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HOUSTON GRAND OPERA ANNOUNCES 2011-2012 SEASON

Mattila, Goerke, DiDonato star in powerhouse roles
Return of Directors Flimm, Font, Slater
HGO Directorial Debuts by Arbus, Caurier and Leiser

Rossini: *The Barber of Seville* (New Production)

Beethoven: *Fidelio*

Verdi: *La Traviata*

Britten: *The Rape of Lucretia* (New Production and HGO Premiere)

Verdi: *Don Carlos*

Donizetti: *Mary Stuart* (New Production and HGO Premiere)

(HOUSTON, TX – January 30, 2011) — Houston Grand Opera General Director and CEO **Anthony Freud** announced the company’s 2011–2012 season today. Opening on October 21, 2011, the season offers thirty-two performances of six operas. “We’ve chosen an exciting array of operas that will thrill, stimulate and entertain,” says Freud. “From celebrated masterpieces to rarely-performed operatic gems, our 2011–12 season features world-renowned directors, beloved productions and acclaimed singers.”

HGO Music Director **Patrick Summers** takes the podium to conduct four of this season’s six operas—Verdi’s *La Traviata* and *Don Carlos*, Britten’s *The Rape of Lucretia*, and *Mary Stuart* by Donizetti. “We are exceedingly fortunate to have such a distinguished Music Director as Patrick,” noted Freud, adding, “The artistic care with which he has nurtured the HGO orchestra as an ensemble over the past decade, along with his absolutely magnificent ability to help a singer give his or her best, means that HGO has become a musical home for many wonderful operatic artists of our time. Every performance we give at HGO benefits from his exceptional gifts.”

Summers, who is also principal guest conductor at San Francisco Opera and a frequent guest conductor at the Metropolitan Opera and Opera Australia, noted, “I am especially excited to be leading two such extraordinary Verdi operas this season, as well as a new production of *The Rape of Lucretia* and Donizetti’s profoundly beautiful *bel canto* masterpiece, *Mary Stuart*. The breadth and depth of our season’s repertoire presents exciting challenges for all of our artistic forces — chorus, orchestra, HGO

Studio, and of course our wonderful principals — which should be very rewarding, indeed, for our audience.”

Grammy award-winning HGO Studio alumna **Ana María Martínez** will return to HGO to open the 2011-12 season as the clever Rosina in a spectacular new production of Rossini’s *The Barber of Seville*. Following her performance at the Santa Fe Opera, *The Dallas Morning News* wrote “The dazzler is the Rosina of Ana María Martínez...she is every inch the feisty, hot-blooded Spanish girl.” American baritone **Nathan Gunn** will sing the role of Figaro, which he has sung at Los Angeles Opera, San Francisco Opera and Lyric Opera of Chicago. Tenor **Lawrence Brownlee** (*La Cenerentola*, HGO 2007) whom *Opera News* calls “a Rossinian to watch” returns to HGO to sing Count Almaviva, a role he has sung to great acclaim at Berlin Opera, Teatro alla Scala, The Metropolitan Opera, Washington National Opera and Baden-Baden, Germany. Italian conductor **Leonardo Vordoni**, who will lead the Santa Fe Opera production of *La bohème* this summer, makes his HGO debut conducting this new production, created for HGO by the director/designer team of **Joan Font** and **Joan Guillén** (*La Cenerentola*, HGO 2007). “Our new production of *The Barber of Seville* bears a family resemblance to *La Cenerentola*, for which Joan Font and his team brought Rossini’s comic style to life in a way that was both classical and innovative,” said Freud. “It is a *Commedia dell’arte* fantasy world, with a witty, zany and eccentric contemporary edge, which is a wonderful way to portray Rossini for a modern audience.”

