

# Overtures

Summer is here and Opera New Jersey is proud to present its seventh Summer Season in Princeton at McCarter Theatre. With a winning combination of fascinating productions, cutting edge singers, and numerous other events, the 2010 Summer Season promises to be OperaNJ's "hottest" season yet! From one of Mozart's most beloved works, *Don Giovanni*, to Donizetti's jewel-piece, *Don Pasquale*, and Gounod's gothic masterpiece *Faust*, it will be impossible to choose just one.

## Don Giovanni

One of Mozart's most beloved works, *Don Giovanni*, recounts how a young, licentious nobleman, accustomed to a life of amorous conquests, meets his doom. This production features Andrew Garland making his OperaNJ debut as the shameless Giovanni, accompanied by Matt Boehler (Poobah, *The Mikado* 2009) as Leporello and the beautiful Jennifer Black, who also makes her OperaNJ debut, as Donna Anna. Directed by OperaNJ veteran, John Hoomes and conducted by Joel Revzen, this production promises to be a "must-see" of the season.



## Don Pasquale

Donizetti's light-hearted *Don Pasquale* features the ever-familiar "battle of the sexes" mixed with some of the most



beautiful bel canto to reveal a true gem. Performed on the Berlin stage this summer, the production features a most tangled love triangle between Steven Condy, Ava Pine, and Brian Anderson. Don't miss this masterpiece directed by OperaNJ favorite Michael Scarolla and conducted Mark Laycock.

## Faust

Gounod's gothic masterpiece is the familiar fable of a man's wasted attempt at a second chance at youth. This summer on the Matthews stage, don't miss Leonardo Capalbo in the title role as he makes a devil's bargain with Young-Bok Kim as Mephistopheles and corrupts the innocence of Inna Dukach as Marguerite. With direction by Trevore Ross and conducting by Mark Flint, there may be devilishly dire consequences for missing this work this summer.



All OperaNJ Summer Season productions feature the New Jersey Symphony Chamber Orchestra, soloists, and chorus, along with English translations projected above the stage. For more information about the productions, please visit our website at [www.Opera-NJ.org](http://www.Opera-NJ.org).

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Overtures Editor: Carrie Care



**Richard Russell**  
General Director

It is a great honor for me to have been named Opera New Jersey's new General Director. It is a testament to the dedication and energy of Scott and Lisa Altman, the board, the talented staff, and the patrons that Opera New Jersey is one of the United States' fastest growing opera companies, in a time when the mere survival of many arts organizations has become a struggle.

I look forward to continuing this tradition of growth and that you will accompany us on this journey. We have a wonderful Summer Season planned with three operas that are cornerstones of the repertoire and performances that spotlight our talented emerging artists. We are renewing our exciting collaboration with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra. In the future I  
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hope to expand the range of what we do to encompass more great works, in performances of the highest quality, and with some of opera's most promising young artists.

In just a short time, Opera New Jersey has become one of the state's most important cultural assets, and I believe it can become an important destination for all opera lovers.

I'm so excited about the great positive energy of this organization. I hope that you will continue to be part of this excitement and an important part of the Opera New Jersey family.

### EDUCATION SPOTLIGHT "HANSEL & GRETEL" TAKES THE STAGE

Opera New Jersey's "Interact with Classics" program enjoyed great response to its newest adaptation tour of Engelbert Humperdinck's *Hansel & Gretel*. The tour had its premiere run at Cambridge, Campbell, and Littleton elementary schools, along with others this spring. How do you take an opera, condense it into under an hour and still keep the story and music intact?

"It's not easy!" admits Shawn Jeffery, adaptation author and stage director. Nonetheless, *Hansel & Gretel* marks Shawn's third adaptation for Opera New Jersey's "Interact with Classics" tours!

This Spring's tour featured emerging artists in the principal roles: soprano Bridget Hogen as Gretel, mezzo-soprano Megan Pachecano as Hansel, mezzo-soprano Sharon Gee as the Witch, baritone Art Miller as the Father, and pianist, Gloria Kim. Singers play lead roles while the students perform the remaining speaking and non-speaking roles.



