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Academy of Vocal Arts' 2010 / 2011 Season Features World Premiere of Garwood's THE SCARLET LETTER

Philadelphia: The Academy of Vocal Arts will present the world-premiere of *The Scarlet Letter*, an operatic retelling of the Hawthorne classic by Philadelphia composer **Margaret Garwood**. *The Scarlet Letter* opens November 19, 2010 at the Merriam Theater for three performances. The project has been in the works since AVA presented Act I of the piece in 2002, featuring alumna Dana Beth Miller in the role of Hester Prynne. *The Scarlet Letter* is an opera in three acts and is dramatically and vocally demanding of the three central characters. Although contemporary, the score is melodic and lyrical. AVA Master Vocal Coach **Richard A. Raub** will conduct the AVA Opera Orchestra and AVA veteran **Dorothy Danner** will direct.

AVA's 76th season opens with the popular **Giargiari Bel Canto Competition** at the Kimmel Center's Perelman Theater, with **Danielle Orlando** as music director and accompanist. *The Scarlet Letter* follows in November, and the Russian repertoire recital, **An Evening of Russian Romances**, under the direction of **Ghenady Meirson**, takes place in December. As in recent years, AVA will present opera in concert (Puccini's **Suor Angelica** and **Il tabarro**) at the Perelman Theater in January.

Richard Strauss' lyrical comedy *Arabella* will have five staged performances in AVA's Warden Theater, with **Luke Housner** as music director and piano accompanist. AVA's annual foray into the rich sacred vocal repertoire, **Jubilate! A Concert of Sacred Music**, under the direction of **David Antony Lofton**, with the **New Jersey MasterChorale** and the **AVA Opera Orchestra** will be presented in March at three locations around the Delaware Valley.

In April, The Academy of Vocal Arts will join over one hundred other Philadelphia visual and performing arts institutions in the creation of the first-ever **Philadelphia International Festival of the Arts**, when it presents **Artistes, Auteurs, et Autres Animaux** (Artists, Authors, and other Animals), an evening of French Chanson. The recital will feature songs about the works of great artists in Paris in the early 20th Century (Picasso, Braques, Miro, Chagall, Matisse, Gris) and songs about animals. This multi-media presentation in AVA's Warden Theater will feature works by composers such as Poulenc, Ibert, Honegger, Durey, and Satie.

AVA welcomes back acclaimed stage director **Tito Capobianco** for the final offering of the season - Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, with AVA music director **Christofer Macatsoris** leading the AVA artists and the **AVA Opera Orchestra** for seven performances in Center City, Bucks County, South Jersey, and the Main Line.

Subscriptions are available online at www.avaopera.org or by calling 215 735-1685 Monday through Friday between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Single tickets go on sale Monday, September 13, 2010.

The Academy of Vocal Arts' 2010 / 2011 Season

Giargiari Bel Canto Competition

Perelman Theater, Kimmel Center
Tues. October 5, 2010 @ 7:30 p.m.

The Scarlet Letter // Garwood

Merriam Theater
250 South Broad St. Philadelphia
Fri. November 19, 2010 @ 8:00 p.m.
Sat. November 20, 2010 @ 8:00 p.m.
Sun. November 21, 2010 @ 3:00 p.m.

An Evening of Russian Romances

AVA's Helen Corning Warden Theater
Tues. December 14, 2010 @ 7:30 p.m.
Thurs. December 16, 2010 @ 7:30 p.m.

Suor Angelica and Il tabarro // Puccini

Perelman Theater, Kimmel Center
Fri. January 21, 2011 @ 7:30 p.m.
Sat. January 22, 2011 @ 7:30 p.m.

Centennial Hall, The Haverford School
450 Lancaster Ave. Haverford, PA
Wed. January 26, 2011 @ 7:30 p.m.

