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Unprecedented Success!

Across the ocean, the continent, and at home in Philadelphia, Academy of Vocal Arts Alumni Take the Opera World by Storm

Philadelphia: In the span of one week, in what might be deemed an extraordinary confluence of events, artists trained at The Academy of Vocal Arts will perform leading roles at New York's Metropolitan Opera, the San Francisco Opera, the Royal Opera Covent Garden in London, and right here in Philadelphia. Tonight tenor **Stephen Costello** will sing the role of Lord Percy in the Metropolitan Opera's season-opening *Anna Bolena* opposite Anna Netrebko. In subsequent performances, soprano **Angela Meade** will perform the title role. Bass **Keith Miller** sings Lord Rochefort in all performances, and Mr. Costello's cover is the recently graduated **Taylor Stayton**.

Also tonight, tenor **James Valenti** steps into the title role of *Faust* at the Royal Opera Covent Garden in London, in an all-star cast that includes Angela Gheorghiu, René Pape, and Dimitri Hvorostovsky.

Tenor **Michael Fabiano** made an impressive debut as Gennaro in *Lucrezia Borgia* opposite Renée Fleming at the San Francisco Opera this past Friday. Mr. Fabiano performed this role earlier this year at the English National Opera, a performance that was also the first European Live in 3D screening, and this Friday, soprano **Ailyn Pérez**, baritone **Eric Dubin** and bass **Jeremy Milner** will perform in the Opera Company of Philadelphia's *Carmen*, which will be simulcast to a crowd of over 3,000 on Independence Mall.

AVA's unique program is geared solely the training of singers for careers in opera. Although small (AVA has a roster of between 25 and 30 artists in its four-year program), the training is rigorous and each singer has many opportunities to perform roles that are suited to them and that they will most likely perform during their careers. During the 2008/2009 season, AVA opened with *Anna Bolena*, which featured Angela Meade and Taylor Stayton in the leading roles. Today, their preparation of these roles under the tutelage of Music Director **Christofer Macatsoris** and AVA's extraordinary faculty, is bearing fruit at the Met.

AVA continues to attract talented and committed singers from all over the world, who perform in Center City, the Main Line, Bucks County and South Jersey. The first opera of the 2011/2012 will be *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*, opening in November.

The Academy of Vocal Arts' 2011 / 2012 Season

New Artists Recital

AVA's Helen Corning Warden Theater

Monday, September 26, 2011 @ 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 27, 2011 @ 7:30 p.m.

Opera Idol (Giargiari Competition Preview)

The Media Theatre

104 East State St. Media, PA

Sunday, October 2, 2011 @ 7:30 p.m.

Giargiari Bel Canto Competition

The Church of the Holy Trinity

Rittenhouse Square, Philadelphia

Tuesday, October 4, 2011 @ 7:30 p.m.

Les Contes d'Hoffmann / Offenbach

AVA's Helen Corning Warden Theater

Saturday, November 12, 2011 @ 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 15, 2011 @ 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 17, 2011 @ 7:30 p.m.

Central Bucks South High School

1100 Folly Road, Warrington, PA

Saturday, November 19, 2011 @ 7:30 p.m.

Centennial Hall, The Haverford School

450 Lancaster Ave. Haverford, PA

Monday, November 21, 2011 @ 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 22, 2011 @ 7:30 p.m.

An Evening of Russian Romances

AVA's Helen Corning Warden Theater

Tuesday, December 13, 2011 @ 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 15, 2011 @ 7:30 p.m.

Oberto / Verdi

Perelman Theater, Kimmel Center

Thursday, January 26, 2012 @ 7:30 p.m.

Friday, January 27, 2012 @ 7:30 p.m.

Centennial Hall, The Haverford School

Tuesday, January 31, 2012 @ 7:30 p.m.

Pelléas et Mélisande / Debussy*AVA's Helen Corning Warden Theater*

Saturday, February 25, 2012 @ 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 28, 2012 @ 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 1, 2012 @ 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 3, 2012 @ 7:30 p.m.

Jubilate! A Concert of Sacred Music*Haddonfield United Methodist Church*

29 Warwick Road, Haddonfield, NJ

Sunday, March 11, 2012 @ 7:00 p.m.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

104 Louella Avenue, Wayne, PA

Saturday, March 17, 2012 @ 7:30 p.m.

The Church of the Holy Trinity

Rittenhouse Square, Philadelphia

Sunday, March 18, 2012 @ 7:00 p.m.

L'elisir d'amore / Donizetti*AVA's Helen Corning Warden Theater*

Saturday, April 28, 2012 @ 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 1, 2012 @ 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 3, 2012 @ 7:30 p.m.

Central Bucks South High School

1100 Folly Road, Warrington, PA

Saturday, May 5, 2012 @ 7:30 p.m.

Centennial Hall, The Haverford School

Tuesday, May 8, 2012 @ 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 10, 2012 @ 7:30 p.m.

*Walter K. Gordon Theater at Rutgers/Camden*3rd and Pearl Sts. Camden, NJ

May 13, 2012 @ 2:30 p.m. matinée

Farewell Recital*The Church of the Holy Trinity*

Rittenhouse Square, Philadelphia

Friday, May 11, 2012 @ 7:30 p.m.

Operas: \$60 adults / \$50 seniors / \$25 30 & Under / \$10 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 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 Gutiérrez, Angela Meade, Latonia Moore, Ailyn Pérez, Dongwon Shin, and James Valenti.

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