

## NEWS RELEASE

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Release Date: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
14 July 2008

*"startlingly magical..." – The Star Ledger, about La Cenerentola*

### OPENING WEEKEND OF OPERA NEW JERSEY SUMMER SEASON SELLS OUT AND RECEIVES CRITICAL RAVE REVIEWS

PRINCETON, NJ – Opera New Jersey is pleased to announce that the opening weekend of Summer Season 2008 was sold out! The first weekend included two performances of Verdi's *La traviata* starring Michael Fabiano and Elizabeth Caballero and one performance of Rossini's *La Cenerentola* starring Leah Wool and Javier Abreu. Both *La traviata* and *La Cenerentola* are receiving rave reviews from critics and patrons alike. Opera New Jersey's third Summer Season opera, *The Merry Widow*, opens this Friday.



Very limited tickets remain for all three operas and may be purchased through McCarter Theatre at (609) 258-2787 or online at [www.mccarter.org](http://www.mccarter.org). The Summer Season operas run through Sunday, July 27.

Further information on Opera New Jersey may be obtained at (609) 799-7700 or [www.opera-nj.org](http://www.opera-nj.org).

Photo: Leah Wool (Angelina) and Javier Abreu in Opera New Jersey's production of Rossini's *La Cenerentola*. Photo by Jeff Reeder.

### 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.

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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