

## NEWS RELEASE

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### Celebrate Opera at New Jersey Opera's Third Annual Gala

PRINCETON, NJ – **New Jersey Opera's Third Annual Celebrate Opera Gala** will take place on Saturday, October 13, 2007 at the Hyatt Regency, Princeton. The evening will begin with a cocktail reception and silent auction at 6:30pm, followed by dinner and entertainment at 7:45pm. Live opera entertainment will be enjoyed throughout the evening and will be topped off by a rousing finale involving all those in attendance.

The evening will be a joyous celebration of opera and a sparkling toast to New Jersey Opera's 2007 sold out Summer Season as well as a tantalizing look ahead at the 2008 Season. Featured artists of the evening include **John Osborn** (Metropolitan Opera tenor), **Elizabeth Caballero** (New York City Opera soprano), **William Andrew Stuckey** (Lyric Opera of Chicago baritone), **Lynette Tapia** (Los Angeles Opera soprano) and **Erin Holland** (Academy of Vocal Arts mezzo-soprano). New Jersey Opera patrons will soon hear Mr. Osborn perform as the lead tenor in Verdi's *Rigoletto* in February, 2008. These artists will entertain the Gala guests in between courses of the dinner with arias and ensembles from favorite operas, including excerpts from NJOpera's upcoming 2008 season. In addition to a full night of operatic excitement, other treats in store include a surprise appearance by a special guest artist.



"New Jersey Opera's Gala is truly unique," says Scott Altman, Artistic Director. "We satisfy both musical and culinary appetites simultaneously by weaving marvelous singing in between the food courses. It's a concert with fantastic food!"

This year, in celebrating past and future seasons, during the course of the evening New Jersey Opera will honor **Michael Rappeport** with its inaugural **Founders' Award** for his dedication, vision and support to NJOpera and to the community. Mr. Rappeport, Treasurer of NJOpera's Board of Trustees, is also the founding partner of R L Associates, a market research firm based in Princeton, NJ.

Proceeds from the Celebrate Opera Gala will benefit New Jersey Opera's upcoming season. The event is black tie and individual ticket prices range from \$250-\$1,000. Prices for tables of 10 range from \$5,000-\$20,000. Sponsorships are also available and include a Champagne Toast with the artists at 6pm. For reservations and additional information, call (609) 799-7700 or email pkiernan@njot.org.

**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. NJOpera 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. **New Jersey Opera** 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." NJOpera 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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