The Fall repertory continues with Beethoven’s *Fidelio*, a musical testament to the ideals of courage, justice and freedom. “Beethoven’s masterpiece is one of the greatest, most moving, most elusive operas in the repertory,” said Freud, “and we have gathered some of its most famous interpreters to sing in Houston.” Celebrated Finnish soprano **Karita Mattila** (*Manon Lescaut*, HGO 2006) returns to HGO to sing the role of Leonore, the brave woman who risks her own life to save her lover. Of her performance in that role at The Metropolitan Opera, *The New York Times* wrote “Ms. Mattila’s gleaming voice, with its cool Nordic colorings and carrying power, sent Beethoven’s vocal lines soaring...her voice shimmers with defiance and intensity.” Following his triumphant HGO debut in the title role of *Lohengrin* (2009), tenor **Simon O’Neill** returns to sing the role of the imprisoned Florestan, which he has previously sung at the Salzburg Festival and BBC Proms in London. Icelandic bass **Kristinn Sigmundsson** will make his HGO debut as Rocco, while baritone **Tómas Tómasson**, who made his HGO debut last season as Count Tomsky in Tchaikovsky’s *The Queen of Spades*, returns to sing Don Pizzaro. American bass **Kyle Ketelsen** will make his HGO debut singing the role of Don Fernando. Directed by the distinguished German director **Jürgen Flimm** with sets by American designer **Robert Israel**, the production originated at The Metropolitan Opera.

The season continues with Verdi’s *La Traviata*. Making a major role debut as Violetta, HGO Studio Alumna **Albina Shagimuratova** has garnered critical acclaim and praise internationally

("Shagimuratova was...formidable and exciting — a songbird with teeth." — *New York Sun*). Mexican tenor **David Lomeli**, called "one of the greatest tenors of our time" by *The Jerusalem Post*, makes his HGO debut as Alfredo Germont, a role he has sung at Berlin Opera and San Francisco Opera. Fresh from his successes in the title role of Verdi's *Rigoletto* at The Metropolitan Opera, **Giovanni Meoni** joins the exciting cast as Giorgio Germont. **Daniel Slater**, who directed HGO's acclaimed *Lohengrin* in 2009, returns to direct the renowned, ornate and traditional production from Lyric Opera of Chicago. HGO Music Director Patrick Summers will conduct.

The winter repertory continues with *The Rape of Lucretia*, the fifth installment in HGO's Benjamin Britten series and an HGO premiere. "*The Rape of Lucretia* was written in the mid-forties, immediately after *Peter Grimes*," said Patrick Summers. "It is a lyrical, beautiful opera on a classical subject and is a must-have for the Britten series in Houston." Distinguished American mezzo-soprano **Michelle DeYoung** (*Tannhäuser*, HGO 2001), whom *The New York Times* has called "a powerful singer," will sing the title role. South African baritone **Jacques Imbrailo**, fresh from his successes as Billy Budd at last year's Glyndebourne Festival directed by Michael Grandage, makes his HGO debut as the arrogant young bully Tarquinius. The action of the opera is framed by a Male and Female Chorus, who, while they never participate in the action, observe and comment on it and are frequently moved by what they see. American tenor **Anthony Dean Griffey**, who starred in *Peter Grimes* last season at HGO, returns to sing the role of Male Chorus; current HGO Studio Artist **Rachel Willis-Sørensen** sings the Female Chorus. HGO Studio Alumni **Ryan McKinny** (*Lohengrin*, HGO 2009) and **Joshua Hopkins** (*La bohème*, HGO 2008) join the cast in the roles of Collatinus and Junius, respectively. A new production is to be created for HGO by American director **Arin Arbus** and French designer **Jean-Guy Lecat**. "I was enormously impressed by Arbus's productions of both *Othello* and *Measure for Measure* for Theater for a New Audience in New York City at the Duke Theater," said Freud. "I was particularly impressed by her narrative clarity and her ability to make two problematic and challenging plays seem utterly convincing. I am pleased that she will be making her operatic directing debut with HGO." Lecat is a designer of theatrical spaces who has worked for 30 years with many distinguished directors including Peter Brook. His set designs have been featured in theaters worldwide.

HGO's spring repertory will feature two great operas by Italian composers based on works by Schiller: Verdi's *Don Carlos* and Donizetti's *Mary Stuart*. "Both operas are inspired by historical characters but are dreams of history," explained Freud. HGO will present Verdi's sweeping drama *Don Carlos* in the full five-act 1886 version with several rarely heard sections from the 1867 Paris premiere added. It will be sung in French. "The archeology of *Don Carlos* is extremely complicated," said Freud. "For these HGO performances, we are presenting a full version of the work, including some very rarely heard, but magnificent passages." American Tenor **Brandon Jovanovich** (*Cavalleria rusticana*, HGO 2008) returns to Houston in title role. *San Francisco Classical Voice* wrote that he "possesses a warm,

