



CHRISTOPHER MATTALIANO
GENERAL DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 9, 2011

CONTACT: Julia Sheridan, 503-295-3508

jsheridan@portlandopera.org

PORTLAND OPERA INVITES PUBLIC TO FREE OPEN CHORUS REHEARSAL IN DIRECTOR PARK

Sunday, September 18, 3-5pm | Director Park

(between SW Taylor & Yamhill and 9th & Park)

*Last year over 1,000 people gathered to listen to the acclaimed
Portland Opera chorus' voices soar into the late summer sky.*

On Sunday, September 18, the public will get an up close look at the detailed work that goes into professional opera chorus preparation with Portland Opera's second annual, free-to-the-public open chorus rehearsal. Portland Opera's 47th season begins on a spectacular, star-studded note with a Company first—a concert dubbed **BIG NIGHT on September 24**. The Big Night concert will celebrate opera's most familiar and beautiful music. This year's free outdoor chorus rehearsal will provide a wonderful sampling of what everyone loves, those big chorus numbers from favorite operas such as *Aida*, *Carmen*, *La Traviata* and more.

Associate Music Director & Chorus Master Robert Ainsley will lead the group, including the Children's Chorus, through the open rehearsal, giving attendees the chance not only to hear the glorious music but watch his delightfully animated style as he puts the 65 members of the chorus through their paces.

"Making opera accessible to the entire city is very important to us," says Portland Opera General Director Christopher Mattaliano. "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 the major undertakings our chorus takes on each year."

The Big Night concert on September 24 benefits Portland Opera's education and outreach programs and it also promises a very big surprise for the city (to be announced September 12).

#