



Jeffrey Dinsmore, Marketing Manager
(609) 799-7700 ext. 104 * JDinsmore@Opera-NJ.org

Dan Bauer, Public Relations Consultant
(609) 258-6524 * DBauer@Opera-NJ.org

PO Box 3151, Princeton, NJ 08543
www.Opera-NJ.org

Release Date: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
26 June 2009

OPERA NEW JERSEY TO OPEN 2009 SUMMER SEASON WITH DONIZETTI'S MASTERPIECE

LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR

FEATURING METROPOLITAN OPERA SOPRANO LISETTE OROPESA IN THE TITLE ROLE

ON THE MATTEWS STAGE OF MCCARTER THEATRE CENTER FOR THREE PERFORMANCES ONLY!

JULY 10, 18 & 26

Princeton, NJ -- Opera New Jersey, New Jersey's largest and most prolific opera company, will open its 2009 Summer Season with rising opera star Lisette Oropesa in Donizetti's bel canto masterpiece *Lucia di Lammermoor* on the Matthews stage of McCarter Theatre Center for three performances only July 10, 18 and 26 (matinee). Directed by John Hoopes, who staged last season's critically acclaimed *La traviata*, the cast will also include Jonathan Boyd (Edgardo), Eric Dubin (Enrico), plus Metropolitan Opera bass-baritone Matthew Burns, Taylor Stayton, Paul Nicosia and Cathleen Candia. Michael Ching, artistic and general director of Opera Memphis, will conduct.

Donizetti's great tragedy is his undisputed masterpiece of melancholic romanticism, with the doomed love between Lucia and Edgardo retold from Sir Walter Scott's novel *The Bride of Lammermoor*. Heralded as one of the most beloved bel canto operas and one of Donizetti's most popular works, *Lucia di Lammermoor* features dazzling singing and heartfelt drama. The production will be presented in Italian with English surtitles projected above the stage.

Lisette Oropesa created a sensation during the 2007-08 season when, on short notice, she replaced Isabel Bayrakdarian in *Le Nozze di Figaro* at the Metropolitan Opera. In the 2008-2009, Ms. Oropesa made her debut with Arizona Opera as Gilda in *Rigoletto*, and also returns to the Metropolitan Opera for several performances: She will have sung the roles of Lisette in *La Rondine* (with Roberto Alagna, Angelea Gheorghia and Samuel Ramey), Woglinde in *Das Rheingold* and *Götterdämmerung*, and the Wood Bird in *Siegfried* in the Ring Cycle conducted by James Levine. Additionally, she performs the *Liebeslieder Waltzer* in Carnegie Hall's Zankel Hall with James Levine and Daniel Barenboim at the piano. In future seasons she returns to the Metropolitan Opera, and will make several international debuts including Konstanze in *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* at Welsh National Opera, Nanetta in *Falstaff* in Bilbao, Spain, and Gilda at the Teatro Municipal de Santiago de Chile, among others.

Tenor Jonathan Boyd has performed in opera and oratorio throughout Europe, North and South America, where his recent company debuts include Opéra de Nice and Opéra de Toulon as Lysander in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; Dallas Opera as Narraboth in *Salome*; Utah Opera, Nashville Opera and Michigan Opera Theater as Roméo in *Roméo et Juliette*; as well as his role debut as Alfredo in *La Traviata* with Akouna, Opéra en plein air in France.

Eric Dubin, a recent graduate of The Academy of Vocal Arts (AVA), made his company debut last season in David DiChiera's *Cyrano* at Opera Company of Philadelphia, and returns this season as Junius in Britten's *Rape of Lucretia*. Other upcoming engagements this season and beyond include Schaunard in *La Bohème* with Nashville Opera, the baritone soloist in Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*, and Marullo in *Rigoletto* at Fresno Grand Opera.

In addition to *Lucia di Lammermoor*, The 2009 Opera New Jersey Summer Season at McCarter Theatre Center in Princeton will include Gilbert and Sullivan's most beloved work *The Mikado* (July 12, 17 and 25) with Scott Scully, Anne-Carolyn Bird and Curt Olds, and Mozart's comic masterpiece *The Abduction from the Seraglio* (*Die Entführung aus Serail*, July 11, 16, 19, 24) with Jennifer Rowley, Rachele Gilmore and Scott Ramsey. 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.

Tickets for the July operas at McCarter Theatre Center are available through McCarter Theatre at (609) 258-2787; online at 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. 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.

###