virile voice in the manner of Plácido Domingo.” Soprano **Christine Goerke**, who wowed HGO audiences in *Lohengrin* 2009, returns to sing the role of Princess Eboli. “Goerke will return to sing the role of Brünnhilde in the upcoming HGO *Ring* cycle,” adds Freud. HGO Studio Alumni **Scott Hendricks** (*Lucia di Lammermoor*, HGO 2011) will sing the role of Rodrigue, and **Tamara Wilson** (*The Turn of the Screw*, HGO 2010) will sing Elisabeth de Valois. Powerhouse Ukrainian bass **Vitalij Kowaljow**, who recently sang the role of Wotan to great success in the *Ring* cycles at Los Angeles Opera and Teatro alla Scala, makes his HGO debut in the role of Philippe II. Legendary American bass **Samuel Ramey** rounds out the all-star cast in the role of the Grand Inquisitor— a role for which he is one of the greatest interpreters.

A grand new production of Donizetti’s *Mary Stuart* crowns the 2011–12 HGO season, with a cast headlined by **Joyce DiDonato** (*Dead Man Walking*, HGO 2011) in her role debut as Maria Stuarda, the Queen of Scots. Recently named the Lynn Wyatt Great Artist for 2011-12, DiDonato has been praised for a voice that is “nothing less than 24-carat gold” (*The Times*, London). She is joined by American soprano **Katie Van Kooten** (*Peter Grimes*, HGO 2010) singing the role of Queen Elizabeth I, regal cousin of Mary Stuart who imprisons Mary for treason. American tenor **Eric Cutler** (*Rigoletto*, HGO 2009) will sing the role of the Earl of Leicester, a role he has sung at Théâtre de Caen, Flemish Opera, Geneva Opera and the Canadian Opera Company. Canadian bass-baritone **Robert Gleadow** (*Tosca*, HGO 2010) and HGO Alumnus **Oren Gradus** (*Lucia di Lammermoor*, HGO 2011) join the starry cast as Talbot and Cecil, respectively. This new production marks the HGO debut of the French/Belgian directing duo **Patrice Caurier** and **Moshe Leiser** with sets by French designer **Christian Fenouillat**, costumes by Italian **Agostino Cavalca** and lighting by French designer **Christophe Forey**. The creative team’s work has been seen in major opera houses worldwide: the Grand Théâtre de Genève, Switzerland (Wagner’s *Ring* cycle and *Pelleas et Melisande*), the Opéra de Lausanne (*The Nose* by Shostakovich), Royal Opera, Covent Garden, London (*La cenerentola*), Welsh National Opera, Cardiff (*Fidelio* and *Leonore*) and the Théâtre du Châtelet, Paris (*Lucia di Lammermoor*).

Ticket Information:

Subscriptions for the 2011-12 season are on sale now by phone at 713-228-6737.

Subscriptions start at \$90.

For further information, please visit HGO's website at www.HoustonGrandOpera.org or call HGO Customer Care at 713-228-6737.

All performances will take place at the Wortham Theater Center, 501 Texas Avenue, Houston, Texas 77002. The Wortham Theater Center features wheelchair access to both theaters, with a choice of seating locations and ticket prices. An infrared listening system, underwritten by Shell Lubricants, is available and free of charge at all performances. Disabled access and TDD: 713-228-OPERA (6737) or 1-800-62-OPERA (800-626-7372); Descriptive Services: 713-546-0230.

Opera Insights Lectures take place forty-five minutes before each performance. Guest speakers present a twenty-minute informal lecture in the orchestra level of the Brown Theater. These lectures, free and open to all ticket holders, are intended to enhance the audience's enjoyment by preparing them for the production they are about to attend.

Artist headshots and production photos can be found on the press gallery page at:

<http://www.houstongrandopera.org/pressphotos/PressPhotos.aspx>

Founded in 1955, Houston Grand Opera is an internationally-renowned opera company with a reputation for commissioning and producing new works, including 41 world premieres and six American premieres since 1973. HGO contributes to the cultural enrichment of Houston and the nation through a diverse, innovative and balanced program of performances, events, community and education projects that reaches the widest possible public. HGO has toured extensively, including trips to Europe and Asia, and it is the only opera company to have won a Tony, two Grammy awards, and two Emmy awards. HGO's performances are broadcast nationally on the WFMT Radio Network, and internationally via the European Broadcast Union.

CAST AND PRODUCTION INFORMATION

Gioacchino Rossini **NEW PRODUCTION**

The Barber of Seville

Oct. 21, 2011 7:00 p.m. (Season Opening Night)

Oct. 23, Nov. 6, 2011 2:00 p.m.

