



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 7, 2011**

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## **AVA's Popular Giargiari Bel Canto Competition Relocated Kimmel Center renovations prompt relocation to the Church of the Holy Trinity on Rittenhouse Square**

**Tuesday, October 4, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.**

The Church of the Holy Trinity

Rittenhouse Square, Philadelphia

**Call 215-735-1685 for tickets or online at [www.avaopera.org](http://www.avaopera.org)**

**WRTI 90.1 FM broadcast and online voting October 9<sup>th</sup>.**

**Philadelphia:** On Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, The Academy of Vocal Arts' traditional season opener, the popular **Oreste A. Giargiari and Son Arturo Bel Canto Competition**, relocates to the Church of the Holy Trinity, due to roof repairs being made to its usual venue, the Perelman Theater.

The competition, which was founded in 1979, has produced winners who went on to successful careers on the international opera stage, such as Stuart Neill, Richard Troxell, Stephen Costello, Eglise Gutiérrez, Burak Bilgili, James Valenti, Dongwon Shin, and Angela Meade, winner of the 2011 Richard Tucker Award. A panel of distinguished judges has been assembled for this year's competition – Symphony in C's music director **Rossen Milanov**; Metropolitan Opera mezzo-soprano **Florence**

**Quivar**; and **Scott Barnes**, Opera News contributor and career development consultant. In addition to the judges, the audience chooses the “Audience Favorite” and the winners are announced live.

AVA Master Vocal Coach **Danielle Orlando** is the Music Director and Pianist for the competition. Among her many professional credits, Ms. Orlando has collaborated with the late Luciano Pavarotti as judge, accompanist, and music coordinator for the Luciano Pavarotti International Voice Competition, and as a guest judge for the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. She has accompanied internationally recognized artists such as Marcello Giordani, Alessandra Marc, Kallen Esperian, and Aprile Mollo. She has been seen on *Good Morning America*, *Live with Regis and Kathie Lee*, *Live by Request* on A&E, and the *Rosie O’Donnell Show* accompanying such artists as Luciano Pavarotti, Andrea Bocelli, and Michael Bolton.

**The 2011 Giargiari Bel Canto Competition is sponsored by Walter and Alice Strine.**

The Academy of Vocal Arts (AVA) is considered to be the world’s foremost tuition-free opera training program and selects young artists from around the world to train and perform in Philadelphia and surrounding counties. AVA offers a full season of staged operas, complete with orchestra, costumes, and sets, as well as concerts and recitals at venues in Center City, Bucks County, South Jersey, and Haverford, PA.

## FACT SHEET

**The Academy of Vocal Arts presents**

### **THE GIARGIARI BEL CANTO COMPETITION**

**Tuesday, October 4, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.**

Running time: Approximately 2 hours (includes voting and announcement of winner)

Ticket prices: Adults \$40 / Seniors \$35 / Students (ID required) \$10

(add \$35 each for Premium Seating)

Call 215 735-1685 (AVA) or online at [www.avaopera.org](http://www.avaopera.org)

Tickets available at the door

## **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.

**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.

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*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*  
3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS**

**TUTTO Series(7 productions) \$325 regular, \$500 Premium Seating\***  
**Flex 5 Series (5 Productions) \$260, Add \$35 per performance for Premium Seating\***  
**Flex 4 Series (4 productions) \$230, Add \$35 per performance for Premium Seating\***

**\*Premium Seating available for operas and Giargiari Competition only**

**SINGLE TICKET PRICES**

**Operas: \$60 adults / \$50 seniors / \$25 30 & Under / \$10 students**  
**Giargiari Competition and Jubilate!: \$40 adults / \$35 seniors / \$25 30&Under / \$10 students**  
**Recitals (New Artists, Russian Romances, Farewell): \$25 adults / \$25 seniors / \$20 30&Under / \$10 Students**  
**Add \$35 per person for PREMIUM SEATING (operas and Giargiari Competition only)**

**Special group rates available**

**For more info, 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 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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