



Press Release: September 10, 2004

Granite State Opera Announces New Season

Temple, NH - Granite State Opera's Artistic Director, Philip Lauriat, today announced that it will provide New Hampshire audiences with two full productions in the coming season: *Le Nozze di Figaro* by Mozart and *Rigoletto* by Verdi.

Granite State Opera's Fifth Season will open with Mozart's masterful romantic comedy *Le Nozze di Figaro* November 19th at 8:00PM and 21st at 2:00PM 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.

The second full production will be *Rigoletto*, Verdi's tragic tale of seduction, vengeance and ultimate ruin. These performances will be on April 29th at 8:00PM and on May 1 at 2:00PM. 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.

Tickets are now on sale by calling the Capitol Center for the Arts 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 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.