



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Opera a Bargain for Age 30 and Under at The Academy of Vocal Arts

**Philadelphia:** New for its 2009-2010 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season, The Academy of Vocal Arts will offer a special deal for subscribers **age 30 and under: \$99 for any four productions.**

Young professionals and students who wish to take advantage of the cultural opportunities a city like Philadelphia can offer, can indulge their senses “for a song” when they subscribe to AVA’s 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season. This young, sophisticated, and well-travelled audience can choose ANY FOUR productions, including fully staged operas, concerts, and an “operatic American Idol” voice competition, all performed by some of the world’s best emerging opera stars in a non-intimidating environment, for a mere \$99.

As subscribers, they receive benefits such as free ticket exchange, in the event that they have a date conflict (as long as the exchange is made at least 24 hours before the performance) and lost ticket insurance.

AVA’s season begins with the popular **Giargiari Bel Canto Competition** at the Perelman Theater, followed by Verdi’s last, and only comic opera, *Falstaff*, based on Shakespeare’s *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Other fully staged operas include Richard Strauss’ *Capriccio*, with piano accompaniment, and Puccini’s beloved *La bohème*. Performances that feature full orchestra include *Falstaff*, *La bohème*, and three concerts – **Operatic Masterpieces**, a concert of acts from grand opera, **Jubilate! A Concert of Sacred Music** with a 100 voice choir, and **BrAVA Philadelphia!**, the gala 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert in Verizon Hall, featuring some of AVA’s most famous alumni and a veritable galaxy of opera stars. All operas are sung in the original language with English supertitles.

AVA performs in multiple locations in the city and suburbs, including AVA’s own intimate European-style theater, tucked inside its charming historic brownstone on Spruce Street, just one block south of Rittenhouse Square. Other venues include the Kimmel Center, Centennial Hall at the Haverford School, Central Bucks South High School, and Rutgers/Camden. Subscribers may choose any venue for any performance, provided the performance is not sold out.

Subscriptions are available 24/7 on AVA’s website, [www.avaopera.org](http://www.avaopera.org), or by calling the box office between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at 215 735-1685. Check, VISA,

MasterCard, and American Express are accepted. Subscriptions will be held at the box office the night of your first performance. 30 and Under subscribers should bring a valid ID that shows their birth date. For other delivery arrangements, please contact Robin Marcotte at [rmarcotte@avaopera.org](mailto:rmarcotte@avaopera.org).

## **AVA's 2009 / 2010 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season**

**THE GIARGIARI BEL CANTO COMPETITION** – AVA singers compete for top honors in this exciting concert. Danielle Orlando, Music Director and Accompanist.

**Tuesday, October 6, 2009 @ 7:30 p.m.**

**The Perelman Theater at The Kimmel Center**

**FALSTAFF by Giuseppe Verdi** – Verdi's operatic retelling of Shakespeare's *The Merry Wives of Windsor* features a lighthearted, slapstick plot and a brilliant score. Fully staged with orchestra, sung in Italian with English supertitles. Conductor: Christofer Macatsoris.

**Saturday, November 14 @ 7:30 p.m.**

**Tuesday, November 17 @ 7:30 p.m.**

**Thursday, November 19 @ 7:30 p.m.**

**The Helen Corning Warden Theater at AVA 1920 Spruce St. Philadelphia**

**Saturday, November 21 @ 7:30 p.m.**

**Central Bucks South High School, Warrington, PA**

**Monday, November 23 @ 7:30 p.m.**

**Centennial Hall, The Haverford School, Haverford, PA**

**AN EVENING OF RUSSIAN ROMANCES** – Music Director and pianist Ghenady Meirson accompanies the AVA artists in a concert of classical Russian opera and songs.

**Tuesday, December 15 @ 7:30 p.m.**

**Thursday, December 17 @ 7:30 p.m.**

**The Helen Corning Warden Theater at AVA 1920 Spruce St. Philadelphia**

**OPERATIC MASTERPIECES** – Scenes from Verdi's *Il trovatore* and *Don Carlo*, and Meyerbeer's *Les Huguenots* will be performed in concert with full orchestra and sung in Italian and French with English supertitles. Christofer Macatsoris conducts the AVA Opera Orchestra.

