



Press Release: October 22, 2007

**Granite State Opera Opens Eighth Season
With Black-Tie Gala and *Lucia di Lammermoor***

Temple and Portsmouth, NH - Granite State Opera is starting off their 2007-2008 Season in style. The company will open with *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Donizetti's heart-wrenching tragedy of true love, deceit and betrayal. Metropolitan Opera Soprano Barbara Kilduff will return to Granite State Opera to sing the title role. And New York City Opera tenor Eric Fennell (also returning to the GSO) will sing the role of Edgardo.

The story is a familiar one: Montagues and Capulets. Hatfields and McCoys. Ashtons and Ravenswoods. Miss Lucy Ashton (Lucia) loves the enemy, Sir Edgar of Ravenswood (Edgardo). But the head of her family, her brother Lord Henry Ashton (Enrico) tricks her into thinking Edgardo has been unfaithful and insists that she to marry his political ally Lord Arthur Bucklaw (Arturo), instead. She reluctantly agrees, Edgardo rushes in, and the greatest sextet in all opera results! Thinking she has voluntarily pledged herself to another, Edgardo curses Lucia and storms out. Lucia will marry Arturo after all. The wedding reception is interrupted, however, when Raimondo rushes in announcing that Lucia has gone mad, and stabbed her bridegroom Arturo to death. Disheveled and unaware of what she has done, she wanders in, recalling her time spent with Edgardo and imagining the two of them married. Believing herself in heaven, Lucia falls dying. Edgar, in his grief, commits suicide on the tombs of his ancestors, hoping at last to be together with his love, in Heaven.

For the first time, Granite State Opera will feature an Opening Night Gala prior to the opening of *Lucia* at The Music Hall on November 9th. The gala black-tie dinner with special music and private pre-show talk by Artistic Director Philip Lauriat will take place at the Sheraton Harborside Portsmouth and a limited number of spaces are still available. Anyone interested should call Granite State Opera at 603-436-8GSO (8476).

Performances of *Lucia di Lammermoor* will take place at 8 p.m. on November 9th at The Music Hall in Portsmouth (www.themusichall.org or 603-436-2400) and at 2 p.m., November 11th at the Capitol Center for the Arts in Concord (www.ccanh.com or 603-225-1111). Tickets are \$19-\$72 with group, senior and student discounts available.

Persons interested in learning more about Granite State Opera are invited to, call 603-436-8GSO (8476), or visit www.GraniteStateOpera.org.