

## 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)

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### **Opera New Jersey Kicks Off 2008 Summer Season with 5 Preview Concerts**

To kick off its highly anticipated 2008 Summer Season, Opera New Jersey announces five preview concerts designed to familiarize audiences with the operas being presented this season and to share the many wondrous facets of this art form with members of the community.

#### **Opera 2008 Summer Preview Concert: Princeton Public Library**

When: Thursday, June 19, 7:30 pm

Where: 65 Witherspoon Street, Community Room

Cost: Free

Opera New Jersey will offer a preview of its summer series at its first public concert of the season. The concert will feature the singers performing excerpts from Verdi's *La traviata*, Rossini's *La Cenerentola* and Lehár's *The Merry Widow*.

#### **Crossing Vineyards and Winery: Summer Under the Stars**

##### **Outdoor Concert Series**

When: Friday, June 20, 7 pm

Where: 1853 Wrightstown Road, Washington Crossing, PA

Cost: \$10 for the concert; \$30 (plus tax and gratuity) for picnic supper  
[www.crossingvineyards.com](http://www.crossingvineyards.com)

Enjoy a wonderful evening of music in the beautiful setting of Crossing Vineyards. Opera New Jersey will present excerpts from Verdi's *La traviata*, Rossini's *La Cenerentola* and Lehár's *The Merry Widow* as well as musical theater favorites.

#### **West Windsor Arts Council Concert**

When: Saturday, June 21 (8:30 pm)

Where: Nassau Park Pavilion, Nassau Park Blvd., off Southbound Rte 1, West Windsor (behind Panera Bread). Also performing the Princeton Girl Choir (7 pm) and Craig Rubano (7:45 pm).

Cost: FREE

Opera New Jersey will perform excerpts from the Summer Season at this lovely outdoor venue.

#### **Musical Theater Concerts with Opera New Jersey**

When: Friday, June 27, 7:30-9:30 pm

Saturday, June 28, 2-4 pm

Where: Palmer Square, Princeton

Cost: Free

Bring the whole family to this Opera New Jersey concert of musical theater favorites, featuring songs from *Kiss Me Kate*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *South Pacific*, *Camelot*, *Evita* and more!



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## ***Opera New Jersey Kicks Off 2008 Summer Season with 5 Preview Concerts - continued***

“These preview concerts are wonderful opportunities for us to spotlight the talented performers at Opera New Jersey and to give audiences a taste of our summer offerings,” said Scott Altman, General Artistic Director. In addition to presenting some of the most sought-after opera singers performing today in principal roles, Opera New Jersey is also known as a leader in training the finest young opera singers in the country.

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.

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

**Photo:** Benjamin Bunsold (as Frederic) and Alison Trainer (as Mabel) in Opera New Jersey’s 2007 Summer Season production of Gilbert & Sullivan’s *The Pirates of Penzance*. Photo by Jeff Reeder.

### **About Opera New Jersey**

**Opera New Jersey** has earned 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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