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BOSTON MIDSUMMER OPERA
presents
The Marriages of Mozart

-- August 2, 4 and 6, 2006, Tsai Performance Center at Boston University --

In this 250th anniversary year of the birth of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Boston Midsummer Opera (BMO) debuts on the local music scene with their summer 2006 production, *The Marriages of Mozart*. Playing at the Tsai Performance Center at Boston University for three performances only, August 2, 4, and 6, this production is conducted by Philip Lauriat, founder of Granite State Opera.

Conceived by Drew Minter, renowned counter tenor and BMO's artistic director, *The Marriages of Mozart* celebrates the inspired collaboration between Mozart and Lorenzo Da Ponte, the librettist for his three most famous operas, *Così fan tutte*, *Don Giovanni* and *Le nozze di Figaro*. Sung in English, selected scenes from the three operas will be presented, illustrating the creator's brilliant observations on both the comic and poignant aspects of love and courtship. This program was originally created in the summer of 2004 for the Monadnock Festival at the Colonial Theatre in Keene, New Hampshire.

The cast of *The Marriages of Mozart* includes two married couples, soprano Kelly Kaduce and baritone Lee Gregory, and soprano Jami Rogers and tenor Kevin Anderson. The other singers are mezzo-soprano Kellie van Horn, baritone David Kravitz, bass-baritone Charles Mays, and soprano Jodi Frisbie.

This exciting new opera project seeks to introduce Boston audiences to young singers of exceptional talent through a fresh, inventive approach to opera. Sung in English and simply yet imaginatively staged, Boston Midsummer Opera productions aim to make opera both accessible and affordable while adhering to the highest musical and dramatic standards.

Since winning the 1999 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, soprano **Kelly Kaduce** has garnered praise for her stage portrayals. She recently appeared in New York City Opera's *La Bohème* and in Boston Lyric Opera's *Thaïs*. The 2006 *Joy in Singing* competition winner, baritone **Lee Gregory** made his New York City Opera debut in *Carmen* and counts Trinity Repertory's *The Pirates of Penzance* among his credits. As a regular performer with American Opera projects, Mr. Gregory has collaborated with new

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playwrights and composers, performing their works in progress. Soprano **Jami Rogers**, the National Winner of the 1996 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, has quickly established herself as one of the most sought after singers on the operatic and concert scene today. A graduate of Boston University, who also attended the BU Opera Institute, her local credits include Boston Lyric Opera's *Werther*. A Metropolitan Opera Competition finalist, internationally acclaimed tenor **Kevin Anderson** came to worldwide attention with the San Francisco Opera's historic production and telecast of *L'Africaine* with Placido Domingo and Shirley Verrett. He had performed on stages worldwide, on TV, and is a popular concert artist. Mezzo-soprano **Kellie Van Horn** was awarded second prize in the Southeast Region of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. She earned her Master of Music in Voice/Opera from the Yale University School of Music and has trained at Salzburg's esteemed Mozarteum. Miss Van Horn sang her first *Carmen* with Commonwealth Opera in Northampton, MA and has performed with opera companies across the country. Baritone **David Kravitz** has received critical acclaim for his singing, acting and careful attention to text on both the operatic and concert stages in Boston, New York, and St. Louis. His local credits include Boston Lyric Opera's *The Little Prince* and *Resurrection*, and Opera Boston's *The Consul* and *The Crucible*. Having clerked for Supreme Court Justices Stephen Breyer and Sandra Day O'Connor, he continues to write appellate briefs for leading Boston law firms on a free lance basis, combining this work with his singing engagements. A 2004 New England Regional Winner and Metropolitan Opera National Council Finalist, bass-baritone **Charles Mays, Jr.** received rave reviews when he toured with the Musicians from Marlboro in May 2006, singing in recitals at Freer Gallery in Washington, D.C. and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in NYC. He has also sung operatic and concert roles with Hartt Opera. Soprano **Jodi Frisbie** has performed across the country, including roles in *Akhnaten* with Boston Lyric Opera, Mozart's *Mass in C Minor* with Boston's Back Bay Chorale, and in *Regina* with the Boston Opera Project.

Artistic director **Drew Minter** has been an internationally known countertenor for over two decades, during which he has sung leading roles in opera houses worldwide. In 1995 he was asked to direct opera for the first time, Handel's *Radamisto* at the Goettingen Festival, and since then he has directed productions for the Boston Early Music Festival, Opera Aperta, the Handel and Haydn Society, Boston University's Opera Institute, Amherst Early Music Institute, among others. Conductor **Philip Lauriat** has been the artistic director and conductor of Granite State Opera since its inception in 1998. He made his conducting debut in 1996 and has been the Music Director of Savoyard Light Opera and conductor of Portsmouth Symphony in New Hampshire.

Boston Midsummer Opera was conceived after founders Ernie Klein and Pauline Ho Bynum were present at the Met Opera House in spring of 1999 when all three New England Winners of the Met Opera National Council Auditions were chosen as National Grand Winners. Ernie, whose grandfather was the Director and Finance Chairman for Prague Opera, and Pauline, the New England Regional Chairman for the Metropolitan National Council Auditions since 1984, who is always seeking opportunities for New England winners to sing in the Boston area, joined with Drew Minter the following summer. A life-long opera devotee, BMO Executive Director and Chairman Ernie Klein was the co-founder of the Opera Galas in conjunction with Pauline Ho Bynum and Monadnock Music. He serves on the New England Regional committee of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and is of counsel to Wilmer Hale. An avid opera fan since her years in New York, BMO Founding Director Pauline Ho Bynam has served as an Overseer for Boston Lyric Opera and New England Conservatory of Music.

Performances of *The Marriages of Mozart* are Wednesday, August 2 and Friday, August 4 at 8 p.m., and Sunday, August 6 at 3 p.m. at the Tsai Performance Center at Boston University, 685 Commonwealth Avenue in Boston. Tickets, priced at \$50.00 to \$20.00 (plus a \$5.00 handling fee per ticket) for all performances, are available by calling 617-227-0442, online at www.bostonmidsummeropera.org, or by mailing a request to Boston Midsummer Opera, Box 513, 66 Charles Street, Boston, MA 02114.

For more information, visit www.bostonmidsummeropera.org.

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