Before the tour goes to schools, the artists rehearse staging and learn how to interact with students. On the day of each performance, the artists help students through an hour-long rehearsal where they learn blocking and rehearse their prepared lines. Then, it's show time! The performance is presented for an assembly of their peers who also get to participate in sing-along musical numbers.

"Interact with Classics" was praised by the Kennedy Center's President Michael Kaiser as being extraordinarily innovative and effective for youth. The creation of the *Hansel & Gretel* adaptation was underwritten by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Horizon Foundation for New Jersey: BCBS. Also in the program's repertoire are adaptations of Bizet's *Carmen*, Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, and Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance*. The 2010/2011 schools year will feature "Flute" and "Pirates" tours to schools throughout the state. To find out more information about booking a tour for a school, please contact Becky Reckart at [BReckart@Opera-NJ.org](mailto:BReckart@Opera-NJ.org) or 609-799-7700 x103.

## OperaNJ "Funder Spotlight"



Hundreds of people enjoy an afternoon Musical Theatre Concert with their Friends and family in Princeton's Palmer Square

## Bloomberg

"Bloomberg is proud to support Opera New Jersey's Musical Theatre Concerts."

Check out our website: [www.Opera-NJ.org](http://www.Opera-NJ.org) for additional information, pictures, and more!

## DON'T MISS THESE OTHER EXCITING SUMMER EVENTS

Our three operas may be the main events of the summer, but you also won't want to miss our seasonal concerts and educational events – many free – which offer a perfect setting to bond with your family and community. So be sure to check out the line-up of these great events this summer! For more information about dates, times, and tickets, please visit our website ([www.Opera-NJ.org](http://www.Opera-NJ.org)) or contact Jeffrey Dinsmore, Marketing Manager at 609.799.7700 x104.

### PRINCETON PREVIEW

June 19  
Princeton Public Library  
FREE

### MASTERCLASS SERIES

June & July  
Woolworth Building & Berlind  
FREE

### MUSICAL THEATRE CONCERTS

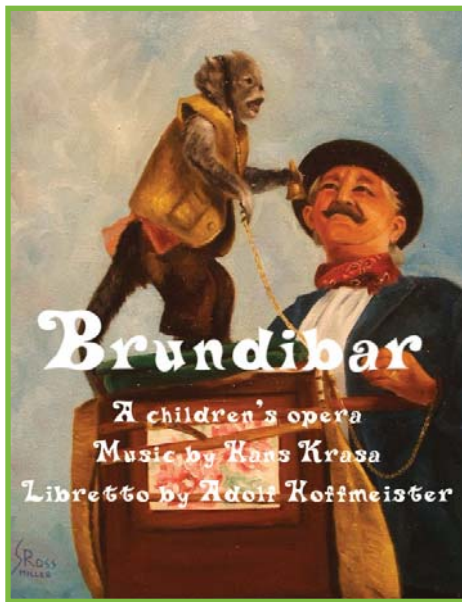
June 18, 26 & 27  
Palmer Square (18 & 26) &  
Grounds for Sculpture  
FREE

### NJSO CONCERTS IN THE PARKS SERIES

June 25, 27 & July 1  
For more information:  
[www.newjerseysymphony.org](http://www.newjerseysymphony.org)

### TWO OPERA SCENES PROGRAMS

July 20 & 27  
McCarter's Berlind Theatre  
Tickets (\$15) 609.258.2787.



## EXCITING NEWS ABOUT SUMMER CAMP

Do you have a budding star at home? Give them the chance to shine in OperaNJ's first ever children's opera!

This year's Adventures in Opera Camp will focus on teaching campers about opera by performing in one of their very own! Perfect for campers aged 7 to 17, this summer's production, *Brundibar*, teaches how you can accomplish anything you set your mind to through teamwork, perseverance, and music.

