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GRANITE STATE OPERA SIGNS ON MET SOPRANO FOR *LA TRAVIATA*

October 13, 2008, Temple, NH – Granite State Opera’s General Director, Philip Lauriat, today announced that he has signed on Metropolitan Opera soprano Alyson Cambridge in the role of Violetta in Granite State Opera’s Ninth Season opener of Verdi’s masterful drama *La Traviata*.

Recognized for her beauty of voice, striking stage presence, and affecting musical and dramatic interpretation, Alyson Cambridge is a graduate of the Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artist Development Program, which she joined after becoming a Grand Prize Winner of the 2003 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. During the 2008/09 season, Ms. Cambridge returns to the **Metropolitan Opera** as Crobyle in a new production of *Thaïs*, and as Bianca in *La Rondine*. Both productions will be broadcast live in high-definition to cinemas around the world.

The cast of this unforgettable tragedy includes John Tiranno (Sarasota Opera, Nashville Opera) as the young Alfredo who falls in love with Violetta, the popular courtesan in Paris. Jimi James (Memphis Opera, Syracuse Opera) will sing the role of Germont, Alfredo’s father. Audiences will remember James’ powerful baritone voice in the role of Enrico in Granite State Opera’s last season’s *Lucia di Lamermoor*.

Performances for *La Traviata* will take place on November 7 at the Music Hall in Portsmouth, NH at 8:00PM and on November 9 at 2:00PM at the Capitol Center for the Arts in Concord. The opera will be sung in Italian with a projected English translation and General Director Philip Lauriat will conduct the full orchestra.

Single tickets are available at both theaters beginning September 1 and are available by calling The Music Hall in Portsmouth, NH at 603-436-2400 or visiting their website at www.themusichall.org, or The Capitol Center for the Arts in Concord at 603-225-1111 or by visiting www.ccanh.com.

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

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