

## NEWS RELEASE

---

Opera New Jersey, Inc.

PO Box 3151, Princeton, NJ 08543 \* (609) 799-7700 \* www.Opera-NJ.org



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

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

Release Date: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
13 July 2008

### **OPERA NEW JERSEY TO DEBUT A PREMIERE WORKSHOP OF NEW A CAPPELLA OPERA BY PROLIFIC COMPOSER MICHAEL CHING**

PRINCETON, NJ – Opera New Jersey announces that it will workshop selections from Michael Ching's new opera, a setting of *A Midsummer's Night Dream*, with an interesting twist, at McCarter's Berwind Theatre on Thursday, July 17 at 2:00 p.m. The twist is, that the whole opera will be sung *a capella!*

"I am thrilled that my friends at Opera New Jersey will be giving me this workshop. Knowing that they are in the midst of producing three new opera productions this summer, I am delighted that the company has agreed to present this workshop. It is an honor for me to hear my work-in-progress by a talented company of singers," said composer Michael Ching.



"The opportunity for an opera company to host a major living composer in residence to work on a new composition is extraordinary," said General Artistic Director Scott Altman. "It was an opportunity that we couldn't pass up, even as we launch our 2008 Summer season on McCarter's Berwind stage."

Michael Ching's *Buoso's Ghost* received its Mid-Atlantic professional premiere at Opera New Jersey in 2006 to critical acclaim. Mr. Ching has been with Opera Memphis since 1992. His compositions have been performed by Opera Delaware, the Lyric Opera of Kansas City, Chicago Opera Theatre, New Orleans Opera, Cincinnati Opera, Indianapolis Opera, Dayton Opera, Triangle Opera Theater, Virginia Opera, Pittsburgh Opera, Fargo Moorhead Opera, Anchorage Opera, Texas Opera Theater, the Atlanta Symphony, Rochester Philharmonic, Virginia Symphony, North Carolina Symphony, San Jose Chamber Orchestra, and the Charlotte Symphony.

This special event is free and open to the public. Due to limited seating, reservations are required. For reservations, please call Patricia Kiernan Johnson at (609) 799-7700 x104.

Photo: Michael Ching.

#### **About Opera New Jersey**

**Opera New Jersey** is nationally recognized 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.

###