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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IN CLASSIC COMIC OPERA FASHION, YOUTH TRIUMPHS OVER EXPERIENCE – OPERA NEW JERSEY PRESENTS *DON PASQUALE*

Opera New Jersey Opens Donizetti's *Don Pasquale* on July 17 at 8pm.

July 1, 2010, PRINCETON, NJ – Opera New Jersey will continue its 2010 Summer Season on July 17th at 8pm with Donizetti's *bel canto* comedy, *Don Pasquale*. When an old man pursues a much younger woman and attempts to disinherit his nephew, even his best friend decides to teach him a comedic lesson. *Don Pasquale* continues July 25th at 2pm (SRO), July 30th at 8pm, and August 1st at 7pm, all in the Berlind Theatre at the McCarter Theatre Center in Princeton, NJ.

Starring as Don Pasquale, Baritone Steven Condy, has built his reputation on his portrayals of the great "buffo" roles. Admired not only for his robust and nuanced voice, but also for his natural acting ability, the *Washington Times* enthused that he has "the comic timing of John Candy and a voice that remains flexible, rich and true through every intricacy."

Making her OperaNJ debut, Soprano Ava Pine is sure to thrill audiences with her stunning presence, as described by *Opera Today*, "An exciting voice for the future... a riveting performance that grew with every scene, her richly expressive soprano under fine control throughout, had plenty of dynamics on tap when needed."

Rounding out the cast as Ernesto will be rising star Brian Anderson – "the tenor's plangent tone and idiomatic singing was a pleasure: Anderson spun a long line in lyrical arias, was nimble in the bravura writing, and showed a deft comedic touch." *Miami Herald*

Once again, especially for comedy, OperaNJ turns to Stage Director Michael Scarola. He was responsible for last year's critically-acclaimed, audience-favorite, *The Mikado*, and major success, *La Cenerentola*, in the 2008 Summer Season.

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All main stage operas feature the New Jersey Symphony Chamber Orchestra in the pit. For *Don Pasquale*, the orchestra will be ably led by Conductor and Princeton-Favorite, Mark Laycock.

This fully costumed and staged production will be sung in the original Italian with English translations projected above the stage.

In addition to *Don Pasquale*, OperaNJ's 2010 Summer Season features main stage productions of *Don Giovanni*, opening on July 11th and *Faust*, opening July 18th. 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 Complex 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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