



Jeffrey Dinsmore, Marketing Manager
JDinsmore@Opera-NJ.org
(609) 799-7700 ext. 104
PO Box 3151, Princeton, NJ 08543

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**What Would You Give For A Second Chance At Youth? – Opera New Jersey Presents
*Faust***

Opera New Jersey Opens Gounod's *Faust* on July 18th at 2pm.

July 7, 2010, PRINCETON, NJ – Opera New Jersey will continue its 2010 Summer Season on July 18th at 2pm with its final of three main stage productions, Gounod's gothic masterpiece, *Faust*. This age-old story about a man willing to trade his soul for a second chance at youth continues July 23rd at 8pm, and July 31st at 8pm, all in the Matthews Theatre at the McCarter Theatre Center in Princeton, NJ.

Performing his first *Faust* will be Nutley, NJ native, Leonardo Capalbo. One of America's most promising young tenors, the *LA Times* proclaimed of a performance in Santa Barbara, "A smooth charmer with a cocky half smile... he seemed destined for anything. The show was his for the taking, and he took it."

As the innocent maiden for whom *Faust* would trade his soul, Soprano Inna Dukach makes her OperaNJ debut. As accomplished theatrically as she is vocally, of a New York City Opera performance of *La bohème*, the *NY Sun* raved, "Inna Dukach's rich, slightly darkish soprano proved an excellent match for Mimì's music, and she invested the girl with a welcome dose of personality."

Portraying Méphistophélès, also making his OperaNJ debut, will be Bass Young-Bok Kim, who has the unique mix of a commanding yet compelling presence. Described perfectly by the *Long Boat Key Observer* about a Sarasota production of *Attila* - "Young-Bok Kim made a multi-faceted Attila – swaggering and macho, frightened and superstitious – with a voice that commanded attention and kept one spellbound by its rich, deep, colorful quality," and by *Opera News* from a Boston Opera *Ernani*, "Young-Bok Kim played Silva not as the usual villain, but as a man of noble dignity. Kim has that rare power to make an audience come to him."

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All main stage operas feature the New Jersey Symphony Chamber Orchestra in the pit. For *Faust*, the orchestra will be ably led by Conductor and returning OperaNJ favorite, Mark Flint.

This fully costumed production, featuring a new staging by Stage Director, Trevore Ross, will be sung in the original French with English translations projected above the stage.

In addition to *Faust*, OperaNJ's 2010 Summer Season features main stage productions of *Don Giovanni*, opening on July 11th and *Don Pasquale*, opening July 17th. OperaNJ will also present two different Opera Scenes programs, the 20th and 27th of July, featuring the members of OperaNJ's Victoria J. Mastrobuono Emerging Artist Program. All performances will be held within the Tony award-winning McCarter Theatre Center in Princeton, NJ. Tickets for main stage operas range from \$35-\$110, and Opera Scenes tickets are only \$15. For tickets: 609.258.2787 or www.mccarter.org.

About Opera New Jersey

The largest opera company in New Jersey, Opera New Jersey is recognized nationally as a leader among regional opera companies, providing high quality opera performances and exceptional educational offerings. Opera New Jersey 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 has received three prestigious Citations of Excellence from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts (NJSCA). Opera New Jersey is honored to be the recipient of several National Endowment for the Arts grants in recognition of outstanding programming. For more information: www.Opera-NJ.org.

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