

## NEWS RELEASE

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### VERDI'S *LA TRAVIATA* OPENS OPERA NEW JERSEY'S 2008 SUMMER SEASON, JULY 11

Princeton, NJ – Opera New Jersey will open its 2008 Summer Season with a new production of one of the most romantic operas of all time, Giuseppe Verdi's *La traviata* on Friday, July 11 at 8pm. The Summer Season opera performances are a central facet of Opera New Jersey's year-round and statewide performance schedule.

Singing Violetta for the first time will be soprano **Elizabeth Caballero**, whose credits include performances with The Metropolitan Opera, New York City Opera and San Francisco Opera. Singing the role of Alfredo will be tenor **Michael Fabiano**, who has made an impressive splash in the opera world, debuting at La Scala as Rinuccio in Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi* and winning the 2007



Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. Upcoming engagements for Mr. Fabiano include performances with Semperoper Dresden, the Deutsche Oper Berlin and the Paris Opera.

In addition to *La traviata*, Opera New Jersey will open new productions of Rossini's *La Cenerentola* featuring MET Opera mezzo-soprano **Leah Wool** and New York City Opera tenor **Javier Abreu** on July 12, and Franz Lehár's *The Merry Widow* with MET soprano **Jennifer Aylmer** and Virginia Opera baritone **Brian Jagde** on July 18. Opera New Jersey's 2008 Summer Season will also feature two concert performances that will spotlight famous choruses and duets on July 21 and rarer opera arias and ensembles on July 22. The 2008 productions run in repertory through July 27 at the Berlind Theatre of McCarter Theatre Center in Princeton, New Jersey.

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## OPERA NEW JERSEY'S 2008 SUMMER SEASON (Continued)

During the 2007 Summer Season, Opera New Jersey sold out every seat at every opera performance and the 2008 season is on track to do the same. However, limited tickets are still available by calling the Ticket Office at (609) 258-2787.

Additional information, including a complete listing of events, performances and ticket prices is available at [www.Opera-NJ.org](http://www.Opera-NJ.org).

Photo: Elizabeth Caballero as Violetta and Michael Fabiano as Alfredo in Opera New Jersey's Summer Season 2008 production of Verdi's *La traviata*. Photo by Jeff Reeder.

*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.*

*Opera New Jersey is sponsored in part by a generous gift from The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation.*

*Maestro Raucci's performance in La traviata is sponsored by a generous gift provided in the memory of Angelo R. and Mary Cali for the benefit of the Italian American Heritage Foundation. Michael Fabiano's performance in La traviata is sponsored by Victoria J. Mastrobuono.*

*Opera New Jersey's production of La Cenerentola is sponsored in part by The Edward T. Cone Foundation and Lea Wool's performance is sponsored by Philip and Susan Rinaldi.*

*Opera New Jersey's production of The Merry Widow is sponsored in part by Michael and Joyce Rappeport and Jennifer Aylmer's performance is sponsored by Emil and Ann Herkert.*

*The Studio Artist program is sponsored in part by Herbert and Sharon Mayo.*

### **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.

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