



Press Release: December 7, 2005

A Wilde Thing Happened on the Way to the Opera!

Granite State Opera to Hold Workshop of Important New Work

As it continues to create great opera in New Hampshire, Granite State Opera announces that it is collaborating with two well-known artists on a new opera entitled Oscar Wilde.

Based on the controversial life of Oscar Wilde, this opera promises to be anything but dull. Prominent Boston-based composer Thomas Oboe Lee, and playwright/librettist Paul Hodes, who wrote (among others) "The People's House" about the NH State Legislature, are putting together a wonderful musical experience. The next step is to bring in audience members to test it out.

"Thomas and Paul have written and rewritten the first Act of Oscar Wilde, and we'd like to have audience members hear and react to it. Without an initial audience preview, it's like seeing a painting while wearing sunglasses," said Granite State Opera Artistic Director Philip Lauriat. "Audience participation is a vital part of the creative process, and we're all looking forward to presenting Act I of Oscar Wilde in workshop format on January 22," Lauriat continued.

"The music is very melodic and audience members should be able to hum a tune or two as they leave the workshop," explained Lauriat. In addition to the singers, composer Thomas Oboe Lee, librettist Paul Hodes and Mr. Lauriat will be at the workshop to discuss the work and answer questions.

The first workshop of Oscar Wilde will take place at the Concord Community Music School, 23 Wall Street, Concord, NH, on Sunday, January 22. The workshop will begin at 2:00 PM, and singers from NH and Boston will give a semi-staged performance of Act 1. Space is limited. Tickets to the Oscar Wilde Workshop are only \$10 (\$8 for seniors and students 18 & under) and are available by calling Granite State Opera at (603) 878-0539.

Granite State Opera is devoted to creating opera of the highest artistic quality for the benefit, enrichment and education of its audience in New Hampshire. It is supported in part by the NH State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts, The new Hampshire Charitable Foundation, The Daniels Foundation, The Hoffman Family Foundation, The Penates Foundation, and by its generous sponsors including Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, AutoFair, BAE SYSTEMS, Center of New Hampshire Radisson, Comfort Inn of Concord, Devine, Millimet and Branch, PA, Holiday Inn of Concord, Laconia Savings Bank, Markem Corporation, TF Moran, and Vital & Ryze Advertising Inc.

Tickets for Granite State Opera's upcoming production of Madama Butterfly on May 4 at The Music Hall in Portsmouth are available by calling 603-436-2400, or by visiting www.themusichall.org. Tickets for Madama Butterfly on May 7 at the Capitol Center for the Arts in Concord, NH, by calling 603-225-1111, or by visiting their Web site at www.ccanh.com. Ticket prices range from \$18 to \$58, with special pricing for seniors and students.

If you are interested in learning more about Granite State Opera, call 603-878-0539, or visit the Web site at www.GraniteStateOpera.org.