

NEWS RELEASE

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NEW JERSEY STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS AWARDS THIRD CITATION OF EXCELLENCE TO OPERA NEW JERSEY

PRINCETON, NJ – **Opera New Jersey** announces yet more triumphs in an already brilliantly successful summer. In addition to another sold-out, critically-acclaimed season, Opera New Jersey received its third consecutive Citation of Excellence from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts (NJSCA).



Since its first year of eligibility in 2006, **Opera New Jersey** (OperaNJ) has received the prestigious Citation of Excellence from the NJSCA. The citation, NJSCA's highest honor, was presented to OperaNJ at the Council's recent annual meeting in Trenton.

The Citations of Excellence recognize arts organizations that "exhibit the highest standards of excellence in artistry, operations, governance, public benefit and fulfillment of areas of Council priority" according to the Council.

"For three consecutive years we have been honored to receive this continued vote of confidence from the State," said Lisa Altman, Executive Director of Opera New Jersey. "The entire Opera New Jersey family of employees, volunteers, board members and supporters work together to present high-quality opera throughout this state. It is very extraordinary to see this hard work appreciated in such a very special manner."

Future events for Opera New Jersey include the Annual Gala at the Marriott Forrester in Princeton on November 1 and three Concert-Staged performances of *Die Fledermaus* starring international soprano Ruth Ann Swenson in February 2009 at McCarter Theatre in Princeton, State Theatre in New Brunswick and Community Theatre in Morristown. The 2009 Summer Season at McCarter will feature performances of Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Mikado*, Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor* and Mozart's *The Abduction from the Seraglio*. Ticket information can be obtained at www.Opera-NJ.org or by calling (609) 799-7700.

About Opera New Jersey

Opera New Jersey is recognized nationally as a leader among regional opera companies, providing high quality opera performances and exceptional educational offerings. 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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