

FLORIDA GRAND Opera

NEWS RELEASE

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Florida Grand Opera to Open 2010-2011 Season With Puccini's *TURANDOT*

Miami, FL – May 5, 2010 – Florida Grand Opera will open its 70th season on November 13, 2010, with Puccini's *Turandot*, considered by many to be the culmination of the Italian grand opera tradition. *Turandot*, Puccini's atmospheric final opera set in ancient China, was first performed at Milan's La Scala in 1926, one year and five months after Puccini's death in 1924. Arturo Toscanini conducted the first performance, and the opera would soon become famous for its title role, one of the most demanding and challenging in the dramatic soprano repertory. *Turandot's* suitors must correctly answer her three riddles, or die. All have failed until the arrival of a mysterious suitor who succeeds and presents *Turandot* with a challenge of his own. On opening night, a Cocktail Reception and On-Stage Gala Dinner will immediately follow the performance. Information about Gala reservations and sponsorship opportunities is available from Denise Courshon at 305-854-1643, ext. 1202.

American soprano **Lise Lindstrom** will make her FGO debut in the title role, which also served as her debut role at the Metropolitan Opera in 2009. The California native has performed *Turandot* with leading opera companies worldwide, and is also recognized for her performances of Richard Strauss' *Salome*, *Ariadne in Ariadne auf Naxos*, and Senta in Richard Wagner's *The Flying Dutchman*. Soprano **Elizabeth Caballero**, seen here most recently as Mimì in *La bohème* and the Countess in *The Marriage of Figaro*, will return as Liù, and tenor **Frank Porretta**, who made his recent Met debut as Calaf, will repeat the role for FGO in this production. **Kevin Langan**, a frequent and highly appreciated guest artist at Florida Grand Opera, returns to reprise one of his signature roles, the deposed king Timur.

Spanish conductor **Ramon Tebar** returns to conduct *Turandot*, following his successful FGO debut leading the 2010 *Lucia di Lammermoor* production. *Turandot* was designed by the stage director and designer team of **Bliss Hebert** and **Allen Charles Klein**, who will return to oversee the revival of this highly acclaimed production. Their new production of *La traviata* opened Florida Grand Opera's 2008-2009 season.

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The season continues in January with Jacques Offenbach's *The Tales of Hoffmann* (*Les Contes d'Hoffmann*) last seen at Florida Grand Opera in 1999. Offenbach's reputation was firmly established by his hugely successful comic operas, but with *The Tales of Hoffmann*, the composer of the famous "Can-Can" from *Orpheus in the Underworld* was determined to achieve recognition as a composer of serious opera as well. Based on several short stories by the writer E.T.A. Hoffmann, *The Tales of Hoffmann* would soon become a favorite vehicle for many of the world's leading opera singers who relished the opportunity to exploit its limitless dramatic opportunities. Canadian tenor **David Pomeroy**, who made his 2009 Metropolitan Opera debut in the title role of its new production of *The Tales of Hoffmann*, will make his FGO debut in the same role.

One of opera's great challenges is for a single soprano to undertake the roles of all four of Hoffmann's loves in *The Tales of Hoffmann*. For Florida Grand Opera's production, the remarkable American soprano **Elizabeth Futral** returns to perform all of them for the first time in her career. Her previous FGO appearances as Gounod's Juliette, Donizetti's Lucia, and Strauss' Zerbinetta in *Ariadne auf Naxos* are some well-remembered highlights of past seasons. She appeared at Lyric Opera of Chicago this season in Lehar's *The Merry Widow*. Bass-baritone **Bradley Garvin** will make his FGO debut as the four villains, and **Katherine Rohrer** will make her FGO debut as Hoffmann's companion Nicklausse. Cuban-born conductor **Lucy Arner** will also make her Florida Grand Opera debut. The director and designer team of **Renaud Doucet** and **André Barbe** will remount their sumptuous production, which has been highly acclaimed in Denver, Saint Louis, and Boston. The Denver Post wrote that it ". . . captures [the opera's] oddly alluring fusion of fantasy and reality."

Mozart's *Don Giovanni* will open on April 16. Considered by many to be the most perfect opera ever written, *Don Giovanni* continues to thrill audiences today as it did at its premiere in 1787. This second collaboration of Mozart and librettist Lorenzo Da Ponte followed their success with *The Marriage of Figaro* a year earlier. Mozart used the story of the world's most infamous lover, Don Juan, to create one of opera's unforgettably vivid characters and one of the world's favorite operas.

