

NEWS RELEASE

Opera New Jersey, Inc.

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OPERA NEW JERSEY ANNOUNCES RUTH ANN SWENSON FOR *DIE FLEDERMAUS* IN FEBRUARY

PRINCETON, NJ – Hot on the heels of the sold out, critically acclaimed Summer Season 2008, Opera New Jersey announces that internationally-renowned opera star **Ruth Ann Swenson** will star in their February 2009 production of *Die Fledermaus*! Ms. Swenson will sing the leading role of Rosalinde for the first time in her career in this production, to be performed in Princeton, New Brunswick and Morristown.



One of the leading sopranos of our day, Ms. Swenson has won critical and public accolades internationally on all the world's major opera stages including the Metropolitan Opera, San Francisco Opera, Chicago Lyric Opera, Opera National de Paris, Royal Opera Covent Garden, Berlin State Opera, Grand Théâtre de Genève, Hamburg State Opera, Bavarian State Opera, among many others. She is praised as an artist with an instrument of uncommon warmth and beauty matched by dazzling technical abilities.

Ms. Swenson has collaborated and performed with many of the brightest stars of the music world, including Placido Domingo, James Levine, Marilyn Horne, Zubin Mehta, Luciano Pavarotti, Christoph von Dohnanyi, Michael Tilson Thomas, Julius Rudel, Roberta Alagna, Samuel Ramey and Thomas Hampson.

"This is a major coup for Opera New Jersey and we are honored to have an artist of Ruth Ann Swenson's caliber appear in one of our productions," exclaimed Scott Altman, General Artistic Director. Opera New Jersey brings major international talent throughout the state in the Winter Opera Season, providing residents the chance to see world-class talent on local New Jersey stages.

New York Times Music Critic Anthony Tommasini declared that "...for sheer beauty of sound and purity of tone Ruth Ann Swenson can not be topped.... Ms. Swenson sang exquisitely, with flawlessly executed roulades and runs, effortless high notes and unerring pitch." Music Critic David Patrick Stearns proclaimed that "Ruth Ann Swenson has progressed from being one of opera's great voices to one of its finest singing actresses."

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Additional casting will be announced in the coming weeks.

Tickets for Opera New Jersey's *Die Fledermaus* are on sale now.
February 13, 2009 at 7:30pm at McCarter's Matthews Theater, Princeton
Tickets: (609) 258-2787
\$35-\$125

Add the exclusive post-performance champagne reception with the cast for \$100!

February 20, 2009 at 8pm at Community Theatre at Mayo Center for the Performing Arts, Morristown
Tickets: 973-539-8008
\$37-\$92

February 22, 209 at 3pm at State Theatre, New Brunswick
Tickets: 732-246-SHOW
\$35-\$90

For more information on *Die Fledermaus* or on Opera New Jersey, please call (609) 799-7700 or visit www.Opera-NJ.org.

About Opera New Jersey

Opera New Jersey has earned national recognition as a leader among regional opera companies, providing high quality opera performances, exceptional educational offerings and related activities. OperaNJ seeks to stimulate, promote and satisfy interest in opera, build a strong and diverse audience base for the art form and foster the development of emerging artists. **Opera New Jersey** recently received its third straight prestigious Citation of Excellence from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts (NJSCA). The Citation is NJSCA's highest honor and recognizes arts organizations that "exhibit the highest standards of excellence in artistry, operations, governance, public benefit and fulfillment of areas of Council priority." OperaNJ received its first citation in 2006, during their first year of eligibility.

This season is made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

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