Arabella // R. Strauss

AVA's Helen Corning Warden Theater
Sat. February 19, 2011 @ 7:30 p.m.
Tues. February 22, 2011 @ 7:30 p.m.
Thurs. February 24, 2011 @ 7:30 p.m.
Sat. February 26, 2011 @ 7:30 p.m.
Tues. March 1, 2011 @ 7:30 p.m.
AVA's Helen Corning Warden Theater

Jubilate! A Concert of Sacred Music

Haddonfield United Methodist Church
29 Warwick Road, Haddonfield, NJ
Sun. March 6, 2011 @ 7:00 p.m.

The Church of the Holy Trinity
Rittenhouse Square, Philadelphia
Sun. March 13, 2011 @ 7:00 p.m.

Centennial Hall, The Haverford School

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Tues. March 15, 2011 @ 7:30 p.m.

In collaboration with the Philadelphia International Festival of the Arts (PIFA)

Artistes, Auteurs, et Autres Animaux

AVA's Helen Corning Warden Theater

Tues. April 12, 2011 @ 7:30 p.m.

Wed. April 13, 2011 @ 7:30 p.m.

Don Giovanni // Mozart

AVA's Helen Corning Warden Theater

Sat. April 30, 2011 @ 7:30 p.m.

Tues. May 3, 2011 @ 7:30 p.m.

Thurs. May 5, 2011 @ 7:30 p.m.

Central Bucks South High School

1100 Folly Road, Warrington, PA

Sat. May 7, 2011 @ 7:30 p.m.

Centennial Hall, The Haverford School

Tues. May 10, 2011 @ 7:30 p.m.

Thurs. May 12, 2011 @ 7:30 p.m.

Walter K. Gordon Theater at Rutgers/Camden

3rd and Pearl Sts., Camden, NJ

Sat. May 14, 2011 @ 7:30 p.m.

**Tickets: \$50 adults / \$45 seniors / \$25 students
Add \$35 per person for PREMIUM SEATING**

Special group rates available

For more info, contact 215-735-1685 or visit www.avaopera.org

THE ACADEMY OF VOCAL ARTS

The mission of The Academy of Vocal Arts, founded in 1934 by Helen Corning Warden, is to provide tuition-free vocal and opera training of the highest quality, and financial support during training, to exceptionally talented and committed young singers who have the potential for international stature, and to present them in professional performances that are accessible to a wide community.

Gifted singers come from throughout the world to seek the exceptional guidance and training that The Academy of Vocal Arts offers. AVA's four-year program is unique, not only because it is a fully tuition-free institution that focuses solely on operatic training, but also because it has established a niche as an organization that produces opera. Admission is determined by competitive annual auditions, with an average of 8 to 10 singers admitted each year. The total roster of resident artists is purposely kept low and averages 25-30 in total. Those who are accepted receive training equivalent to more than \$70,000 per year. A faculty of individuals who are among the finest in their fields provides intensive training in voice, acting, stage combat, repertoire, languages, and other related subjects necessary for an operatic career.

Over the past seven decades, outstanding singers of international stature have attended AVA, including David Adams, Lando Bartolini, Gwendolyn Bradley, Thomas Carson, Elizabeth Carter, Richard Clark, Dominic Cossa, John

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Darrenkamp, Joyce DiDonato, Harry Dworchak, Ryan Edwards, Wilhelmina Fernandez, Allan Glassman, Vernon Hartman, Nancy Fabiola Herrera, Luis Ledesma, James Morris, Stuart Neill, John Packard, James Pease, David Poleri, Julien Robbins, Valerian Ruminski, Jane Shaulis, Hugh Smith, Ruth Ann Swenson, Indra Thomas, Richard Troxell, Victoria Vergara, Stephen West, Beverly Wolff, and currently making their mark in the opera world, recent graduates Burak Bilgili, Stephen Costello, Ellie Dehn, Michael Fabiano, Jesus Garcia, Othalie Graham, Eglise Gutierrez, Tracie Luck, Angela Meade, Latonia Moore, Ailyn Pérez, Dongwon Shin, and James Valenti.

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