**Friday, January 29 @ 7:30 p.m.**

**Saturday, January 30 @ 7:30 p.m.**

**The Perelman Theater at The Kimmel Center**

**Tuesday, February 2, 2010 @ 7:30 p.m.**

**Centennial Hall, The Haverford School, Haverford, PA.**

**CAPRICCIO by Richard Strauss** - Which is more important – the words or the music? A Countess, torn between two suitors, one a poet, the other a composer, is the focal point for Strauss' brilliant final opera, subtitled "A Conversation Piece for Music." Luke Housner is music director and piano accompanist. Sung in German with English supertitles.

**Saturday, February 20 @ 7:30 p.m.**

**Tuesday, February 23 @ 7:30 p.m.**

**Thursday, February 25 @ 7:30 p.m.**

**Saturday, February 27 @ 7:30 p.m.**  
**Tuesday, March 2, 2010 @ 7:30 p.m.**  
**The Helen Corning Warden Theater at AVA 1920 Spruce St. Philadelphia.**

**JUBILATE! A CONCERT OF SACRED MUSIC** - David Antony Lofton conducts the AVA Opera Orchestra with great vocal solos and choruses from the rich sacred repertoire. Also features the 100 voice New Jersey MasterChorale.  
**Sunday, March 7, 2010 @ 7:00 p.m.**  
**The Church of the Holy Trinity, Rittenhouse Square**

**Saturday, March 13, 2010 @ 7:30 p.m.**  
**Proclamation Presbyterian Church, Bryn Mawr, PA**

**Sunday, March 14, 2010 @ 7:00 p.m.**  
**Haddonfield United Methodist Church, Haddonfield, NJ**

**GALA 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CONCERT – BrAVA Philadelphia!** Featuring AVA opera stars past and present – with a few surprises thrown in! Christofer Macatsoris conducts the AVA Opera Orchestra.  
**Wednesday, March 31, 2010 @ 7:30 p.m.**  
**Verizon Hall, The Kimmel Center.**

**LA BOHÈME by Giacomo Puccini** – AVA singers find that art imitates life, when they portray starving artists living the bohemian life in Paris. Fully staged with orchestra, sung in Italian with English supertitles. Conductor: Christofer Macatsoris.  
**Saturday, May 1 @ 7:30 p.m.**  
**Tuesday, May 4 @ 7:30 p.m.**  
**Thursday, May 6 @ 7:30 p.m.**  
**The Helen Corning Warden Theater at AVA 1920 Spruce St. Philadelphia**

**Saturday, May 8 @ 7:30 p.m.**  
**Central Bucks South High School, Warrington, PA**

**Tuesday, May 11 @ 7:30 p.m.**  
**Thursday, May 13 @ 7:30 p.m.**  
**Centennial Hall, The Haverford School, Haverford, PA**

**Saturday, May 15 @ 7:30 p.m.**  
**The Walter K. Gordon Theater at Rutgers/Camden**

Patrons may purchase tickets online at [www.avaopera.org](http://www.avaopera.org)  
For tickets or more information, contact  
215-735-1685 or visit [www.avaopera.org](http://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 Darrenkamp, Joyce DiDonato, Harry Dworchak, Ryan Edwards, Wilhelmina Fernandez, Allan Glassman, Vernon Hartman, Nancy Herrera, Luis Ledesma, Daniel Mobbs, James Morris, Stuart Neill, John Packard, James Pease, David Poleri, Julien Robbins, Valerian Ruminski, Jane Shaulis, Hugh Smith, Ruth Ann Swenson, Indra Thomas, Todd Thomas, Richard Troxell, Victoria Vergara, Stephen West, Beverly Wolff.

Currently making their mark in the opera world are recent graduates Burak Bilgili, Stephen Costello, Ellie Dehn, Michael Fabiano, Othalie Graham, Eglise Gutierrez, Tracie Luck, Angela Meade, Ailyn Pèrez, Dongwon Shin, and James Valenti.

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