

# News

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Artistic Director Leon Major to Depart at end of 2007 Season**

January 15, 2007 .... Cleveland. Peter L. Rubin, president of Opera Cleveland Board of Trustees, announced today that after much discussion, Opera Cleveland has reluctantly agreed to accept the resignation of Artistic Director Leon Major. Mr. Major will continue in his current post through the end of the 2007 season and will direct *La Traviata* in June, Maestro Richard Buckley conducting. The company will conduct a national search for his successor.

"I have enjoyed working with the Board and staff at Opera Cleveland. Over the past few months, as the Artistic Committee has begun to define Opera Cleveland's future, I find my vision for Opera Cleveland diverges from that of the committee. I applaud the enthusiasm which brought about the birth of this new company and I wish it only great success" stated Mr. Major.

Mr. Major has directed opera and theatre throughout the Americas and Europe for companies that include the New York City Opera, Washington Opera, Glimmerglass Opera, San Diego Opera, Vancouver Opera, Teatro Municipale (Rio di Janeiro), The Opera Company of Philadelphia, Florentine Opera, Austin Lyric Opera, Wolf Trap Opera, the Canadian Opera Company and The Opera Festival of New Jersey. He is the founder and artistic director of The Maryland Opera Studio for the University of Maryland, College Park, where he has directed many productions including operas by Handel, Monteverdi, and Mozart. In his long career, Mr. Major has served as Artistic Director of Boston Lyric Opera, the Municipal Theatre in Toronto, Artistic and General Director of Toronto Arts Productions (known as Centrestage),

Associate Director and consultant with the Eugene O'Neill Centre in New London, and was a founder of the Neptune Theatre in Halifax, Nova Scotia. He served as Artistic Advisor of Opera Cleveland's predecessor organization, Cleveland Opera, since May of 2004. His production of *Faust* was presented by Cleveland Opera in February 2005 and he directed the company's critically acclaimed production of *Eugene Onegin* in October 2005.

"Leon Major was one of the catalysts that sparked the formation of Opera Cleveland. We will miss Leon's vision, wisdom, and spirit and we hope he will direct many future productions of Opera Cleveland" said Mr. Rubin.

Celebrating its debut season, Opera Cleveland produces dynamic classical and contemporary repertoire as well as new works, and boasts extensive education and outreach programs. For more information call 216.575.0903.

The 2007 Debut Season presents five exciting productions: Richard Strauss' powerful drama, *Salome*, April 20 - 28, 2007; Giuseppe Verdi's heartbreaking romance, *La Traviata*, June 13 - 24, 2007; Benjamin Britten's chilling, *The Turn of the Screw*, July 11 - 22, 2007; Stephen Sondheim's sexy and stylish, *A Little Night Music*, August 8 - 19, 2007; and Giacomo Puccini's legendary prima donna, *Tosca*, October 19 - 27, 2007.

**Subscriptions Are On Sale Now.** Patrons may call 216.575.0903 ext 221, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or write to Opera Cleveland, 1422 Euclid Avenue, Suite 1052, Cleveland, Ohio 44115-2063. For more information, please call 216.575.0903 ext 232. Groups of 10 or more, senior citizens, young professionals, and students enjoy great savings. Call 216.575.0903 ext 221 for more information.

**Single Tickets** will go on sale March 1, 2007. Call Tickets.com at 800.766.6048.

**Opera Preview** – A free "sneak peek," packed with musical, biographical and historical background information about each opera, designed for newcomers, opera aficionados and everyone in between, begins 45 minutes prior to each curtain. For more information call 216.575.0903 ext 221.

**Summer Picnics** – Our popular outdoor picnic tradition continues at all evening performances at the Cleveland Play House. For more information call 216.575.0903 ext 263.