

Concord, NH - The Board of Trustees of Granite State Opera and Executive Director John MacLeod have announced a bold new Education and Outreach campaign to reach hundreds of students throughout the state.

"We have begun to pilot a program in which students who order through their school's music teachers will receive FREE tickets to our upcoming production of Donizetti's comic opera *l'Elisir d'Amore* (The Elixir of Love)," said Granite State Opera Executive Director John MacLeod. "Accompanying adults will be able to purchase their own tickets for only \$15 to facilitate parents, teachers or chaperones being able to accompany the students. Letters and phone calls have been placed with over 25 high schools throughout the state offering free tickets to their students and the response, as you can imagine, has been one of excitement and gratitude."

MacLeod stated that, ideally, the response will be overwhelming and the Company can then look to corporate and foundation sponsors to fund a continuation and expansion of the program. "Of course there are a limited number of seats that we can offer for free. We hope to be able to serve more underserved kids, if corporate or foundation support can provide some revenue offset."

"Granite State Opera believes strongly that exposure to, and education in, music and the arts is critical to the development of the creative and complex minds that will be required for successful college and work careers in the Information Economy. And the richness and beauty of opera is intrinsically a magnificent experience for young and old alike. We hope to expand the artistic horizons of more and more children each year," MacLeod said.

Granite State Opera's production of *l'Elisir d'Amore* (The Elixir of Love) will be at the Capitol Center for the Arts on Friday, October 14th at 8 p.m. and Sunday afternoon, October 16th at p.m. Stars from the Metropolitan Opera, Seattle Opera and New York City Opera join with local New England artists and the Granite State Opera Orchestra under the baton and Stage Direction of Philip Lauriat to create a new production of one of Bel Canto opera's great comedies. Like all Granite State Opera productions, the opera will be sung in its original language (Italian) with English translation projected above the stage. SYNOPSIS: Nemorino, a simple farmer, and Belcore, an impossibly pompous army sergeant, battle for the love of Adina, the wealthy and capricious owner of the farm. But it is when "Doctor" Dulcamara (literally "sweet/bitter") comes to town hawking a cure-all elixir that this rollicking comedy really takes off. Hearing Dulcamara sing of the elixir's ability to cure everything from baldness to consumption to indigestion, Nemorino pulls him aside and asks if it can make Adina fall in love with him ("like the story of Tristan and Isolde" from which he's just heard Adina read). No surprise to infomercial watchers everywhere, of COURSE it can. But the cheap Bordeaux wine that's in the bottle makes Nemorino drunk instead, and he behaves so badly that Adina agrees to marry Sgt. Belcore the next morning.