

NEWS RELEASE

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New Jersey Opera Stars Perform at Home and Abroad!

PRINCETON, NJ – Hot on the heels of winning the Metropolitan Opera Auditions, former **New Jersey Opera** Tenor **Michael Fabiano** visited Princeton last week to rehearse with NJOpera resident coach Joe Lofton in preparation for his debut this summer as Alfredo in *La Traviata* at the Stadttheater auf Klagenfurt, Austria. Michael Fabiano sang the lead role of Nemorino in NJOpera's 2006 production of *L'Elisir d'Amore* to rave reviews. After meeting with Artistic Director, Scott Altman, Michael informed the company of his upcoming debut at the world famous La Scala opera next season as Rinuccio in *Gianni Schicchi* (one of the 2006 NJOpera offerings).



On the home front, **Matthew Curran**, born and bred in Princeton, will star as Sarastro in New Jersey Opera's upcoming opera, *Die Zauberflöte (The Magic Flute)* by Mozart. *The Magic Flute* is the first of three operas being performed at McCarter's Berlind Theatre during July, the others being *The Pirates of Penzance* by Gilbert & Sullivan and *Roméo et Juliette* by Gounod.



Princeton theater goers already familiar with NJOpera's *Magic Flute* played as the popular children's school show will be impressed by the scope and brilliance of this original Mozart production, as stage directed by NJOpera's own Artistic Director, Scott Altman. The New Jersey Opera performance will be fully staged with orchestra and a large cast including hordes of temple priests, armored men, spirits and magic bells along with the star performers.

Matthew Curran's credits include performances with Zurich Opera, Seattle Opera, the Aspen Music Festival, New Orleans Opera and many other venues. At NJOpera he recently performed the roles of Don Alfonso in *Così fan tutte*, Dr. Bartolo in *Le nozze di Figaro* and Il Zingaro in *Il Trovatore*. In addition to this summer, Matthew will be seen on our stages in 2008 as Monterone in New Jersey Opera's *Rigoletto* next February at the McCarter Matthews Theatre.

New Jersey Opera starts its 2007 season with *Die Zauberflöte* on Friday, July 13th with performances of all three productions running until July 29th. Tickets for all three operas are now limited, remaining tickets are available from the McCarter ticket office online at www.mccarter.org or by calling (609) 258-2787.

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Photos: Michael Fabiano as he rehearses his La Traviata role with NJOpera coach Joe Lofton (courtesy Carole Haines) and Matthew Curran as Don Alfonso in NJOpera's 2006 Così fan tutte, with Fenna Ograjensek and Emily Newton (credit: Jeff Reeder for NJOpera).

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. NJOT 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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