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For more information contact: **Denise Stuart, Director of Marketing and Public Relations**

1920 Spruce Street Philadelphia, PA 19103

215 735-1685 dstuart@avaopera.org

An Evening of Russian Romances at The Academy of Vocal Arts with Ghenady Meirson and the AVA Artists

Philadelphia: Once again, Russian repertoire specialist **Ghenady Meirson** has prepared a program of varied, interesting, and ravishingly beautiful vocal music in this annual favorite, **An Evening of Russian Romances, Tuesday December 13 and Thursday, December 15, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. in AVA's Helen Corning Warden Theater.** Familiar composers such as Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninoff, and Rimsky-Korsakov are featured along with the lesser known Alyabyev, and Soviet-era composers Tikhon Khrennikov and Georgy Sviridov. Selections by contemporary composer Vladimir Ryabov will also be on the program. According to Mr. Meirson, Ryabov was one of the last students of Aram Khachaturian. While researching new music from the Russian Composers Union, Mr. Meirson came upon Ryabov's song cycle for tenor and piano, "On the Brink of Light and Darkness." AVA premiered the piece in 1995, with the composer in attendance.

Twenty-three AVA artists will perform, and Mr. Meirson will accompany on the piano. AVA's charming and intimate Warden Theater will be beautifully decorated for the holidays. Tickets are available by calling 215 735-1685 or online at www.avaopera.org. Ticket prices are \$25 adults and seniors; \$20 for 30 and Under, and student tickets are \$10.

FACT SHEET

An Evening of Russian Romances
Ghenady Meirson, Music Director and Pianist

(this program is preliminary and not in order or complete)

"The Queen of Spades" Duet from Act 3

Michelle Johnson, *soprano* and Viktor Antipenko, *tenor*

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)

"Romeo and Juliette"

Chloe Moore, *soprano* and John Viscardi, *tenor*

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)

"Evening" Duets Op 46 No 1

Sasha Hashemipour and Chrystal E. Williams, *mezzo-sopranos*

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)

"I am feeling Sad"

Margaret Mezzacappa, *mezzo-soprano*

Alexander Dargomyzhsky (1813 -1869)

"The Night"

Olivia Vote, *mezzo-soprano*

Anton Rubinstein (1829-1894)

"Song of the Drunkards"

From *Much Ado About Nothing*

Scott Conner, *bass*

Tikhon Khrennikov (1913-2007)

"The Saint Petersburg Song"

Musa Ngqungwana, *bass-baritone*

Georgy Sviridov (1915-1998)

"What's in My Name" Op 91 No 2

Patrick Guetti, *bass*

Dmitri Shostakovich (1906-1975)

"First Snow" Op 37 No 1 From *Winter Love Songs*

Christian Bowers, *baritone*

Vladimir Ryabov (1950 -)

"Winter Night" Op 37 No 4

From *Winter Love Songs*

Wes Mason, *baritone*

Vladimir Ryabov (1950 -)

"Late Night Lights" Op 54 No 3

Zach Borichevsky, *tenor*

From *On the Brink of Light and Darkness* (World premiere at AVA, 1995)

Vladimir Ryabov (1950 -)

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"Sunset" Op 54 No 1

William Davenport, *tenor*

From *On the Brink of Light and Darkness* (World premiere at AVA 1995)

Vladimir Ryabov (1950 -)

"The Nightingale"

Maria Aleida, *soprano*

Alexander Alyabyev (1787-1851)

"A Dream in the Summer Night" Op 56, No 2

Alexandra Maximova, *soprano*

Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakoff (1844-1908)

"Why?" Op 28 No 3

Luigi Boccia, *tenor*

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)

"Les Larmes" (in French)

Christopher Rimmel, *bass-baritone*

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)

"A Dream" Op 8 No 5

Nelson Ebo, *tenor*

Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)

"None But the Lonely Heart" Op 6 No 6

Zachary Nelson, *baritone*

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13 AND THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2011 @ 7:30 P.M.

**THE HELEN CORNING WARDEN THEATER AT AVA
1920 SPRUCE STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103**

THEATER IS WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE

**Complimentary Press Tickets are available by calling
The Academy of Vocal Arts at 215 735-1685.**

To purchase tickets, call AVA at 215 735-1685 or purchase online at www.avaopera.org

\$25 adults / \$25 seniors / \$20 30 and Under / \$10 students

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.

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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, Bryan Hymel, Angela Meade, Latonia Moore, Ailyn Pérez, Dongwon Shin, and James Valenti.

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