



CHRISTOPHER MATTALIANO
GENERAL DIRECTOR

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PORTLAND OPERA KICKS OFF THE 2011-2012 SEASON WITH

GALA CONCERT **BIG NIGHT**

A Company First!

Saturday, September 24, 2011, 7:30 p.m. | Keller Auditorium

All Proceeds to Benefit Portland Opera's Education and Outreach Efforts



(Portland, Ore) – Portland Opera's 47th season begins on a spectacular, star-studded note with a Company first—a concert dubbed **BIG NIGHT**. Soprano **MARIA KANYOVA**, tenor **RICHARD CRAWLEY** and conductor **GEORGE MANAHAN** headline an evening of opera's greatest hits from operas including *Aida*, *Carmen*, *La Traviata* and *Madame Butterfly*. Add to that, the local stars of Portland Opera—the stellar Portland Opera Orchestra and Chorus— together on the Keller stage for the first time.

In addition to the **BIG NIGHT** concert, Portland Opera is also throwing its first gala fundraiser in years, titled *NOTTE GRANDE* (Big Night in Italian). Tickets include a pre-concert cocktail party and dazzling after party with the evening's stars. The concert takes place Saturday, September 24, 2011, 7:30pm at Keller Auditorium. On Sunday, September 11, the Opera will announce a very Big and special surprise for the city of Portland. Stay tuned!

"We're pulling out all the stops for an evening of unabashed Opera celebration," says Portland Opera General Director Christopher Mattaliano, "with everyone's favorite arias, duets, choruses and orchestral pieces. It will definitely be an evening not to be missed. And just as exciting," he continued, "is the fact that all proceeds will support our education programs which are among the best in the nation and a great source of pride for us and our community."

The concert benefits the very important work of the Portland Opera Education and Outreach Department, whose efforts provide the largest presence in Oregon schools of any arts organization in Portland. Portland Opera reaches more than 50,000 people each season with a variety of education and outreach programs including Portland Opera To Go, Student Dress Rehearsals, Student Rush Tickets, Family Friendly Public Performances and workshops and public lectures.

Soprano **MARIA KANYOVA** made her impressive Portland Opera debut in *La Traviata* (2008) as Violetta, one of her signature roles. She made her New York City Opera debut as Mimi in *La Bohème* in a critically acclaimed performance telecast on PBS. Tenor **RICHARD CRAWLEY** will be remembered for his recent performance as Canio in *Pagliacci* (2010) and the title role in *Faust* (2006). Anthony Tommasini of *The New York Times* praised his "healthy, pleasing and robust voice," and of his Portland Opera debut as Faust, *The Oregonian* said "... Crawley delivered a stylish Faust with both declamatory power and

lyrical sweetness." A popular conductor with Portland audiences, **GEORGE MANAHAN** (*The Barber of Seville* 2010, *Così fan tutte* 2010, *Rigoletto* 2009, *Rodelinda* 2008, *Macbeth* 2006) returns to the podium. Of his conducting for New York City Opera, *The New York Times* said that "George Manahan conducted and got from his players the kind of heartfelt involvement unthinkable in the City Opera orchestra pit 20 years ago." The evening also marks the return of a beloved former Studio Artist tenor **BRENDAN TUOHY** (Pong in *Turandot*, 2011; Borsa in *Rigoletto*, Nature/Pane in *La Calisto*; Prologue in *The Turn of the Screw* 2009; First Prisoner in *Fidelio*; Gastone in *La Traviata*; Messenger in *Aida*, title role in *Albert Herring* 2008; Remendado in *Carmen* 2007) and the debut of our 2011-2012 Studio Artists, soprano **LINDSAY OHSE**, mezzo soprano **CAITLIN MATHES**, baritone **ANDRÉ CHIANG** and bass baritone **NICHOLAS NELSON**.

PERFORMERS

Maria Kanyova	Soprano
Richard Crawley	Tenor
Brendan Tuohy	Tenor
Lindsay Ohse †*	Soprano
Caitlin Mathes †*	Mezzo Soprano
André Chiang †*	Baritone
Nicholas Nelson †	Bass Baritone

Christopher Mattaliano	Host
George Manahan	Conductor

With the Portland Opera Chorus and Orchestra

* Portland Opera debut

† Portland Opera Studio Artist

For additional information visit www.portlandopera.org.

PERFORMANCE Friday, September 24, 2011, 7:30pm

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RELATED EVENTS

(Calendar Editors Kindly Note)

Open Chorus Rehearsal at Director Park

As Portland Opera prepares to celebrate the opening of its 2011/12 Season with the Gala Concert Big Night, it invites the public to an open chorus rehearsal in Director Park featuring the acclaimed Portland Opera Chorus. Associate Music Director & Chorus Master Robert Ainsley will lead the 70-strong 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.

09/18/11 3-5pm | Director Park (between SW Taylor & Yamhill and 9th & Park) | *Free*

Big Night Preview

09/15/11 Big Night preview on "Northwest Previews," All Classical 89.9 fm at 6pm.

TICKET INFORMATION

BIG NIGHT | September 24, 2011 | 7:30 p.m.

BIG NIGHT (concert only) \$100, \$75, \$50

NOTTE GRANDE GALA \$250 (includes exclusive cocktail party before the concert, best seats in the house and party afterwards with the stars.)

Tickets can be purchased:

BY PHONE: Portland Opera Box Office, 503-241-1802, Toll-free 866-739-6737,
(Mon – Fri, 9:00am – 5:00pm).
Ticketmaster, 800-982-ARTS (days, evenings, and weekends).

ONLINE: www.ticketmaster.com

IN-PERSON: Portland Opera Box Office, 211 SE Caruthers St. (just south of OMSI, off Water Ave.)
Mon – Fri, 9:00am – 5:00pm.
Ticketmaster outlets.

Portland Center for the Performing Arts (SW Broadway & Main).

GROUPS: 10 or more save up to 25% by calling Group Sales at 503-417-0573.

RUSH TICKETS: Students/Military **\$10** per ticket, Seniors **\$20** per ticket, 1 hour prior to show only, all available unsold seats. 1 ticket per person, valid ID required.

For more information about tickets or the concert, please visit our website at: www.portlandopera.org.