



CHRISTOPHER MATTALIANO
GENERAL DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 12, 2010

CONTACT: Julia Sheridan, 503-295-3508

jsheridan@portlandopera.org

PUBLIC IS INVITED TO A FREE OPEN CHORUS REHEARSAL IN DIRECTOR PARK

Sunday, August 29, 3-5pm | Director Park
(between SW Taylor & Yamhill and 9th & Park)

Over seventy voices will soar into the summer sky when Portland Opera holds a free outdoor chorus rehearsal in Director Park, Portland's newest downtown piazza.

As Portland Opera prepares to celebrate the opening of its 2010/11 Season with the powerful pairing of *Pagliacci* and *Carmina Burana*, it invites the public to a free, open chorus rehearsal in Director Park featuring the acclaimed Portland Opera Chorus. Associate Music Director & Chorus Master Robert Ainsley will lead the group through the open rehearsal, giving attendees the chance not only to hear the glorious music but also to see the kind of detailed work that goes into professional opera chorus preparation. Dubbed “the star of *Carmina*” by the *Oregonian* in the production’s 1997 debut, the Portland Opera Chorus is often singled out in reviews for its remarkable work.

Portland Opera General Director Christopher Mattaliano, the creator and director of this production, said: “This is a work of great force, with music that is beautiful and very well known. Unleashing its power into the summer afternoon,” he continued, “seems as perfect as pairing *Pagliacci* and *Carmina Burana*. Making opera accessible to the entire city is very important to us. This unique event also gives us the chance to share this beauty with Portland and to give the city a glimpse behind the scenes of a major undertaking for our chorus.”

Almost everyone is familiar with *Carmina Burana*, a tour de force for the chorus. “O Fortuna” is one of the most powerful and most often used pieces of music in all of film and advertising. First introduced into the mainstream with the film “Excalibur,” it has been used by an incredible number of singers and organizations, from Ozzy Osbourne to Capital One Visa cards, as well as the television hit “Glee.” Based upon a collection of poetry by 13th century Bavarian monks and bards, the work never fails to move audiences with its commanding rhythms and elegant, beautiful melodies.

Portland Opera opens the 2010/11 season with *Pagliacci/Carmina Burana* on September 24, with additional performances on September 26, 30 and October 2.