



RELEASE : November 4, 2010

Press Contact: Christopher Novosad, 713/546-0278; cnovosad@hgo.org

HOUSTON GRAND OPERA CELEBRATES NATIONAL OPERA WEEK WITH COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

HOUSTON, TX –**National Opera Week**, organized by OPERA America, the national service organization for opera with the support of the National Endowment for the Arts, is a country-wide celebration highlights the extraordinary quality and quantity of opera activity in the United States today. The National Opera Week celebration will reach from coast to coast with over 100 opera companies from 30 states, and will offer a range of programs to the public. **Houston Grand Opera (HGO)** is celebrating with community and educational events that will take opera outside the Wortham walls and bring new audiences into the opera house.

National Opera Week events at HGO:

Saturday, October 30

RADIO BROADCAST OF *LOHENGRIN*

(Broadcast in Houston on KUHF at noon. Broadcast nationally on the WFMT Network; check local listings for time.)

Relive the mythic drama of Wagner's *Lohengrin* recorded live at the Wortham Theater Center. The broadcast is hosted by WFMT's Peter van de Graaf and features special interviews with Patrick Summers, Houston Grand Opera's Music Director and the conductor of the performance, as well as with the director, Daniel Slater.

Sunday, October 31

BEHIND THE MUSIC OF *PETER GRIMES*

(Wortham Theater Center – 510 Preston Street, Houston TX 77002)

Following the Sunday matinee performance of *Peter Grimes*, audience members are invited to join Music Director Patrick Summers and members of the *Peter Grimes* cast for an informal conversation about the opera. This event is for ticketed audience members of the Sunday matinee (2:00pm) performance. Tickets may be obtained at www.houstongarndopera.org or by calling 713-980-8676.

Tuesday, November 2

STUDENT PERFORMANCE OF *MADAME BUTTERFLY*

(10:00am at the Wortham Theater Center – 510 Preston Street, Houston TX 77002)

For grades 4-8, this event features a dramatic, two-hour version of *Madame Butterfly*, adapted for young students. Teachers will receive a study guide to help them prepare their students for the opera. Additional help may be provided with a free presentation on *Madame Butterfly* by one of our HGO guild docents. This is a ticketed event. For more information, visit www.hgoco.org.

Thursday, November 4

HIGH SCHOOL NIGHT PERFORMANCE OF *MADAME BUTTERFLY*

(7:00pm at the Wortham Theater Center – 510 Preston Street, Houston TX 77002)

For grades 9-12, this event features a full-length weeknight performance of *Madame Butterfly*, one of the most famous operas of all time. Homework never looked so good! Discount tickets are available at www.hgoco.org.

Saturday, November 6

RADIO BROADCAST OF *DON GIOVANNI*

(Broadcast in Houston on KUHF at noon. Broadcast nationally on the WFMT Network; check local listings for time.)

Mozart's *Don Giovanni* recorded live at the Wortham Theater Center. The broadcast is hosted by WFMT's Peter van de Graaf and features a special interview with ANTHONY FREUD, Houston Grand Opera's General Director, talking about the state of opera today.

Sunday, November 7

NEXUS PERFORMANCE OF *MADAME BUTTERFLY*

(2:00pm at the Wortham Theater Center – 510 Preston Street, Houston TX 77002)

Houston Grand Opera's NEXUS Initiative allows new audiences to experience the thrill of great opera at the Wortham Center at a fantastic price. Performance includes intermission interviews with cast members hosted by FOX News anchor RUBEN DOMINGUEZ.

ALL SEATS for this event are available for just \$12.25 and may be obtained at www.houstongrandopera.org or by calling 713-980-8676.

Tuesday, November 9

STUDENT PERFORMANCE OF *MADAME BUTTERFLY*

(10:00am at the Wortham Theater Center – 510 Preston Street, Houston TX 77002)

For grades 4-8, this event features a dramatic, two-hour version of *Madame Butterfly*, adapted for young students. Teachers will receive a study guide to help them prepare their students for the opera. Additional help may be provided with a free presentation on *Madame Butterfly* by one of our HGO guild docents. This is a ticketed event. For more information, visit www.hgoco.org.