

NEWS RELEASE

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NEW JERSEY OPERA THEATER ANNOUNCES SUMMERFEST MASTERCLASS SCHEDULE PRESENTERS INCLUDE *BUOSO'S GHOST* COMPOSER MICHAEL CHING

PRINCETON, NJ- **New Jersey Opera Theater** (NJOT) is proud to announce their exciting masterclass schedule for the upcoming *SummerFest* 2006 season, which runs from June 20 through July 23. The dazzling array of world-class presenters includes Michael Ching, composer of *Buoso's Ghost* and Artistic Director of Opera Memphis; Sharon Sweet, international soprano; Allan Glassman, international tenor and Jim Caraher, Artistic Director of Indianapolis Opera. Below is a complete schedule of masterclass presenters, dates, times and locations; all masterclasses are free, open to the public and no reservations are necessary.



Above: Michael Ching

Especially unique will be the June 20 masterclass by Maestro Michael Ching; NJOT will present his opera *Buoso's Ghost* as part of a Double Bill, along with Giacomo Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi*. Mo. Ching's delightful comedy, which is receiving both its east-coast orchestral and New Jersey premieres, was written in 1996 as a sequel to the hilarious *Schicchi*. During his masterclass, Mo. Ching will work with the *SummerFest* artists on scenes from his opera. This is an extremely rare chance to witness a live composer work with singers on his own opera, which audiences can then see on stage the following month with the same performers at McCarter's Berlind Theatre in Princeton.

All *SummerFest* masterclasses will feature performances from a variety of voice types, with the artists performing arias they have prepared in advance. Following each singer, the presenter will offer these artists advice on how to improve their performances. This advice may include guidance on ornamentation, articulation, phrasing, vibrato and other issues, based on the presenter's point of view. After working on these elements with the presenter, the singers then have the opportunity to perform their pieces again, incorporating all they have learned. By the end of this process the audience will have seen the singers learn and grow before their very eyes.

For further information on the masterclass series or on any other aspect of **New Jersey Opera Theater**, including the full schedule of all *SummerFest* offerings, please call 609-799-7700 or visit www.NJOT.org.

About New Jersey Opera Theater

New Jersey Opera Theater, founded in 2002 and based in Princeton, seeks to be nationally recognized as a leader among regional opera companies – providing opera for all and arts education for a lifetime. Through high quality opera performances, sustainable education programs and related activities, NJOT will (1) stimulate, promote and satisfy interest in opera in the community, (2) create new and sustained audiences for the art form of opera and (3) foster the development of emerging artists.

**New Jersey Opera Theater's *SummerFest 2006*
Masterclass Schedule**

Date	Time	Location	Presenter
June 20 (Tuesday)	2-5pm	Woolworth Building, Princeton University	Michael Ching, Composer of <i>Buoso's Ghost</i>
June 25 (Sunday)	7-10pm	Woolworth Building, Princeton University	Sharon Sweet, international soprano
July 5 (Wednesday)	7-10pm	Woolworth Building, Princeton University	Brent McMunn, USC Music Director, New York City Opera
July 6 (Thursday)	7-10pm	Woolworth Building, Princeton University	Charlie Riecker, Metropolitan Opera Administrator
July 12 (Wednesday)	7-10pm	Woolworth Building, Princeton University	Allan Glassman, international tenor
July 13 (Thursday)	2-5pm	Woolworth Building, Princeton University	Steven Condy, baritone
July 14 (Friday)	10am-1pm	McCarter Theater, Princeton	Jim Caraher, Artistic Director: Indianapolis Opera
July 18 (Tuesday)	10am-1pm	McCarter Theater, Princeton	Scott Altman, Artistic Director: New Jersey Opera Theater
July 19 (Wednesday)	10am-12pm	McCarter Theater, Princeton	Ana Archuleta, artist manager
July 19 (Wednesday)	2-5pm	McCarter Theater, Princeton	Thomas Bagwell, accompanist: Metropolitan Opera and Nashville Opera
July 20 (Thursday)	10am-1pm	McCarter Theater, Princeton	Margaret Cusack, voice teacher: Westminster Choir College
July 21 (Friday)	12pm-3pm	McCarter Theater, Princeton	TBD

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