



NEWS *for immediate release* Opera Theater of Pittsburgh

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OPERA THEATER LAUNCHES SECOND SUMMERFEST

JULY 5-21, 2103

**IN OAKLAND'S MAGNIFICENT TWENTIETH CENTURY CLUB
WITH OPERA IN ENGLISH AND A SONDHEIM MUSICAL**

- **Mainstage: *THE TALES OF HOFFMAN—RETOLD, A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC, SHINING BROW, THE SECRET GARDENER / LA FINTA GIARDINIERA***
- ***NIGHT CAPS INTERNATIONAL*, newly commissioned mini-operas with a multi-cultural twist**
- **MOZART CAMP, CABARET, RECITALS, YOUNG ARTIST PROGRAM**

PITTSBURGH, PA (November 1, 2012) — After the success of SummerFest 2012, Opera Theater plans a three week festival of opera, musicals, new works and recitals, July 5-21, 2013, in the beautiful Art Deco auditorium of Oakland's historic Twentieth Century Club. Last year SummerFest 2012 drew more than 5,000 people to 23 ticketed performances and as many free events. SummerFest 2013 will again feature both classic and new operas sung in English and a variety of festive offerings presented in the intimate spaces of one of Pittsburgh's hidden architectural treasures.

THE TALES OF HOFFMANN—RETOLD A new take on Jacques Offenbach's delightful "unfinished" opera, in a new edition created by Artistic Director Jonathan Eaton. The production adds some of E.T.A. Hoffmann's own music to the mix as composer-poet Hoffman tells the magical stories of the great loves of his life to some of the most beloved melodies in all of opera.

A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC An international classic by American master composer-lyricist Stephen Sondheim: with some of musical theater's favorite songs and scenes. "Send in the Clowns", "Every Day a Little Death" and "A Weekend in the Country" are among the numbers woven into the musical version of *Smiles of a Summer Night*, Ingmar Bergman's story of lovers whose affairs converge during a visit to a country estate.

SHINING BROW The turbulence of American architect Frank Lloyd Wright's professional and personal journey plays out in this compelling contemporary opera about the tragic love affair that inspired him. Celebrated American composer Daron Aric Hagen (*Night Caps' George Washington Suite*, 2012) returns to work with Opera Theater on a new adaptation of his 1993 opera which has been produced by numerous opera companies and acclaimed by music and architecture writers alike:

"*Shining Brow* is one of the most important American operas of the past decade. Don't miss it," reported the *Chicago Tribune*, where John von Rhein wrote that "Hagen was born to write music theater works." The *Chicago Sun-Times* wrote: "Like Wright's flowing, open-plan prairie houses, [Hagen's] opera has immediate appeal."

For more press coverage of SHINING BROW: <http://www.daronhagen.com/index.php?page=shining-brow-press>

Shining Brow is also the centerpiece of Opera Theater's pre-season educational program with one-hour school performances offered at no cost at the Father Ryan Arts Center, McKees Rocks, PA, Feb. 27-March 1. Area schools interested in bringing students to these free presentations may contact Opera Theater for details.

THE SECRET GARDENER / LA FINTA GIARDINIERA Mozart's delightful comedy tells of a Marchioness who disguises herself as a lowly (but lovely) gardener in order to escape a lovers' quarrel. The attendant confusions give rise to high hilarity and, of course, a happy ending. This beautiful, rarely-heard Mozart jewel will appeal to families with children as well as the Mozart aficionado.

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NIGHT CAPS INTERNATIONAL SummerFest's innovative series of comic mini-operas returns with a multi-cultural twist. Stories set in the same hotel feature characters from different countries misunderstanding each other in many languages. Last season's *Night Caps* drew standing-room-only audiences with six 15-minute episodes set by six different composers, to a single hilarious libretto written by Rob Handel, head of Carnegie Mellon University's dramatic writing program.

MOZART CAMP A five day exploration of the works of Mozart returns, including lectures, chamber music and vocal recitals.

SummerFest will again feature community performances, cabaret, fine dining options at The Twentieth Century Club and related events in keeping with the festival spirit – all in one of the most gorgeous locations in the city.

THE TWENTIETH CENTURY CLUB “We are bringing SummerFest to a unique and beautiful setting that plays on our tradition of performing great works in beautiful and unusual locations,” says Jonathan Eaton, artistic director. “The Twentieth Century Club is one of the hidden jewels of Pittsburgh – a private club which will open its glorious Art Deco auditorium along with its handsome ballroom and elegant dining spaces to the SummerFest public. It will be a new venue for many of our audience members to discover, and one that will provide the kind of special environment for the innovative and intimate performances that we like to offer.”

The Twentieth Century Club is located in the heart of Oakland, adjacent to the University of Pittsburgh's campus near Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall and many convenient parking options.

“Setting the festival in Oakland will bring our season closer to our core audience members, and offers the convenience of public transportation and even the city's bike lanes,” says Eaton. “We are very excited to collaborate with The Twentieth Century Club, which offers a magnificent location in heart of the city's original cultural corridor. We think audiences will love it.”

As Eaton enters his 14th season with Opera Theater, he says: “We are happy that Pittsburgh now has a summer festival which is centered around classical music, and still has broad reach and very wide appeal. We created SummerFest to fill a void in the summer arts landscape and are thrilled that audiences and critics agreed it was a bold and valuable addition to the cultural calendar—and one we plan to make a Pittsburgh tradition.”

THE COMPANY SummerFest features a company of performers including top national and regional singers, and rising stars from its Young Artist Program, recruited from over 300 candidates in auditions in Pittsburgh and six cities across the US. The six-week Young Artist Program combines performance opportunities for emerging professionals with a comprehensive training experience including coaching, master classes, and a variety of special events. Thirty-seven young artists, including singers, pianists and stage directors from the United States, Korea, China, Russia and Argentina, took part in the inaugural program in SummerFest 2012.

About Opera Theater of Pittsburgh

Since 1978, Opera Theater of Pittsburgh has served a diverse market of music drama audiences in Western Pennsylvania. By presenting high-quality productions of music drama not available elsewhere, the company works at the forefront of the genre. In its 35-year history, Opera Theater has presented more than 20 Pittsburgh premieres, many of them American operas that would have been produced by other regional companies.

See www.otsummerfest.org for details on all events.

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For more information, contact: Yvonne Hudson, yhudson@otsummerfest.org or 412-512-0589

Interviews, photos and art upon request.

Contact: SummerFest Box Office: 412-326-9687 Buy Season Passports and tickets online: www.otsummerfest.org

Venue: The Twentieth Century Club, 4201 Bigelow Blvd., Oakland, Pittsburgh PA 15213.

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