

FLORIDA GRAND
Opera

NEWS RELEASE

8390 NW 25th Street ♦ Miami, FL 33122 ♦ T: 305-854-1643 ♦ F: 305-856-1042 ♦ www.fgo.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Justin Moss, jmoss@fgo.org, 305-854-1643 ext. 1600

**Soprano Eglise Gutiérrez returns to Florida Grand Opera
in Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor***

Miami, FL – January 4, 2010. Florida Grand Opera's 2009-10 season continues in January with the return of soprano **Eglise Gutiérrez** in the title role of a new production of Donizetti's ***Lucia di Lammermoor***. This bel canto masterpiece is based on Sir Walter Scott's historical novel, *The Bride of Lammermoor*, and tells the story of a wedding where celebration turns to horror as the young bride enters in her bloodstained nightgown clutching the knife with which she has killed her new husband. The ensuing mad scene is arguably the most famous in all of opera, and has served as a showcase for the world's leading coloratura sopranos. This new Florida Grand Opera production is designed by André Barbe, and directed by Renaud Doucet.

Eglise Gutiérrez's highly acclaimed performances of Violetta in FGO's 2008 production of *La traviata* were a highlight of the season, and she is becoming internationally recognized as one of the leading *bel canto* sopranos. The months prior to her FGO appearance as Lucia will find her in productions at Opéra de Montréal, the Savonlinna Festival, the Ravinia Festival, the Royal Opera House Covent Garden, Seattle Opera, and the Dresden Opera. The up and coming Mexican soprano **María Alejandres** will perform the title role of *Lucia di Lammermoor* on January 27 and 30, prior to her performances of Juliette in *Roméo et Juliette* at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden.

Spanish tenor **Israel Lozano** will join Ms. Gutiérrez in performances as Edgardo. He is a 2003 winner of the Plácido Domingo International Operalia Competition, and has sung leading roles with Washington National Opera, Los Angeles Opera, and Palm Beach Opera, among others. **Mark Panuccio** will join Ms. Alejandres as Edgardo for the January 27 and 30 performances. He appears regularly with leading American companies, including the Cincinnati Opera, Sarasota Opera, Opera Pacific, Utah Festival Opera, Nevada Opera, Michigan Opera Theatre, Opera Carolina, Portland Summer Opera, and the Opera Company of Philadelphia.

Ramon Tebar, a closely watched young Spanish conductor, will conduct. Maestro Tebar, born in Valencia in 1978, for several years has been the assistant conductor at Palm Beach Opera. He has performed and collaborated with a number of singers, including Montserrat Caballé, Teresa Berganza, Ileana Cotrubaş and Virginia Zeani. He has conducted symphony orchestras in Spain, Italy, the United States, and Russia and opera performances of *Don Pasquale*, *L'italiana in Algeri*, *Cavalleria rusticana*, and *Madama Butterfly*. In December 2009, he was appointed Resident Conductor of the Palm Beach Symphony Orchestra.

Continued on following page . . .

Lucia di Lammermoor by Gaetano Donizetti
Sung in Italian with English and Spanish projected translations

MIAMI ■ **Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County**
Sanford and Dolores Ziff Ballet Opera House

January 23, 2010 7:00 p.m. – Opening Night
January 26, 27, 29, 30 at 8 p.m.
January 31 matinee at 2 p.m.

FORT LAUDERDALE ■ **Broward Center for the Performing Arts**
Au-Rene Theater

February 4 & 6 at 8 p.m.

Conductor..... Ramón Tebar*
Director Renaud Doucet
Set Designer André Barbe
Costume Designer André Barbe
Lighting Designer Gordon W. Olson
Production Florida Grand Opera
Lucia..... Eglise Gutiérrez (Jan. 23, 26, 29, 31M, Feb. 4 & 6)
Lucia..... Maria Alejandres* (Jan. 27 & 30)
Edgardo Israel Lozano* (Jan. 23, 26, 29, 31M, Feb. 4 & 6)
Edgardo Mark Panuccio* (Jan. 27 & 30)
Enrico Mark Walters (Jan. 23, 26, 29, 31M, Feb. 4 & 6)
Enrico Jeremy Kelly* (Jan. 27 & 30)
Raimondo Jordan Bisch*

* = FGO Debut

Tickets start as low as \$10: call 1-800-741-1010 or order safely online at www.fgo.org

About Florida Grand Opera

Florida Grand Opera was formed in June 1994 by the merger of Greater Miami Opera, founded in 1941, and The Opera Guild Inc., of Fort Lauderdale, founded in 1945. Celebrating its 69th season of continuous performances, Florida Grand Opera stands as one of the oldest performing arts organizations in Florida. In addition to producing standard repertoire, Florida Grand Opera also presents lesser known operas, as well as commissions and produces new operas. Annually, performances are attended by nearly 100,000 people, and education and outreach programs serve over 50,000 students. FGO offers several highly successful outreach and educational programs, including its internationally-recognized Young Artist Studio. Founded in 1984, the program attracts young singers who train and enhance their professional skills during a 35-week Miami residency.

Florida Grand Opera is sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Arts Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Funding for this organization is provided, in part, by the Broward County Board of County Commissioners as recommended by the Broward Cultural Council and by the Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau. Additional support is provided by the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, the Cultural Affairs Council, the Mayor and the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners. Program support is provided by the City of Miami Beach, Cultural Affairs Program, Cultural Arts Council. Florida Grand Opera is a Resident Company of the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County and a member company of OPERA America.



American Airlines is the Official Airline, Intercontinental Miami is the Official Hotel and Steinway & Sons is the Official Piano of Florida Grand Opera.

#