



Jeffrey Dinsmore, Marketing Manager  
(609) 799-7700 ext. 104 [JDinsmore@Opera-NJ.org](mailto:JDinsmore@Opera-NJ.org)

Dan Bauer, Public Relations Consultant  
(609) 258-6524 \* [DBauer@Opera-NJ.org](mailto:DBauer@Opera-NJ.org)

PO Box 3151, Princeton, NJ 08543  
[www.Opera-NJ.org](http://www.Opera-NJ.org)

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**MUSIC TO YOUR EARS!  
OPERA NEW JERSEY ANNOUNCES SCHEDULE OF FREE SUMMER CONCERTS**

As part of its on-going commitment to raise awareness and love of opera throughout the State, Opera New Jersey, offers a myriad of free concerts and other events in conjunction with its Summer Season.

"These concerts are a wonderful opportunity to spotlight the talented performers at Opera New Jersey and to share with audiences across the state the gift of music," said Scott Altman, Opera New Jersey General and Artistic Director, we are excited to expand this summer's free offerings through collaborations with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra and the generosity of our friends at the PHS Foundation".

**Opera New Jersey 2009 Summer Preview Concert: Princeton Public Library**

When: Sunday, June 21, 3 pm

Where: 65 Witherspoon Street, Community Room

Cost: Free

Opera New Jersey will offer a preview of its summer series at its first public concert of the season. The concert will feature the singers performing excerpts from Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Mikado* and Mozart's *The Abduction from the Seraglio*.

**PHS ENCORE Opera:**

**Evening of Favorite Arias and Ensembles from popular operas**

When: Wednesday, June 24, 6 pm

Where: Palmer Square, Princeton

Cost: Free

The PHS Foundation sponsors and evening with Opera New Jersey presenting favorite arias and ensembles from popular operas.

The PHS Senior Living Foundation provides philanthropic resources to assist PHS Senior Living in fulfilling its mission of providing a continuum of care, which includes diverse programs and services to assist adults of all faiths to live as independently as possible in an environment of their choice.

## ***Opera New Jersey Announces Schedule of Free Summer Concerts – continued***

### **Musical Theater Concerts**

When: Friday, June 26, 7 pm

Saturday, June 27, 2 pm

Where: Palmer Square, Princeton

Cost: Free

Back by popular demand, Opera New Jersey will present a pair of free musical theater concerts in Princeton's Palmer Square. Sponsored by Bloomberg.

### **NJSO Concert in the Parks**

When: Thursday, July 2, 7:30 pm

Where: Brookdale Park, Montclair

Cost: Free

Opera New Jersey joins the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra during a series of statewide Concerts in the Parks that will include opera highlights, with fireworks following.

The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra is comprised of some of the country's finest musicians. The Orchestra is proud to have Neeme Järvi as its Conductor Laureate and Artistic Advisor. Artistic excellence, innovative programming and community engagement are hallmarks of the NJSO's mission. To best serve the people of New Jersey, the Orchestra brings its programs to seven different venues throughout the state.

### **NJSO Concert in the Parks**

When: Tuesday, July 7, 7:30 pm

Where: Branch Brook Park, Newark

Cost: Free

Opera New Jersey joins the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra during a series of statewide Concerts in the Parks that will include opera highlights, with fireworks following.

### **PHS Encore Opera**

When: Saturday, July 11, 1:30 pm

Where: Meadow Lakes – 300 Meadow Lakes, East Windsor

Cost: Free

The PHS Foundation sponsors Opera New Jersey in an afternoon of favorite arias and ensembles from popular operas.

### **New Opera Read-through**

When: Wednesday, July 15, 2 pm

Where: McCarter Theatre Center, 91 University Place, Princeton

Cost: Free

Opera New Jersey will present a read-through of Michael Ching's new opera *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, based on Shakespeare's comedy.

### **PHS Encore Opera**

When: Wednesday, July 22, 7 pm

Where: Grounds for Sculpture, 18 Fairgrounds Road, Hamilton

Cost: Free

The PHS Foundation sponsors Opera New Jersey to present a family-friendly Musical Theatre concert. Singers from ONJ's Summer Season will perform an evening of songs and ensembles from some of Broadway's beloved gems. Highlights include selections from: *West Side Story*, *Carnival*, *Follies*, *Street Scene*, *Aladdin*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and many more.

## ***Opera New Jersey Announces Schedule of Free Summer Concerts – continued***

### **NJSO Concert in the Parks**

When: Monday, July 27, 7:30 pm

Where: PNC Bank Arts Center, Holmdel

Cost: Free – Reservations Required

Opera New Jersey joins the NJSO during a series of statewide Concerts in the Parks that will include opera highlights, with fireworks following.

To obtain tickets to the July 27 concert at PNC Bank Arts Center, send a note with the number of tickets you are requesting, along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope (#10) to:

Garden State Arts Foundation  
Attention: July 27, 2009 NJSO concert  
P.O. Box 5013  
Woodbridge, NJ 07095-5013

### **Opera New Jersey 2009 Summer Season**

*Opera News* raved, “This Company’s festival season, quickly becoming one of the Garden State’s most enticing summer offerings, seems to be further proof that operatic life in the tri-state area does in fact exist outside of Manhattan.” The 2009 Opera New Jersey Summer Season at McCarter Theatre Center in Princeton will include Donizetti’s masterpiece *Lucia di Lammermoor* (July 10, 18, 26) featuring Lisette Oropesa and Jonathan Boyd; a new production of Mozart’s *The Abduction from the Seraglio* (*Die Entführung aus dem Serail*, July 11, 16, 19, 24) with Jennifer Rowley, Rachele Gilmore and Scott Ramsay; and Gilbert & Sullivan’s beloved *The Mikado* (July 12, 17, 25) with Scott Scully, Anne-Carolyn Bird and Curt Olds.

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.