Oct. 29, Nov. 4, 12, 2011 7:30 p.m.

Sung in Italian with projected translations

Opera's most famous barber is back in Rossini's madcap comedy. A lecherous old man is no match for the power of first love and sheer audacity, especially when Count Almaviva and his crafty barber, Figaro, are involved. Dr. Bartolo—an old man in love with his young and beautiful ward, Rosina—is thwarted at every turn in his quest for her hand. And when Rosina falls in love with a poor student, Lindoro (Almaviva in disguise), the stage is set for zany, laugh-out-loud comedy.

Ana María Martínez (*Madame Butterfly* 2010), **Lawrence Brownlee** (*La Cenerentola*, 2007), and **Nathan Gunn** (*Brief Encounter*, 2009) lead an extraordinary cast of world-class American singers including **Patrick Carfizzi** (*The Marriage of Figaro* 2011) as Bartolo. **Kyle Ketelsen** makes his Houston debut as Basilio. **Leonardo Vordoni** conducts a NEW PRODUCTION created by *La Cenerentola* (2007) team, director **Joan Font**, lighting designer **Albert Faura**, with sets and costumes by **Joan Guillén**.

A co-production of Houston Grand Opera and Canadian Opera Company.

“The dazzler is the Rosina of Ana María Martínez...She's every inch the feisty, hot-blooded Spanish girl...” —*The Dallas Morning News*

“[Nathan Gunn's] comic timing had the audience in stitches.” — *The New York Times*

“[Lawrence Brownlee's] flawless delivery of Almaviva's concluding aria caused the audience to erupt into one of the lengthiest outbursts of enthusiastic applause I can remember.”
—*The Washington Times*

Ana María Martínez, *Rosina*

Nathan Gunn, *Figaro*

Lawrence Brownlee, *Count Almaviva*

Patrick Carfizzi, *Dr. Bartolo*

Kyle Ketelsen, *Don Basilio*

Catherine Cook, *Berta*

Leonardo Vordoni, *Conductor*

Joan Font, *Director*

Joan Guillén, *Set and Costume Designer*

Albert Faura, *Lighting Designer*

Houston Grand Opera Orchestra and Chorus

Richard Bado, *Chorus Master*

Ludwig van Beethoven

Fidelio

Oct. 28, Nov. 1, 5, 10, 2011 7:30 p.m.

Nov. 13, 2011 2:00 p.m.

Sung in German with projected translations

Fidelio is a soaring musical testament to the ideals of courage, justice and freedom. The symphonic brilliance of the orchestral score is matched by heroic vocal writing in this story of a wife's selfless and courageous love.

German director **Jürgen Flimm** sets the story in a chilling, present-day police state. Sets are by **Robert Israel** with costumes by **Florence von Gerkan** and lighting by **Duane Schuler**. Finnish soprano **Karita Mattila** (*Manon Lescaut* 2006) leads a magnificent international cast that includes New Zealander **Simon O'Neill** (*Lohengrin* 2009) as Florestan and **Tómas Tómasson** (*The Queen of Spades* 2010) of Iceland as Pizarro. **Kristinn Sigmundsson** sings Rocco, the jailer; **Michael Hofstetter** (*Beatrice and Benedict* 2008) conducts.

A production of the Metropolitan Opera

"Ms. Mattila's gleaming voice, with its cool Nordic colorings and carrying power, sent Beethoven's vocal lines soaring...her voice shimmers with defiance and intensity."

—*The New York Times*

"Simon O'Neill gave an electrifying performance as the heroic Florestan...engaging and poignant." —*The National Business Review*

Simon O'Neill, *Florestan*

Karita Mattila, *Leonore*

Tómas Tómasson, *Don Pizarro*

Kristinn Sigmundsson, *Rocco*

Kyle Ketelsen, *Don Fernando*

Michael Hofstetter, *Conductor*

Jürgen Flinn, *Director*

Gina Lapinski, *Associate Director*

Robert Israel, *Set and Costume Designer*

Duane Schuler, *Lighting Designer*

Houston Grand Opera Orchestra and Chorus

Richard Bado, *Chorus Master*

Giuseppe Verdi

La Traviata

Jan. 27, Feb. 1, 4, 10, 2012 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 29, Feb. 12, 2012 2:00 p.m.

Sung in Italian with projected translations

Love, sacrifice and redemption: *La Traviata*'s dazzling heroine embodies all three in one of Verdi's most popular operas.

