



Press Release: July 6, 2004

Granite State Opera Beats Fundraising Goals

Temple, NH - Granite State Opera's Artistic Director, Philip Lauriat, today announced that the company beat its fundraising goal for the fiscal year that ended in June. In addition, the operatic production ticket sales increased nearly 20% over the last season.

"There is an enthusiastic audience in New Hampshire for high quality opera, and they are learning to trust Granite State Opera to create it for them." said Lauriat. "This growth in support allows us to expand our next season to two full operatic productions: *Le Nozze di Figaro* and *Rigoletto*."

Granite State Opera's Fifth Season will open with Mozart's masterful romantic comedy *Le Nozze di Figaro* November 19th and 21st at the Capitol Center for the Arts in Concord. The cast will include Theresa Cincione (Metropolitan Opera, Granite State Opera) as the Countess, David Kravitz (Boston Lyric Opera, Granite State Opera) as the Count, the young bass David Cushing (Opera North, UNH) as Figaro, Sandra DeAthos (San Francisco Opera) as Susannah, and Janice Edwards (Arizona Opera, Granite State Opera) as Marcellina.

Finishing out the season will be *Rigoletto*, Verdi's tragic tale of seduction, vengeance and ultimate ruin. The title role will be sung by Michael Corvino, the *Rigoletto* of choice for companies such as Utah Festival Opera and Connecticut Opera, and who sings the major Verdi baritone roles at New York City Opera. The Metropolitan Opera's Ellen Rabiner, who sang *Carmen* in Granite State Opera's first season, will return to NH as Maddalena.

Both operas will be sung in Italian with a projected English translation. Artistic Director Philip Lauriat will conduct both productions.

Granite State Opera is devoted to creating opera of the highest artistic quality for the benefit, enrichment and education of its audience in the southern NH region. It is supported in part by the NH State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts, by its generous sponsors including AG Edwards, Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, BAE SYSTEMS, Center of New Hampshire, Devine, Millimet PA, Laconia Savings Bank, Markem Corporation, TF Moran, and Vital & Ryze Advertising Inc., and by lovers of great opera throughout New England. If you are interested in learning more about Granite State Opera, call 603-878-0539, or visit the Web site at www.GraniteStateOpera.org