

NEWS RELEASE

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Former New Jersey Opera Tenor Wins the Prestigious Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions

PRINCETON, NJ- **New Jersey Opera** is thrilled to announce that Michael Fabiano, one of the stars of their 2006 Summer Season, is a winner of the 2007 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, which took place on Sunday, April 1, 2007.

Mr. Fabiano sang the role of Nemorino to great critical acclaim in **NJOpera's** production of Donizetti's *L'Elisir d'Amore*, updated to 1950s Midwest America. In that production, Robert Baxter of the *Courier-Post* said that Fabiano "commanded the stage with his sure sense of comedy. He sang with a winning blend of sensitivity and vocal power."



The Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions is the most prestigious competition for young singers in the United States. Among those who have won in the past are such global opera stars as Renée Fleming, Ben Heppner, Thomas Hampson, Samuel Ramey, Deborah Voigt, Grace Bumbry, Susan Graham, Dolora Zajick, and Nathan Gunn. The auditions process consists of four rounds: Districts, Regions, Semi-Finals and Grand Finals. The Grand Finals takes the form of a public concert on the Metropolitan Opera stage accompanied by the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra.

"This is what our Summer Season is all about," says Scott Altman, **NJOpera's** Artistic Director. "Our Summer productions showcase professional, young, up-and-coming singers on the verge of major careers. Every summer we present singers like Fabiano in an intimate house."

But you have one more chance to see Michael Fabiano sing with **NJOpera** in a smaller setting. He, along with several other singers, will present a concert at the Mullica Hill Branch of the Gloucester County Library this Saturday, April 7 at 7pm; tickets are free.

In addition to Mr. Fabiano's success, **NJOpera** is also pleased to announce that Stephen Costello will be singing in the Metropolitan Opera's opening night production of *Lucia di Lammermoor* on September 24, 2007. Mr. Costello sang with **New Jersey Opera** in a concert in February 2006 at Dante Hall in Atlantic City.

Photo: Michael Fabiano in **NJOpera's** 2006 production of Donizetti's *L'Elisir d'Amore*. Credit: Jeff Reeder.
High resolution version available on request to pkiernan@njot.org.

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For the 2007 Summer Season, **NJOpera** will feature dozens of up and coming professionals who will perform in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*, Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette* and Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance*. Tickets are on sale now through the McCarter Theatre Ticket Office at 609-258-2787. More information on the Summer 2007 season may be obtained at www.NJOT.org.

About New Jersey Opera

New Jersey Opera (NJOpera) is earning national recognition as a leader among regional opera companies, providing high quality opera performances, exceptional educational offerings and related activities. NJOpera 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. In 2006, during its first year of eligibility, **New Jersey Opera** received the 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."

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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