The story of Violetta Valéry—a Parisian courtesan who makes the fatal mistake of falling in love—has defined romantic tragedy since *La dame aux Camélias*, the Dumás novel that inspired Verdi, appeared in 1848. Legendary stars like Sarah Bernhardt and Greta Garbo have played her on stage and screen; Baz Luhrmann retold the story in his fantasy *Moulin Rouge* and Julia Roberts was brought to tears seeing herself in Verdi's heroine on the operatic stage in *Pretty Woman*.

Verdi's opera takes us from a glittering Second Empire Paris to the serenity of Violetta's country estate, to the grim reality of her fate on a cold, pre-Lenten morning. *La Traviata* is one of opera's most beloved stories.

Albina Shagimuratova (*Lucia* 2011) is Violetta, **David Lomelí** debuts as Alfredo and **Giovanni Meoni** also makes his HGO debut as his father, Germont. The production will be directed by **Daniel Slater** (*Lohengrin* 2009) and HGO Music Director **Patrick Summers** conducts.

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.

“[Shagimuratova's] radiant soprano dispatches the gorgeous lines and elaborate ornamentation with agility and flair, glistening in her top notes, virtuosic in her trills and flourishes.”

— *The Houston Chronicle*

“David Lomelí is called to be one of the greatest tenors of our times.” — *The Jerusalem Post*, Israel

Albina Shagimuratova, *Violetta*

David Lomeli, *Alfredo*

Giovanni Meoni, *Giorgio*

Patrick Summers, *Conductor*

Daniel Slater, *Director*

Desmond Heeley, *Set and Costume Designer*

Michael James Clark, *Lighting Designer*

Houston Grand Opera Orchestra, Chorus and Children's Chorus

Richard Bado, *Chorus Master*

Benjamin Britten

NEW PRODUCTION

The Rape of Lucretia

Feb. 3, 7, 9, 11, 2012 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 5, 2012 2:00 p.m.

Sung in English with surtitles

The story of Lucretia has inspired writers from Ovid in ancient Rome and Shakespeare to Thornton Wilder; painters like Titian, Botticelli and Raphael immortalized the tragedy on vivid canvasses. The cruel tale is familiar in any century.

Benjamin Britten and Ronald Duncan wrote this opera in 1946 as an allegorical exploration of the Second World War's devastation; the intimate and supremely moving result is a plea, perhaps a prayer, for our redemption.

Mezzo-soprano **Michelle DeYoung** (*Tannhäuser* 2001) sings Lucretia; South African baritone **Jacques Imbrailo** the villain Tarquinius. **Anthony Dean Griffey** (*Peter Grimes* 2010) and **Rachel Willis-Sørensen** sing the roles of the Male Chorus and Female Chorus. Music Director **Patrick Summers** conducts and **Arin Arbus** makes her HGO directorial debut with this new production.

"Ms. DeYoung is a powerful singer..." — *The New York Times*

"Imbrailo emits a glowing, rich sound..." — *Bloomberg*

"Arbus allows this most taut and tense of Shakespeare's tragedies (*Othello*) to weave its inexorable spell simply by letting the language breathe and the drama unfold at a quietly accelerating rhythm." — *The New York Times*

Michelle DeYoung, *Lucretia*

Anthony Dean Griffey, *Male Chorus*

Rachel Willis-Sørensen, *Female Chorus*

Jacques Imbrailo, *Tarquinius*

Ryan McKinny, *Collatinus*

Joshua Hopkins, *Junius*

Judith Forst, *Bianca*

Patrick Summers, *Conductor*

Arin Arbus, *Director*

Jean-Guy Lecat, *Set Designer*

Anita Yavich, *Costume Designer*

Michael James Clark, *Lighting Designer*

Houston Grand Opera Orchestra

Guiseppe Verdi

Don Carlos

April 13, 19, 22, 28, 2012 6:30 p.m.

April 15, 2012 2:00 p.m.

Sung in French with projected translations

Originally written for Paris Opera in 1867, *Don Carlos*, with its majestic score and intense passions, is the quintessential grand opera. A marriage has been arranged between Don Carlos, heir to the Spanish throne, and Elisabeth de Valois, a French princess, but his father, King Philippe, marries her himself. The union ends a conflict between the two countries, but ignites others more personal and intense. The ensuing drama pits crown against church, father against son and conscience against loyalty.

