



HoustonGrandOpera

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PRESS RELEASE

Houston Grand Opera
Presents the World Premiere of

From my Mother's Mother

Composed by Jeeyoung Kim | Libretto by Janine Joseph

November 3 – 9, 2012



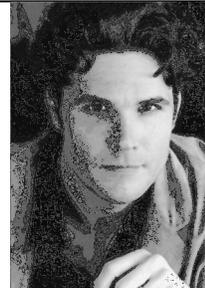
Hyo Na Kim



Mika Shigematsu



Hana Park



Lee Gregory

Houston, TX – Oct. 15, 2012: As part of HGOco's *Song of Houston: East + West* initiative, Houston Grand Opera presents *From my Mother's Mother*, November 3 – 9, 2012. An accomplished international cast will sing this poignant account of the passing down and rejection of tradition through multiple generations of Korean-American women. **Mika Shigematsu** will return to HGO to create the role of the mother (Om-Ma). The grandmother (Hal-Mo-Ni) will be brought to life by **Hyo Na Kim**. **Hana Park** will sing the role of the daughter (Soo-Yun), and the role of her husband (Jensen) will be performed by Houstonian, **Lee Gregory**.

From my Mother's Mother was composed by **Dr. Jeeyoung Kim** (Silk Road Ensemble) to a libretto by Houstonian, **Janine Joseph**. Furthermore, internationally recognized specialist in gayageum (a strung Korean zither), **Na Jung Jin**, will lend her award-winning expertise to this production. Kim says of the composition, "I felt very emotional when I composed the piece. The story reminds me of the love and sacrifice of my own grandmother and mother, as well as my relationship with my own daughter who was born and is raised in the United States."

Sandra Bernhard, HGOco director, went on to say, “*From my Mother’s Mother* explores what we embrace and what we leave behind as we merge our traditions with others in a new country, using a new language, sometimes with our own new family.”

This series by HGOco is a unique initiative that explores making opera relevant to its changing audiences by connecting the company with the community through collaboration. *From my Mother’s Mother* is the fifth opera in HGOco’s **East + West** series, which celebrates Houston as a meeting place for Eastern and Western cultures.

Premiere and Subsequent Performances

WORLD PREMIERE: November 3
Start Time: 1:00 p.m.
DURATION: 30 min.
VENUE: Discovery Green, 1500 McKinney Street, Houston, Texas
LANGUAGE: Sung in English

Following the performances, conversations and presentations with cast and creative team will take place.

Additional performances:

- Sunday November 4
2:00 p.m., Museum of Fine Arts Houston, Brown Auditorium (1001 Bissonnet Street)
- Wednesday November 7
6:00 p.m., Houston Public Library, Julia Ideson Building Auditorium (500 McKinney Street)
- Friday November 9
12:00 p.m. & 7:00p.m., University of Houston, Jose Quintero Theatre (133 Cynthia Woods Mitchell)

All performances are free and open to the public. For tickets and other general information, please visit: www.HoustonGrandOpera.org/HGOco or call 713-546-0230.

MEDIA INQUIRIES: Steve Kelley, 713-546-0226/skelley@houstongrandopera.org

High-resolution production photos and headshots can be found at

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

Username and Password: hgopress

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 47 world premieres and six 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 it is the only opera company to have won a Tony, two Grammy awards, and two Emmy awards. HGO’s performances are broadcast nationally and internationally over the WFMT Radio Network, New York City’s WQXR, the European Broadcasting Union and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

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 thirteen new works along with countless innovative community projects, reaching more than 750,000 people in the greater Houston metropolitan area.