

Press Release: May 8, 2007

## Frederica von Stade Featured at Private Granite State Opera Benefit Performance

Temple and Portsmouth, NH - Some people would describe an international opera superstar coming to New Hampshire to perform as a once-in-a-lifetime event. But Frederica von Stade has visited twice now in four years for Granite State Opera, most recently in an exclusive private benefit performance for the company. The sold-out event was hosted on April 1 at the home of Paul and Sandra Montrone, long-time Granite State Opera supporters and great friends of the arts.



Frederica von Stade  
(Photo: Pernoldphoto.com)

Ms. von Stade performed in Granite State Opera's very first Celebrity Concert "An Evening with Frederica von Stade" in June of 2003. "The very next day," recalls Artistic Director Philip Lauriat, "she called me and said, 'You really must let me do a house concert for you.' Needless to say I was blown away!" he said.

"Ms. von Stade is truly an extraordinary celebrity. Around the world her name is in the very rarest of company - like Pavarotti, Domingo and Sutherland - as a true giant in the field," says Granite State Opera Executive Director John MacLeod. "She's really a wonder; a musical ambassador whom many of us can recall our first time seeing and hearing. Since 1970, she's graced the stage of the Met, and all the great opera houses and concert halls of the world. And she's simply a charming and wonderful person," he added.

The show of support for great opera in New Hampshire from such leading figures as Ms. von Stade and the Montrones is a very good sign for the future of this most complex (and expensive) of the performing art forms, and for Granite State Opera. "Mr. Montrone, a past president of the Metropolitan Opera, obviously knows what goes into creating great opera and we are truly grateful for the support he and Mrs. Montrone have shown Granite State Opera. We view it as a confirmation of the quality of art we're creating here in New Hampshire, as well as a challenge never to rest on our laurels!" said MacLeod.

Granite State Opera's next production, *Cavalleria Rusticana* and *I Pagliacci* will feature two stars from *Madama Butterfly*, tenor Arnold Rawls and baritone Philip Lima, as well as the New England operatic debut of "America's Tenor" (and 9/11 NYPD "Singing Policeman") Daniel Rodriguez. They will be surrounded by a tremendous group of local and regional favorites such as Janice Edwards, Melissa Manseau, Nouné Karapetian and Jacque Wilson. These powerhouse voices, backed by the formidable Granite State Opera Orchestra promise a night of unforgettable music and thrilling drama. Tickets for the May 10th performance are available at The Music Hall in Portsmouth ([www.themusichall.org](http://www.themusichall.org) or 603.436.2400) and for the May 13th performances through the Capitol Center for the Arts in Concord ([www.ccanh.com](http://www.ccanh.com) or 603.225.1111).

More information about Granite State Opera is available at 603.436-8GSO (8476) and at [www.GraniteStateOpera.org](http://www.GraniteStateOpera.org).

Granite State Opera is devoted to creating opera of the highest artistic quality for the benefit, enrichment and education of its audience throughout New Hampshire. It is supported in part by the NH State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts, The NH Charitable Foundation, The Arthur and Dolores Daniels Foundation, The Hoffman Family Foundation, The Penates Foundation, The Verney Foundation, and by its generosity of individuals and corporate sponsors including Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, AutoFair, Center of New Hampshire Radisson, Devine, Millimet and Branch, Ear, Nose & Throat Specialists of NH, The Hahn Group - Merrill Lynch, Holiday Inn of Concord, Laconia Savings Bank, MARKEM Corporation, Portsmouth Computer Group, Sheraton Harborside Portsmouth, TFMoran, Vital & Ryze Advertising, and WKXL 1450 AM.



"Clockwise from back left: Paul Montrone, Frederica von Stade, GSO Artistic Director Philip Lauriat, Sandra Montrone, GSO President Lilliane LeBel"  
(Photo: Pernold Photo.com)