Verdi's brilliant score enriches and heightens emotions in this sweeping drama set amid the turbulence of sixteenth century Europe.

HGO will present *Don Carlos* in the original French, in a specially created version that includes important sections of rarely performed music. Important scenes from the original 1867 Paris premiere will be added to Verdi's final 1886 five-act version.

Brandon Jovanovich (*Cavalleria rusticana* 2008) sings Don Carlos in this magnificent production directed by **John Caird** with sets by **Johan Engels**, costumes by **Carl Friedrich Oberle** and lighting by **Nigel Levings**. **Tamara Wilson** (*Un Ballo in Maschera* 2008) is Elisabeth; **Christine Goerke** (*Ariadne auf Naxos* 2011) sings Princess Eboli (the King's mistress). **Vitalij Kowaljow** makes his HGO debut as King Philippe II. **Scott Hendricks** and **Oren Gradus** complete the cast as Rodrigue and the Spirit of Charles V while the remarkable American bass **Samuel Ramey** (*Faust* 2007) sings the Grand Inquisitor in some of his final performances on the stage. HGO Music Director **Patrick Summers** conducts this monumental work.

A co-production of Welsh National Opera and Canadian Opera Company

"The evening's standout was Christine Goerke..." — *Opera News*

"Brandon Jovanovich's clear, ringing tenor made him...superb" — *MusicalAmerica*

Brandon Jovanovich, *Don Carlos*
Tamara Wilson, *Elisabeth de Valois*
Christine Goerke, *Princess Eboli*
Scott Hendricks, *Rodrique*
Vitalij Kowaljow, *Philippe II*
Samuel Ramey, *The Grand Inquisitor*

Patrick Summers, *Conductor*
John Caird, *Director*
Johan Engels, *Set Designer*
Carl Friedrich Oberle, *Costume Designer*
Nigel Levings, *Lighting Director*
Denni Sayers, *Choreographer*

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

Gaetano Donizetti

NEW PRODUCTION

Mary Stuart

April 21, 27, May 2, 4, 2012 7:30 p.m.

April 29, 2012 2:00 p.m.

Sung in Italian with projected translations

This story of regal cousins, Maria Stuarda, Queen of Scots and Elizabeth I—rivals for the crown and in love—delivers fascinating historical drama and spectacular *bel canto* singing. Elizabeth I has imprisoned Maria, suspecting her of treason. The Earl of Leicester, one of Elizabeth I's advisors, has visited Maria and fallen in love with her. In a letter, Maria has asked Leicester to plead her case with the queen. When Elizabeth I demands to see the letter, she knows that Maria has designs on both the throne and on Leicester himself—the man whom Elizabeth I secretly loves.

Elizabeth I agrees to see Maria but tempers soon surface and rage out of control. Maria, condemned to death, faces her demise with calm and dignity.

Houston favorites **Joyce DiDonato** (*Dead Man Walking* 2011) and **Katie Van Kooten** (*Peter Grimes* 2010) sing Maria and Elizabeth I with **Eric Cutler** (*Rigoletto* 2009) as the Earl of Leicester, the man caught between the crown and love. Maria's confident Lord Talbot, the Earl of Shrewsbury, will be played by **Robert Gleadow**. The directorial team of **Patrice Caurier** and **Moshe Leiser** make their Houston debuts with this NEW PRODUCTION; **Patrick Summers** conducts.

"DiDonato's voice is ... nothing less than 24-carat gold." — *The Times*, London

Joyce DiDonato, *Maria Stuarda*
Katie Van Kooten, *Elizabeth I*
Eric Cutler, *Earl of Leicester*
Robert Gleadow, *Talbot*
Oren Gradus, *Cecil*

Patrick Summers, *Conductor*
Patrice Caurier and Moshe Leiser, *Co-Director*
Christian Fenouillat, *Set Designer*
Agostino Cavalca, *Costume Designer*
Christophe Forey, *Lighting Designer*

Houston Grand Opera Orchestra
Richard Bado, *Chorus Master*

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Spring 2011 Repertory

The Barber of Seville

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Winter 2012 Repertory

La Traviata

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The Rape of Lucretia

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*The Britten Series is supported in part through
the Britten-Pears Foundation*

Spring 2012 Repertory

Don Carlos

Premier Guarantor

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Guarantor

Margaret Alkek Williams

Grand Underwriters

Mr. John G. Turner and Mr. Jerry G. Fischer

Mary Stuart

Grand Guarantor

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