

NEWS RELEASE

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Opera New Jersey Receives Prestigious Award from State Arts Council

PRINCETON, NJ – Opera New Jersey received its second straight Citation of Excellence from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts for excellence in artistic quality, programming and public service in the arts. To present the Citation and acknowledge the importance of the work of Opera New Jersey, State Arts Council leadership was joined by Secretary of State Nina Mitchell Wells and members of the New Jersey State Legislature at the State House Annex on March 13, 2008.

"Citations of Excellence conferred by the Council are a signal to funders, audiences, peers and others that these organizations and projects are among the very best in our state," noted Carol Ann Herbert, chair of the State Arts Council.



"We are proud of the work we do and to be recognized as one of the best cultural institutions in the state of New Jersey for the second straight year is a tremendous honor," says Lisa Altman, Executive Director of Opera New Jersey.

This award, among the State Arts Council's most prestigious marks of distinction, is conferred to grant applicants receiving the highest peer panel evaluation through the grant application process.

Photo (left to right): Steve Runk (Executive Director, NJSCA); Germaine B. Trabert (Council Member, NJSCA); Robert Teweles (Board President, Opera New Jersey); Lisa Altman (Executive Director and Co-Founder, Opera New Jersey); Scott Altman (General Artistic Director and Co-Founder, Opera New Jersey); Carol Ann Herbert (Chair, NJSCA); New Jersey Secretary of State Nina Mitchell Wells

About Opera New Jersey

Opera New Jersey (OperaNJ, formerly New Jersey Opera Theater) is earning national recognition as a leader among regional opera companies, providing high quality opera performances, exceptional educational offerings and related activities. OperaNJ 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 second 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." OperaNJ received its first citation in 2006, during their first year of eligibility.

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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