



Press Release: December 27, 2006

## **Metropolitan Opera Audition Winners Come to Portsmouth for a Night of Passion and Seduction!**

Temple and Portsmouth, NH - Granite State Opera will once again host some of today's hottest young names in opera at their second Opera Gala, Saturday evening January 13th at 8 p.m. The evening will feature one national winner and two national finalists of the prestigious Metropolitan Opera National Council Competitions, held each year throughout the country and culminating each Spring in a finale weekend at the Met in New York City.

"Many singers with New England roots have been finalists and winners in the past several years," says Granite State Opera Executive Director John MacLeod. "And while the Met competition may be familiar to folks with a passion for opera experience, most folks can understand that it's sort of the opera world's equivalent of American Idol (the only exception being that no one whose voice is actually remotely bad, ever gets near the competition door). So it's really exciting to see and hear singers who will grace the world's most famous opera houses for the next couple of decades in person, here at The Music Hall."

Two young divas with New England roots, Sandra Piques Eddy (now of the Metropolitan Opera, pictured) and Barbara Quintiliani (winner of the 1999 Met National Council Grand Prize) join National Grand Finalist Charles Mays, Jr. together with Philip Lauriat and the Granite State Opera Orchestra for an evening of opera favorites. The concert will feature arias, duets and trios grouped into four sections (Verdi, Mozart, French Opera and Seduction), plus several Extras. Additional composers include Rossini, Strauss, Offenbach, Bellini, Gounod and Massenet. The performance will last approximately 2 hours, including one intermission.