

News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Opera Cleveland Friends Hold Organizational Meeting

January 18, 2007 The Opera Cleveland Friends steering committee will hold a Kickoff Celebration beginning at 7 p.m. on Thursday, January 25 in the City View Room at Windows on the River, 2000 Sycamore Street in Cleveland. The event will feature cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and an open bar. It will serve as the first organizational meeting of Opera Cleveland's volunteer support group.

"Our mission is to support Opera Cleveland through fundraising and friend-raising events. It is a wonderful way for patrons to expand their opera experience through social, educational and volunteer opportunities" said Committee Chair Susan C. Bianco. "Our Kickoff Celebration will provide an opportunity for everyone to reconnect, share new ideas and get started working on Opera Cleveland's debut season."

Opera Cleveland Friends is the official volunteer support organization of northeast Ohio's premier opera company. It was formed by merger of the Friends of Lyric Opera and the Cleveland Opera League upon the birth of Opera Cleveland in April 2006. In addition to Ms. Bianco, the steering Committee members include Nikki DiFilippo, Charlotte Guggenheim, Cathy Lincoln, Barry Nelson, Arlene Schreiber, and Jane Small. Tickets are \$35 per person. To purchase tickets or for more information about Opera Cleveland Friends, patrons may call Jenn Dougherty at 216.575.0903 ext. 222.

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 222.