

NEWS RELEASE

Opera New Jersey, Inc.

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Opera New Jersey Invites You to Celebrate the Season with *HolidayFare!*

PRINCETON, NJ- Opera New Jersey (OperaNJ) announces the return of the enormously popular and joyous *HolidayFare* Concerts! OperaNJ invites you and your family to come celebrate the season with *HolidayFare*, featuring the acclaimed OperaNJ Young Artist Program, now in its fifth season. *HolidayFare* is being presented twice in central New Jersey on December 14 and 16 – at Grounds for Sculpture (Hamilton) and the Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Art Museum (New Brunswick).

The *HolidayFare* concert is designed to engage young and old alike and will feature a wide variety of sacred and secular holiday music. Featured will be traditional favorites such as "O Holy Night," "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas," "Santa Baby," "Silent Night" and "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year." The concerts include a sing-a-long with the artists and the audience featuring selections such as "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," "Frosty the Snowman," "Let it Snow!" and "Jingle Bells."



Opera New Jersey *HolidayFare* schedule:

Friday, December 14 at 7:30pm: Grounds For Sculpture, Hamilton (Free)

Sunday, December 16 at 3pm: Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Art Museum, New Brunswick (Concert is free with \$3 museum admission – waived for museum members, Rutgers students and staff)

Next on the horizon for Opera New Jersey is an inventive concert-staged production of Verdi's beloved opera, *Rigoletto*, in February 2008. Performances will take place at the Community Theatre at Mayo Center for the Performing Arts in Morristown (February 1), McCarter Theatre Center in Princeton (February 8) and State Theatre in New Brunswick (February 10). More information is available at www.NJOT.org or by calling (609) 799-7700.

About the Young Artist Program

OperaNJ's Young Artist Program (YAP) is a group of exceptional emerging artists, many of whom have already received professional engagements. This program bridges the gap between school and a professional career. The YAP provides singers with opportunities to hone skills through professional coaching, masterclasses and performances while bringing events to audiences throughout New Jersey.

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Opera New Jersey Invites You to Celebrate the Season with HolidayFare! (continued)

About Opera New Jersey

Opera New Jersey (OperaNJ, formerly New Jersey Opera Theater) 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.

Opera New Jersey's Young Artist Program is sponsored in part by the Starr Foundation.

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Photo: Eric Dubin, OperaNJ Young Artist Program baritone. Photo courtesy of the Academy of Vocal Arts, Philadelphia.

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