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OPERA NEW JERSEY “MEETS BROADWAY” AT 6TH ANNUAL CELEBRATE OPERA GALA

Opera Company Honors Edward Matthews and Pays Tribute to the Memory of Marie Matthews During Its October 16th Event.

September 15, 2010, PRINCETON, NJ – Opera New Jersey, the State’s largest opera company, is pleased to announce its 6th annual CELEBRATE OPERA GALA. Held on October 16th at the Hyatt Regency, Princeton, the theme will be “Opera New Jersey Meets Broadway,” and will star Broadway sensation Lisa Vroman.

Also, Opera New Jersey is privileged this year to honor Edward Matthews and pay tribute to the memory of Marie Matthews during the event. Marie, who passed away on August 18, 2010, and Edward Matthews have made an indelible impact on our community through their commitment and philanthropy to the arts and other areas vitally important to the quality of lives. Their generosity and leadership have had a transformative effect on Princeton and beyond.

From Broadway to classics, on stage and in concert, Lisa Vroman has established herself as one of America's most versatile voices. Praised by the San Francisco Chronicle, “Vroman is a musical and theatrical marvel, capable of moving between the worlds of opera and Broadway with unerring ease.” Ms. Vroman is familiar to Opera New Jersey audiences from her critically-acclaimed performance as Rosalinda in the 2009 production of *Die Fledermaus*. Ms. Vroman will be joined by several additional performers from the Victoria J. Mastrobuono Emerging Artist Program.

“We are pleased to have Lisa Vroman with us for our Sixth Annual Gala” said Richard Russell, General Director. “She is an incredibly accomplished performer and favorite of Opera New Jersey audiences. We are also to be able to pay tribute to the Matthews. We hope the community will join us as we honor two dear friends of Opera New Jersey and celebrate the life of a remarkable lady. “

A private champagne reception with the artists at 6:00 p.m. kicks off the festivities, and the main events commence at 6:30 with a cocktail reception and silent auction, followed by a sit-down dinner and our musical offering. Auction Highlights include a once-in-a-lifetime 20-day luxury cruise from Africa to Morocco, a week at a private London flat, a week's stay in a charming cabin in Vermont, and a Marilyn Horne package including 2 tickets to a concert at Carnegie Hall, hosted by Ms. Horne. Proceeds support Opera New Jersey and its mission to present world-class opera and educational offerings that benefit thousands of adults and children throughout New Jersey and beyond.

Tickets for 6:30 reception and dinner begin at \$250 per person. Additional sponsorship opportunities begin at \$500 and include the private champagne reception and other additional benefits. The tax deductible portion of each ticket is \$80. For tickets or sponsorship information, please contact Carrie Care at either 609-799-7700 or ccare@opera-nj.org by Monday, October 4, 2010.

About Opera New Jersey

Opera New Jersey is the largest opera company in the state, 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 has received three prestigious Citations 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 is honored to be the recipient of multiple National Endowment for the Arts grants in recognition of our outstanding programming. For more information: www.Opera-NJ.org.