Baritone **David Pittsinger**, previously seen here in a remarkable portrayal of Count Rodolfo in FGO's 2007 *La sonnambula* and as Scarpia in the company's 2008 *Tosca*, will return to sing the title role in Mozart's *Don Giovanni*. He has performed *Don Giovanni* for the Opera Company of Philadelphia, New York City Opera, and Opera Colorado, and appears regularly at the Metropolitan Opera and leading companies around the world. Bass **Tom Corbeil**, a former member of FGO's Young Artist Studio and San Francisco Opera's Merola Program, returns in the role of the Don's servant Leporello following his portrayal of Don Basilio in this season's *The Barber of Seville*. Tenor **Andrew Bidlack**, a former member of FGO's Young Artist Studio who sang Count Almaviva in FGO's February 24 and 27, 2010 performances of *The Barber of Seville*, returns as Don Ottavio.

American soprano **Jacquelyn Wagner** will make her FGO debut as Donna Anna, and **Ana María Martínez**, who was Fiordiligi in FGO's 2007 production of *Così fan tutte*, returns as Donna Elvira. Ms. Wagner is a recipient of a Fulbright Study Grant and has been appearing with numerous opera companies in Europe; she has appeared with numerous American orchestras, but this production will mark her official American operatic debut. Ms. Martínez, who has become a leading international soprano, was heard recently as Marguerite in *Faust* at Lyric Opera of Chicago. Metropolitan Opera bass **Morris Robinson**, last seen as Ramfis in FGO's 2006 production of *Aida*, returns as the Commendatore. **Andrew Bisantz**, Florida Grand Opera's Resident Conductor, will lead these performances of *Don Giovanni* following his highly acclaimed conducting of the 2009-10 season-opening double bill of *Pagliacci* and *Suor Angelica*. *Don Giovanni* will be directed by **John Pascoe**, who originally designed and directed the production for Washington National Opera.

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The season will conclude with **David DiChiera**'s *Cyrano*, which premiered in 2007 in Detroit at Michigan Opera Theatre. **Bernard Uzan**, who created the French libretto, will also direct the production. *Cyrano* is based on Edmond Rostand's beloved play, *Cyrano de Bergerac*, and DiChiera's romantic, melodic score perfectly enhances this tragic story of star-crossed would-be lovers. *Opera Canada* reviewed it as "...visually grand, dramatically absorbing and musically captivating." FGO General Director Robert M. Heuer stated, "As we are co-producers of *Cyrano*, it was a thrill to see the standing ovation it received in Detroit at its premiere, and I'm very excited about presenting this new opera to South Florida audiences. I am sure it will be received here with equal enthusiasm."

Leah Partridge, one of South Florida's favorite sopranos, will return to FGO as Roxane, a role specifically written for her. Romanian baritone **Marian Pop**, seen as Dandini in last season's *La Cenerentola*, will perform the title role. French tenor **Sébastien Guèze**, whose international career was launched by his taking second prize in Plácido Domingo's 2006 Operalia competition, makes his FGO debut as Christian. American conductor **Mark Flint**, who orchestrated *Cyrano* and conducted the world premiere at Michigan Opera Theatre, will lead the Florida Grand Opera performances.

Subscriptions for Florida Grand Opera's 2010-2011 season start as low as \$32 for all four operas, and are available at 1-800-741-1010 or safely online at www.fgo.org. Subscribers save up to 50% off single ticket pricing. Subscribers who are also donors receive priority seating. Single tickets will go on sale Tuesday, September 7, 2010.

Turandot by Giacomo Puccini
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

November 13, 2010, at 7 p.m. – Opening Night
November 16, 19, 24 and 27, 2010, at 8:00 p.m.
November 21, 2010, matinee at 2 p.m.

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

December 2 and 4, 2010, at 8 p.m.

Turandot.....	Lise Lindstrom *
Calaf.....	Frank Porretta *
Liù.....	Elizabeth Caballero ■
Timur.....	Kevin Langan
Ping.....	Jonathan G. Michie ♦
Pang.....	Daniel Shirley ♦*
Pong.....	James Barbato ♦*
Conductor.....	Ramon Tebar
Director.....	Bliss Hebert
Production Designer.....	Allen Charles Klein

Production Florida Grand Opera

* = FGO debut ■ = Former Young Artist ♦ = Current Young Artist

Turandot is made possible by a gift from the Arthur F. and Alice E. Adams Foundation.