Camp runs from July 12-16 & July 19-23 at McCarter Theatre in Princeton, 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. Camp costs \$360 for both weeks. In addition to rehearsals, theater games, and creative projects, campers will also have the opportunity to meet with some of OperaNJ's Summer Season artists.

More information and registration forms can be found on our website at [www.Opera-NJ.org](http://www.Opera-NJ.org) or by contacting Becky Reckart at [BReckart@Opera-NJ.org](mailto:BReckart@Opera-NJ.org) or at 609.799.7700 x 103.

## NOTEWORTHY NEWS: CARMEN IS A SMASH HIT!

Opera New Jersey's *Carmen* proved to be a huge success throughout the state!

This inaugural co-production between OperaNJ and the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra marked a milestone in New Jersey arts, enjoying accomplishments of increased attendance, great reviews, more wide-spread outreach to our communities, and a boost in the artistic product of each organization.

The three performances throughout the state of New Jersey included McCarter Theatre in Princeton, State Theatre in New Brunswick, and the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) in Newark (a third collaborating partner for this performance).

"Collaboration is essential to the viability and fiscal health for smart arts organizations," said André Gremillet, President & CEO of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra. "The NJSO is thrilled to partner with ensembles of the caliber and excellence of Opera New Jersey."

The collaboration also garnered coveted Access to Artistic Excellence category funding from the National Endowment for the Arts. This provided new funding for OperaNJ and the NJSO due to the new partnership.

While many arts organizations are contracting or struggling to maintain artistic quality, the partnership between Opera New Jersey and the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra means growth and continued artistic excellence for both. It will enable both organizations to reach new audiences and to demonstrate a heightened cultural relevance throughout New Jersey. In 2011, the collaborative efforts continue with Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*.



"This inaugural co-production between OperaNJ and the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra marked a milestone in New Jersey arts, enjoying accomplishments of increased attendance, great reviews, more wide-spread outreach..."

# Overtures

Opera  
NEW JERSEY

www.OperaNJ.org

## OperaNJ Gala: Save The Date



2010 Gala Committee

Save the date for Opera New Jersey's Sixth Annual **Celebrate Opera Gala on Saturday, October 16**, at the Hyatt Regency in Princeton. This year's committee, chaired by Judith Brodsky and Michael Curtis, invites you to join the spectacular celebration that combines all the traditional elements of a gala — silent auction, cocktails, great food and wine—with exhilarating opera performances in an elegant yet fun-filled atmosphere. Mark your calendars now! Individual tickets begin at \$250 per person and include silent auction access, live opera entertainment, cocktails, dinner, and wine. Invitations will be mailed in September. If you would like to be among the first to receive an invitation, please contact Carrie Care at Opera New Jersey at 609.799.7700 x106 or at [CCare@Opera-NJ.org](mailto:CCare@Opera-NJ.org).

## How Can I Help OperaNJ?

There are many ways you can become involved with the happenings of the Opera New Jersey family. Why not sponsor an artist or become a Gala sponsor? Sponsoring an artist for the summer or the winter production ensures that your name will be indelibly attached to an Opera New Jersey star, *J. Zecher, J. Hoomes, L. Oropesa* stage director, designer, or even an entire production. As a Gala sponsor, you'll help create one of our finest nights of the year, and you'll receive benefits such as meeting the artists and other specialized privileges. There are many ways and many different levels to support Opera New Jersey. All donations are tax deductible and may include exclusive benefits such as ticket priority, dress rehearsal passes, backstage tours, invitations to private cast parties and soirees, and many more. Contact the office for a sponsorship brochure to find out what benefits come with your gift.



*J. Zecher, J. Hoomes, L. Oropesa*

Information: 609.799.7700  
Tickets: 609.258.2787

Don Giovanni!  
Faust  
Don Pasquale

OperaNJ 2010 Summer Season  
DON'T MISS!

PO Box 3151  
Princeton, NJ 08540  
[www.Opera-NJ.org](http://www.Opera-NJ.org)

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