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The Academy of Vocal Arts Welcomes Visiting Artist, Metropolitan Opera Baritone William Stone

Philadelphia: The Academy of Vocal Arts welcomes visiting artist, **William Stone** this fall. Mr. Stone will work with some of AVA's talented resident artists on a one-to-one basis during the season. In addition to his career as an opera singer, concert artist, and recitalist, Mr. Stone's teaching experience includes master classes across the United States and in Europe, as well as positions with the Opera Theater and Music Festival of Lucca, Italy, and the University of Illinois. He currently serves as Professor of Voice and Opera with the Boyer College of Music and Dance at Temple University.

K. James McDowell, Executive Director of the Academy of Vocal Arts, says Mr. Stone was chosen to join the faculty because of his "proven record as a teacher and presenter of master classes, and his broad-based experience with opera, oratorio, art song, and his superior musicianship, which enabled him to portray many of the most interesting baritone roles in 20th century opera, such as *Mathis der Mahler* and *Wozzeck*."

Mr. Stone has sung extensively in the major opera houses of Europe and especially in Italy, having twice opened the May Festival in Florence as *Wozzeck* and as Orestes, in Gluck's *Iphigénie en Tauride* under Riccardo Muti. His creation of the role of Adam for the **Lyric Opera of Chicago's** world premiere of Penderecki's *Paradise Lost* was followed by his debut at **La Scala** in its European premiere.

His North American opera engagements include the **Metropolitan Opera** (*Moses und Aron*, *Wozzeck*, *La traviata*, *Sly*, *Die Fledermaus*, *Romeo et Juliette*, *Lucia*, *Madama Butterfly*), and at the **New York City Opera** as the Count in *Le nozze di Figaro* and the title roles in new productions of Hindemith's *Mathis der Maler* and Busoni's *Doktor Faust*, about which Alex Ross of the New York Times wrote in September, 1992, "Not the least of the problems that have kept Ferruccio Busoni's *Doktor Faust* out of circulation is the phenomenal difficulty of its title role... The New York City Opera... was fortunate to find a baritone of exceptional artistry and stamina for the role: William Stone."

As a concert artist, Mr. Stone has appeared with every major orchestra in the country, including the **New York Philharmonic**, under Kurt Masur, and the **Boston Symphony Orchestra**, under Seiji Ozawa. His long relationship with Robert Shaw resulted in two Grammy Award recordings.

Equally at home on the recital stage, Mr. Stone considers his many performances of Wolf's *Italienisches Liederbuch* with Benita Valente and David Golub among the most memorable.

(more)

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 Pérez, Dongwon Shin, and James Valenti.

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