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The Tales of Hoffmann (*Les Contes d'Hoffmann*) by Jacques Offenbach
Sung in French 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 22, 2011, at 7 p.m. – Opening Night
January 25, 28, February 2, 5, 2011, at 8:00 p.m.
January 30, 2011, matinee at 2 p.m.

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

February 10 and 12, 2011, at 8 p.m.

Hoffmann	David Pomeroy *
Olympia, Antonia, Giulietta & Stella.....	Elizabeth Futral
Coppélius, Dapertutto, Dr. Miracle & Lindorf.....	Bradley Garvin *
Nicklausse, Muse	Katherine Rohrer *
Offenbach, Cochenille, Frantz, Pitichinaccio.....	Matthew DiBattista *
Luther, Crespel.....	Philip Skinner *
Andrès, Spalanzani.....	Neal Ferreira *
Antonia's Mother	Courtney McKeown ♦*
Nathanaël	Daniel Shirley ♦
Hermann.....	Jonathan G. Michie ♦
Conductor.....	Lucy Arner *
Director	Renaud Doucet
Set Designer	André Barbe
Costume Designer.....	André Barbe
Lighting Designer	Guy Simard

* = FGO debut ♦ = Current Young Artist

The sets and costumes for *The Tales of Hoffmann* are a co-production of Opera Colorado,
Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, and Boston Lyric Opera.

The Tales of Hoffmann is made possible by a gift from Stephen A. Keller and Lesleen Bolt in loving
memory of Stephen.

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Don Giovanni by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
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

April 16, 2011, at 7 p.m. – Opening Night
April 22, 27, 30, May 3, 1011, at 8:00 p.m.
May 8, 2011, matinee at 2 p.m.

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

May 12 and 14, 2011, at 8 p.m.

Don Giovanni David Pittsinger
Leporello Tom Corbeil ■
Donna Anna Jacquelyn Wagner *
Donna Elvira Ana María Martínez
Don Ottavio Andrew Bidlack ■
Commendatore Morris Robinson
Masetto Jonathan G. Michie ♦
Conductor Andrew Bisantz
Director John Pascoe *
Set & Costume Designer John Pascoe *
Lighting Designer Donald Edmund Thomas

Production Washington National Opera

* = FGO debut ■ = Former Young Artist ♦ = Current Young Artist

Don Giovanni is made possible by a gift from Randy Gage.

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Cyrano by David DiChiera, Libretto by Bernard Uzan
Sung in French 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

April 23, 2011, at 7 p.m. – Opening Night

April 26, 29, May 4, 7, 2011, at 8:00 p.m.

May 1, 2011, matinee at 2 p.m.

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

Cyrano will not be performed in Fort Lauderdale. Broward subscribers have the option to purchase a package that includes tickets for *Cyrano* in Miami.

Cyrano..... Marian Pop
Roxane Leah Partridge ■
Christian..... Sébastien Guèze *
De Guiche Peter Volpe *
Le Bret..... Aaron St. Clair Nicholson
Le Duegne Courtney McKeown ♦
Lignière Valerian Ruminski
Ragueneau..... James Barbato ♦
Capucin, Marquis de Cuigy..... Daniel Shirley ♦
Marquis de Brisaille Graham Fandrei
Conductor Mark Flint *
Director Bernard Uzan
Set & Costume Designer..... John Pascoe
Lighting Designer Donald Edmund Thomas

* = FGO debut ■ = Former Young Artist ♦ = Current Young Artist

Cyrano is a co-production of Michigan Opera Theatre, Opera Company of Philadelphia,
and Florida Grand Opera

Cyrano is made possible by a gift from the estate of Muriel Rosen.

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 70th season of continuous performances during the 2010-2011 season, 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.

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Florida Grand Opera, recognized for funding by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Arts Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Funding is also provided, in part, by the Broward County Board of County Commissioners as recommended by the Broward Cultural Council and the Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau, the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, Cultural Affairs Council, the Mayor and the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners and the Miami-Dade County Tourist Development Council. 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.

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