

NEWS RELEASE

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Celebrate Opera at New Jersey Opera Theater's Second Annual Gala

PRINCETON, NJ – On Saturday, October 14, 2006 at 6PM, **New Jersey Opera Theater** (NJOT) will present its Second Annual "Celebrate Opera" Gala at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Princeton, NJ.

The evening will be a dazzling celebration of opera and a toast to the success of New Jersey Opera Theater's 2006 season. International opera stars **Sharon Sweet**, soprano, and **Allan Glassman**, tenor, will join other outstanding artists to entertain guests with arias and ensembles from favorite operas, including excerpts from NJOT's upcoming exciting 2007 season.



Both Ms. Sweet and Mr. Glassman next appear with NJOT in the March 2007 production of *Turandot* at the McCarter Theatre and the State Theatre – NJOT's gala offers a rare, tantalizing preview of this stunning duo. Ms. Sweet, here in a special appearance, has won international critical acclaim for such roles as Aida, Norma and Turandot. Additionally, Ms. Sweet has collaborated with some of the most important musicians of our time, such as Giuseppe Sinopoli, James Levine, Christoph Eschenbach, Zubin Mehta, Sir Colin Davis, Kurt Masur and the late Sir Georg Solti. A frequent performer at The Metropolitan Opera, Mr. Glassman has performed at opera houses around the world, including Washington Opera, The Los Angeles Opera, Florida Grand Opera, L'Opéra de Nice, Deutsche Staatsoper Berlin and Oper Frankfurt.



Other performers for the evening include Amy Shoremount-Obra, soprano; Emily Langford Johnson, mezzo-soprano; and James Kee, baritone – all of whom are making their NJOT debuts. Chad Freeburg, tenor, will also perform; he was last heard with NJOT in a spectacular performance as Fenton in Verdi's *Falstaff* (February 2006).

Ms. Shoremount-Obra, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Freeburg and Mr. Kee will perform highlights from the upcoming season, including Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*, Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance* and Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette*.

One of the highlights of the gala is the elegant VIP Prelude reception, during which guests have the unique opportunity to meet and mingle with the evening's artists. Musical entertainment will be enjoyed throughout the cocktail hour and dinner and the entire evening will be topped off by a rousing finale involving all those in attendance. "This is truly going to be a very special evening" says Scott Altman, Artistic Director. "Not often do you have the opportunity to spend the evening with artists of this caliber in such an intimate setting."

Individual tickets (\$200 and \$500) and full tables (\$2,500+) are available by calling NJOT at 609-799-7700. Further information about NJOT can be found at www.NJOT.org.

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Celebrate Opera at New Jersey Opera Theater's Second Annual Gala – page 2

NJOT 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.

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Pictured above: Sharon Sweet and Allan Glassman