



HoustonGrandOpera

510 Preston Street
Houston, Texas 77002-1504
Tel. 713-546-0200
Fax. 713-228-4355
HGO.org

Patrick Summers

Artistic & Music Director
Margaret Alkek Williams Chair

Perryn Leech

Managing Director

PRESS RELEASE

Media Contact:

Christine Cantrell

christine@elmorepr.com
713-524-0661

Judith Kurnick

HGO Director of Communications
jkurnick@hgo.org
713-546-0240

CALENDAR LISTING UPDATE

Houston Grand Opera Presents World Premiere of *What Wings They Were: The Case of Emeline*

UPDATE: Free performance added: April 30 at 9:30 a.m.

What: Houston Grand Opera's award-winning community collaboration and education initiative, HGOco, will present the world premiere of *What Wings They Were: The Case of Emeline*, a chamber opera by composer **John L. Cornelius II** and librettist **Janine Joseph**, directed by **Eileen J. Morris**, based on a landmark Harris County court case from 1847. Due to demand, the company has added a third free, public performance on April 30 at 9:30 a.m. at **The Ensemble Theater**. Performances on April 30 at 11 a.m. at The Ensemble Theatre and on May 1 at 3 p.m. at **The DeLuxe Theater** are now fully reserved.

What Wings They Were: The Case of Emeline tells the true story of Emeline, a young African-American woman in the 1840s who sued the Texas man who was unlawfully holding her and her two children as slaves and won the case—thus securing their freedom. After many years of research, the historic case has been transformed into a 40-minute English-language chamber opera.

Free Public Performances:

Tickets to public performances are free and may be reserved in advance through each venue.

- **NEW PERFORMANCE: Saturday, April 30 at 9:30 a.m. at The Ensemble Theatre**, 3535 Main Street
- **Saturday, April 30 at 11 a.m. at The Ensemble Theatre**, 3535 Main Street
This performance is fully reserved but some seats may be available 15 minutes before performance.
- **Sunday, May 1 at 3 p.m. at The DeLuxe Theater**, 3303 Lyons Avenue
- This performance is fully reserved but some seats may be available 15 minutes before performance.

Special Benefit Performances:

The Houston Bar Association will present two special performances at the 1910 Courthouse, the original site of Emeline's trial, for the benefit of Houston Volunteer Lawyers.

- **Tuesday and Wednesday, May 3 and 4; events begin at 6 p.m.; performances at 7 p.m. at the 1910 Courthouse, 301 Fannin**

Tickets available through EventBrite: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/houston-grand-operas-what-wings-they-were-the-case-of-emeline-tickets-21097571404>

About Houston Grand Opera

Since its inception in 1955, Houston Grand Opera has grown from a small regional organization into an internationally renowned opera company. HGO enjoys a reputation for commissioning and producing new works, including 59 world premieres and seven American premieres since 1973. In addition to producing and performing world-class opera, HGO contributes to the cultural enrichment of Houston and the nation through a diverse and innovative program of performances, community events, and education projects that reaches the widest possible public. HGO has toured extensively, including trips to Europe and Asia, and has won a Tony, two Grammy awards, and two Emmy awards—the only opera company to have won all three honors.

Through HGOco, Houston Grand Opera creates opportunities for Houstonians of all ages and backgrounds to observe, participate in, and create art. Its *Song of Houston* project is an ongoing initiative to create and share work based on stories that define the unique character of our city and its diverse cultures. Since 2007, HGOco has commissioned 17 new works along with countless innovative community projects, reaching more than one million people in the greater Houston metropolitan area.

Media Contact: Christine Cantrell, christine@elmorepr.com, (713) 524-0661

Director of Communications: Judith Kurnick, jkurnick@hgo.org, (610) 585-1945

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