Classics*, features Metropolitan Opera mezzo-soprano Stephanie Blythe and 47 of San Francisco’s finest orchestral players.

Opera New Jersey showcases major international talent throughout the state in the Winter Opera Season, providing residents the chance to see world-class talent on local New Jersey stages.

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Ms. Vroman will be joining other all-star artists including: Allan Glassman as Eisenstein, Tonio DiPaolo as Alfred, Rachele Gilmore as Adele, and Anthony Laciura as Frosh/Blind.

This production, by stage director Ira Siff, features custom dialogue by New Jersey native, Quade Winter that highlights the comedic elements of the plot. Maestro Mark Flint will conduct the ONJ Orchestra and Chorus.

Tickets for Opera New Jersey's *Die Fledermaus* are on sale now.

February 13, 2009 at 7:30pm at McCarter's Matthews Theatre, Princeton

Tickets: (609)258-2787

\$35-\$125

Add the exclusive post-performance champagne reception with the cast for \$25!

February 20, 2009 at 8pm at Community Theatre at Mayo Center for the Performing Arts, Morristown

Tickets: (973)539-8008

\$37-\$92

February 22, 2009 at 3pm at State Theatre, New Brunswick

Tickets: (732)246-SHOW (7469)

\$35-\$90

For more information on *Die Fledermaus* or on Opera New Jersey, please call (609) 799-7700 or visit www.Opera-NJ.org.

About Opera New Jersey

Opera New Jersey is recognized nationally as a leader among regional opera companies, providing high quality opera performances and exceptional educational offerings. Opera New Jersey seeks to stimulate, promote and satisfy interest in opera, build a strong and diverse audience base for the art form and foster the development of emerging artists. Opera New Jersey recently received its third straight prestigious Citation of Excellence from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts (NJSCA). The Citation is NJSCA's highest honor and recognizes arts organizations that "exhibit the highest standards of excellence in artistry, operations, governance, public benefit and fulfillment of areas of Council priority." Opera New Jersey received its first citation in 2006, during their first year of eligibility. Most recently, Opera New Jersey was honored with a prestigious National Endowment for the Arts Challenge American grant, in recognition of its outstanding educational programming.

This season is made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

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