

## NEWS RELEASE

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Opera New Jersey, Inc.

PO Box 3151, Princeton, NJ 08543 \* (609) 799-7700 \* [www.Opera-NJ.org](http://www.Opera-NJ.org)



Contact: Patricia Kiernan Johnson, Marketing Manager  
(609) 799-7700 x104 \* [PJohnson@Opera-NJ.org](mailto:PJohnson@Opera-NJ.org)

Dan Bauer, Public Relations and Community Affairs Consultant  
(609) 258-6524 \* [DBauer@Opera-NJ.org](mailto:DBauer@Opera-NJ.org)

Release Date: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
27 May 2008

### Summer Season Preview Celebration for Opera New Jersey

PRINCETON, NJ – **Opera New Jersey** will kick off its 2008 Summer Season with a **Summer Season Preview Celebration** on Saturday, June 14. The event will be held at the Skillman home of Suzanne M. Kabis, M.D., a supporter and patron of Opera New Jersey.

In addition to excellent wine provided by Crossing Vineyards and food by Jimmy Duffy's, guests will be treated to selections from the upcoming Summer Season, sung by the opera stars themselves. Featured on the program for that evening will be Ryan MacPherson (Alfredo in Verdi's *La traviata*), Leah Wool and Matthew Lau (Cenerentola and Don Magnifico in Rossini's *La Cenerentola*) and Jennifer Aylmer and Brian Jagde (Hanna Glawari and Count Danilo Danilovitch in Lehár's *The Merry Widow*).



"By June 14, our Summer Season artists have all arrived in town, rehearsals have begun and there is tremendous excitement building for our opera performances at McCarter in July," explained Lisa Altman, Executive Director. "It's a really festive and exciting evening because those in attendance will be the first to glimpse the spectacular talent that we have in store for the Season," added Scott Altman, General Artistic Director.



Tickets to the Summer Season Preview Celebration are \$125 and include wine, hors d'oeuvres, buffet and the concert. To purchase tickets, please contact Carrie Houtz, Development Coordinator, at (609) 799-7700 or at [CHoutz@Opera-NJ.org](mailto:CHoutz@Opera-NJ.org). Proceeds from the event benefit Opera New Jersey's 2008 Summer Season and a portion of the ticket price is tax deductible.

Further information on Opera New Jersey's Summer Season may be obtained on Opera New Jersey's website at [www.Opera-NJ.org](http://www.Opera-NJ.org). Throughout June and July, Opera New Jersey offers a number of masterclasses, lectures and free concerts, in addition to the fully staged operas, which open on July 11 at McCarter's Berlind Theatre in Princeton.

Tickets for the July operas are available through McCarter Theatre at (609) 258-2787 or online at [www.mccarter.org](http://www.mccarter.org).

**-more-**

## Summer Season Preview Celebration for Opera New Jersey – continued

Photos: Leah Wool, who will sing the title role in Opera New Jersey's Summer Season production of Rossini's *La Cenerentola* and Ryan MacPherson, who will sing Alfredo in Verdi's *La traviata*).

### **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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