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Lake George Opera at Saratoga announces 49th Summer Season July 1 -July 18, 2010

Saratoga Springs, NY (January 26, 2010) Tears and laughter will be shared in July of 2010 when Lake George Opera at Saratoga produces Georges Bizet's *Carmen* and Gaetano Donizetti's *Viva La Mamma*. This July marks the Company's 49th summer season of producing professional opera and its thirteenth performing at the intimate and unique Spa Little Theater.

The talented singers and all production staff responsible for "making the show go on", arrive in Saratoga at the beginning of June. The casts of both productions begin rigorous rehearsals while the production departments are busy at work building sets and backdrops, designing costumes and wigs, arranging lighting and sound and in essence, creating the magical world where operas come alive.

Main Stage Productions Spa Little Theater

Ten productions of Bizet's *Carmen* and Donizetti's *Viva La Mamma* will be produced beginning on July 8th. *Carmen*, considered by some to be the most popular opera ever written, will feature rising star Kendall Gladen in the title role. Gladen is making her company debut and has recently performed with Los Angeles Opera and Florida Grand Opera. Also making their LGOpera debuts are Joshua Kohl as Don Jose and Darren K. Stokes as Escamillo. Former Apprentice Artist Emily Newton will return to Saratoga singing the role of Micaela and Christopher Temporelli last seen in the 2008 production of *La Traviata*, will be Zuniga. Jose Maria Condemi who directed the Company's winning production of *The Barber of Seville* in 2006 will return to direct *Carmen* and LGOpera at Saratoga's Artistic Director Curtis Tucker will conduct.

Performances: July 8th, July 10th & July 16th at 7:30p.m; July 12th, July 14th & July 18th at 2:00 p.m.

A hilarious comic opera never before seen in Saratoga, will be performed when the Company produces Donizetti's *Viva La Mamma*. Richard Holmes, who has sung with the Metropolitan Opera and was featured in the LGOpera's 2006 production of *Il Maestro Di Cappella*, will sing the role of Agata. Elizabeth Andrews Roberts who amazed audiences and critics as Violetta in the Company's production of *La Traviata*, will return to the Spa Little Theater stage singing the

role of Daria. Newcomers to Saratoga, Jennifer Roderer and Anna Steenerson round out the fantastic cast with **Nelson Sheeley** directing. Sheeley a familiar face around LGOpera at Saratoga has directed Company productions of *Don Pasquale*, *The Pirates of Penzance* and *Tartuffe*. John Douglas, the gifted director of the Apprentice Artist Class, will conduct. **Performances: July 9th & July 15th at 7:30 p.m.; July 11th & July 17th at 2:00 p.m.**

Carmen and *Viva La Mamma* will be sung in their original languages. English titles will be projected at all performances.

"Free Opera Insights "

There will be free pre-performance opera talks for ticket holders one hour before each performance in the Spa Little Theater. Patrons will hear the history and stories behind each opera, as well as information regarding the casts and director.

The Apprentice Artist & Studio Artist Programs

Lake George Opera at Saratoga's young singers training component (one of the oldest in the country) continues to grow. For the third year in a row, the Company is offering a two tiered training experience for highly talented young singers, the Apprentice Artist and Studio Artist Programs. More than 800 singers applied for the twelve coveted positions. These aspiring opera singers come to Saratoga Springs to perfect their craft and to gain much needed performing experience. They also gain valuable insight from interacting with professionals in the opera world. Under the direction of Chorus Master John Douglas, these emerging talents annually appear in the mainstage productions and perform at various concerts and outreach performances including the annual Saratoga Opera Ball and during SaratogaArtsFest.

2010 Saratoga Opera Ball

July 1st - 7:00pm

Gideon Putnam Resort Ballroom

Leading up to LGOpera at Saratoga's distinctive 49th season there will be various concerts and special events culminating with the kickoff to the Saratoga cultural season, the 8th Annual Saratoga Opera Ball. LGOpera at Saratoga's magnificent gala will feature renowned Albany band Spare Parts and takes place on July 1st. The 2009 Opera Ball was the highlight of last year's opera season. Lake George Opera at Saratoga's 2010 gala promises to enchant guests as they dance and dine under twinkling stars. **Nancy Smith** will once again serve as this year's chairperson and this grand affair will delight guests with wonderful food, dancing and a superb array of auction items. During the evening an exclusive, operatic performance featuring 2010 mainstage artists will also take place. Proceeds will benefit LGOpera at Saratoga's Apprentice Artist Program. This is an evening not to be missed and a marvelous way to welcome in the opera summer season!

Ticket Information

Early bird subscription tickets are now available for Lake George Opera at Saratoga's 49th summer season and can be purchased by calling the Opera office at 518-584-6018. Call now to reserve the best seats at a discounted rate. Single tickets will go on sale in February. For additional information about the Saratoga Opera Ball on July 1st or any LGOpera at Saratoga programs or performances, call the LGOpera office at **518-584-6018** or visit their website at **www.lakegeorgeopera.org**.