



HoustonGrandOpera

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PRESS RELEASE

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Houston Grand Opera announces substitution

Tenor Bryan Hymel to replace David Lomelí in early performances of *La traviata*

Houston, TX — January 23, 2011: Houston Grand Opera (HGO) announced today that tenor David Lomelí, scheduled to sing the role of Alfredo in Verdi's *La traviata*, has withdrawn from the production due to illness. "We wish Mr. Lomeli the very best, and hope that he will continue to recuperate and that he may be able to join us for future projects," said HGO Managing Director Perryn Leech.

Mr. Lomelí will be replaced by Mr. Bryan Hymel, making his HGO debut, for the first several performances of the run. Directed by Daniel Slater, this new production of *La traviata* opens this Friday, January 27, 2012.

Hymel, a native of New Orleans, has appeared in many of the world's leading opera houses and festivals and made his debut last season at Teatro alla Scala singing Don José in *Carmen*, a role he later reprised at the Bayerische Staatsoper.

This season, Hymel will return to the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden to sing the role of the Prince in their first ever staging of *Rusalka*. He will also perform the title role of Faust with Lyric Opera of Baltimore and *Robert Le Diable* in Salerno, Italy with the Teatro Municipale.

Hymel made his New York recital debut with Michelle DeYoung under the auspices of the George London Foundation; and his Carnegie Hall debut in a gala concert featuring Renée Fleming, Marcello Giordani and Dolora Zajick. Hymel was the top prize winner in the 2009 Gerda Lissner Foundation Competition, and Frist-prize winner of the 2008 Licia Albanese/Puccini Foundation Competition, the 2008 Loren L. Zachary Vocal competition, and the 2008 Giulio Gari Foundation Competition. He studied at the Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia and was also a member of the San Francisco Opera Center's Merola Program.

Cast

Albina Shagimuratova, *Violetta Valéry*
Bryan Hymel, *Alfredo Germont*
Giovanni Meoni, *Giorgio Germont*

Patrick Summers, *Conductor*
Frank Galati, *Original Director*
Daniel Slater, *Director*
Desmond Heeley, *Set, Costume Designer*
Tim Claydon, *Choreographer*
Michael James Clark, *Lighting Designer*

Houston Grand Opera Orchestra and Chorus, **Richard Bado**, *Chorus Master*

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High-resolution production photos and headshots can be found at

<http://www.houstongrandopera.org/pressreleases>

Username and Password: hgopress

DATES: January 27 (O/N) 7.30pm

February 1, 4, 10 7:30pm

January 29 and February 12 2:00pm

DURATION: 3hours, 35 minutes including 1 intermission

VENUE: Wortham Theater Center's Brown Theater, Texas Avenue at Smith Street,
Houston, Texas. 713-228-6737

LANGUAGE: Sung in Italian with projected English translations

TICKETS: Single tickets for *La Traviata* go on sale Sept 26th and start at \$24

For tickets and general information,go to:

<http://www.houstongrandopera.org/1112season>

or call 713-228-6737 or 1-(800)-626-7372

This Production is owned by The Lyric Opera of Chicago and is a generous and deeply appreciated gift of The Gramma Fisher Foundation of Marshalltown, Iowa.