

NEWS RELEASE

Opera New Jersey, Inc.
PO Box 3151, Princeton, NJ 08543 * (609) 799-7700 * www.NJOT.org



Contact: Patricia Kiernan Johnson, Marketing Associate
(609) 799-7700 x104 (PKiernan@NJOT.org)

Release Date: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
27 September 2007

New Jersey Opera Theater Celebrates Milestone with a New Name

PRINCETON, NJ – In recognition of its upcoming fifth anniversary, its statewide presence and its continued growth, **New Jersey Opera Theater** announces its name change to **Opera New Jersey (OperaNJ)**. “In acknowledging its mission to present high quality opera productions as well as educational programming throughout the state of New Jersey, the timing of this name change is perfect,” states Lisa Altman, Executive Director. “**OperaNJ** succinctly describes precisely what we have been doing and where we have been doing it – neither of which are changing. There is no doubt that this new name will better reflect both our geographical and creative growth.”



As **OperaNJ** enters its fifth year it begins its next phase of growth, hot on the heels of having received its second consecutive New Jersey State Council on the Arts (NJSCA) Citation of Excellence which included a one hundred percent increase in funding, a season of fully sold-out opera performances at McCarter Theatre in Princeton as well as increased funding from the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation.

“To further support and facilitate organizational growth, **OperaNJ** is in the process of hiring a full-time Director of Development and a Production Manager to join the dedicated team of employees currently on staff,” says Ms. Altman. “The Citations of Excellence, sold-out performances and increased foundation support are all extraordinary votes of confidence and encourage our exceptional growth.”

Future events for **OperaNJ** include a Gala at the Hyatt Regency in Princeton on October 13 and three concert-staged performances of *Rigoletto* in February 2008 at McCarter Theatre in Princeton, State Theatre in New Brunswick and Community Theatre at Mayo Center for the Performing Arts in Morristown. The July 2008 Summer Season at the McCarter Theatre will feature performances of Verdi's *La traviata*, Léhar's *The Merry Widow* and Rossini's *La Cenerentola* (Cinderella). Ticket information can be obtained at www.NJOT.org or by calling (609) 799-7700.

-more-

New Jersey Opera Theater Celebrates Milestone with a New Name

About Opera New Jersey

Opera New Jersey (OperaNJ) is earning 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.

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.

Photo: Frederick (Benjamin Bunsold) and Mabel (Alison Trainer) in Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance* (OperaNJ Summer Season 2007). Credit: Jeff Reeder.

###