

Press Release: April 11, 2007

## **"America's Tenor" (and 9/11 "Singing Policeman") Daniel Rodriguez to make New England operatic debut this Spring**

Temple and Portsmouth, NH – The tenor known to millions of Americans as "The Singing Cop" will make his New England operatic debut with New Hampshire's own Granite State Opera in May. And he's not just famous, Executive Director John MacLeod said, in a press release, "He's really, REALLY good!"

"I would never bring somebody in because they might help fill the seats once, because that's all we'd get," said Granite State Opera Artistic Director Philip Lauriat. "I'm planning for this company to last a lot longer than I, and you can't do that with a publicity stunt. That just won't cut it. His voice is simply amazing."



Daniel Rodriguez

In fact it was originally Rodriguez's fiancée, Maryann Motos, who scheduled an appointment with the GSO's auditions last Summer in Manchester. Later, Rodriguez called and said he'd be accompanying her from New York and asked if he could sing for Lauriat, too.

"I recognized his name," said Lauriat, "but I hadn't heard him sing except on TV, and I thought, 'I'm not sure this is an opera guy.' I just didn't think of him as opera."

The GSO conductor had seen Rodriguez performing pop material on The Tonight Show and Regis & only. But he gave the New Yorker a timeslot and then, "after they finished replacing the shattered windows in the audition space" offered him the lead role of Canio in this May's I Pagliacci, a role his mentor, Metropolitan Opera Star Placido Domingo has owned for years.

"His high notes are just amazing," Lauriat said. "So we talked a little bit, and managed to work it out for him to come and sing this spring."

Joining Rodriguez, Lauriat and the renowned Granite State Opera Orchestra will be returning favorites from Chicago Lyric, Boston Lyric, Providence opera companies, Arnold Rawls, Philip Lima and Nouné Karapetian, as well as Granite State divas Janice Edwards and Melissa Manseau.

Performances of Granite State Opera's Cavalleria Rusticana and I Pagliacci will be held:

Thursday, May 10th at 8 p.m. at The Music Hall in Portsmouth, with a meet the artist reception immediately following at the Sheraton Harborside Hotel. Tickets from \$72 to \$19 available at [www.themusichall.org](http://www.themusichall.org) or by calling 603-436-2400.

Sunday, May 13th at 2 p.m. at The Capitol Center for the Arts in Concord, with a meet the artists reception immediately following at the Holiday Inn, Concord. Tickets available at [www.ccanh.com](http://www.ccanh.com) or by calling 603-225-1111. Discounts also available to the Holiday Inn's Mother's Day brunch for opera goers. Anyone interested in learning more about Granite State Opera, can call 603-878-0539, or visit the Web site at [www.GraniteStateOpera.org](http://www.GraniteStateOpera.org).

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 Foundation, The Hoffman Family Foundation, The Penates Foundation, The Verney Foundation, and by its generosity of individuals and corporate sponsors including Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, AutoFair, Center of New Hampshire Radisson, Devine, Millimet and Branch, Ear, Nose & Throat Specialists of NH, Holiday Inn of Concord, Laconia Savings Bank, MARKEM Corporation, Merrill Lynch – The Hahn Group, Portsmouth Computer Group, Sheraton Harborside Portsmouth, TFMoran, Vital & Ryze Advertising, WKXL 1450 AM.

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