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**MOZART'S COMIC GENIUS SHINES THROUGH IN  
OPERA NEW JERSEY'S PRODUCTION OF**

***THE ABDUCTION FROM THE SERAGLIO***  
*(Die Entführung aus dem Serail)*

**ON THE BERLIND STAGE OF McCARTER THEATRE  
JULY 11, 16, 19, and 24**

Princeton, NJ --- Mozart's comic genius will shine through when Opera New Jersey presents a fresh production of Mozart's glorious comedy *The Abduction from the Seraglio* (*Die Entführung aus dem Serail*) on the Berlind stage of McCarter Theatre Center July 11, 16, 19, and 24. Directed by world-renowned operatic stage director **Bernard Uzan**, the opera will be sung in German and will feature world premiere English dialogue by acclaimed cultural commentator and journalist **Matthew Gurewitsch**.

The young Spanish nobleman Belmonte (Scott Ramsay) must venture to the Turkish harem of Pasha Selim to rescue his beloved Konstanze (Jennifer Rowley) and her maid Blondchen (Rachele Gilmore), who have been captured by pirates and sold to Pasha Selim. Will Belmonte, with the help of his servant Pedrillo (Aaron Pegram), rescue them in time? Or will Osmin (Matthew Lau), the Pasha's overseer, be victorious?

Composed during one of the happiest periods in Mozart's life, the delightful music of *The Abduction from the Seraglio* reflects the joyousness of love triumphant. Witty and delightful *The Abduction from the Seraglio* was Mozart's first real operatic smash.

Under the baton of conductor Mark Flint, the talented cast will feature multiple award-winning soprano Jennifer Rowley; tenor Scott Ramsay, a frequent performer with Lyric Opera of Chicago; soprano Rachele Gilmore, who recently made her European debut in *The Abduction from the Seraglio* with Deutsche Opera am Rhein; tenor Aaron Pegram, who will join the roster of Sachsische Staatsoper Dresden in the coming season; and bass Matthew Lau, one of the most versatile and sought-after basses in America.

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Renowned operatic stage director Bernard Uzan's productions have appeared on the stages of 50 opera companies in North America, France, Italy, Switzerland, and South America with more than 300 productions. His North American credits include productions he has directed at Seattle Opera, Arizona Opera, Dallas Opera, Opera Company of Philadelphia, Montreal Opera, Florida Grand Opera, and Vancouver Opera. In Europe, he has directed productions in Switzerland for the Zurich Opera; in Monaco for Opera de Monte Carlo; in Italy for the Teatro Massimo Palermo, and Teatro Massimo Bellini in Catania. In South America he has directed in Mexico, Venezuela, Chile, and Argentina.

Matthew Gurewitsch is an internationally oriented cultural commentator based in Manhattan. His interests range broadly through the performing and fine arts. A senior editor of *Connoisseur* magazine in the 1980s, he has worked as an independent journalist since the early 1990s, contributing regularly to such leading publications as *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, and *Smithsonian*, among many others. His principal outlet has been *The New York Times*, for which he has covered classical music with an emphasis on opera and song, pop music, theater, Old Masters, living artists, dance, circus, and film.

In addition to the *Abduction from the Seraglio*, The 2009 Opera New Jersey Summer Season at McCarter Theatre Center in Princeton will include Lucia di Lammermoor with rising Metropolitan Opera star Lisette Oropesa in the title role (July 10, 18 and 26) and Gilbert and Sullivan's most beloved work *The Mikado* (July 12, 17 and 25) with Scott Scully, Anne-Carolyn Bird, and Curt Olds. All opera performances this summer will feature the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra as Opera New Jersey's partner in music making.

Further information on Opera New Jersey's Summer Season may be obtained on Opera New Jersey's website at [www.Opera-NJ.org](http://www.Opera-NJ.org).

Tickets for the July operas at McCarter Theatre Center are available through McCarter Theatre at (609) 258-2787; online at [www.mccarter.org](http://www.mccarter.org); or in person at 91 University Place, Princeton.

### **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 America grant, in recognition of its outstanding educational programming. For more information: [www.Opera-NJ.org](http://www.Opera-NJ.org). For tickets: 609-285-2787.

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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