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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Opera Columbus Announces 2009-2010 Season

(Columbus, OH) - Opera Columbus announces its 2009-2010 season which includes two grand operas and two concerts.

Four shows will compose Opera Columbus' 29th season: *Go Wild! for Opera* at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium (July 10, 2009, 8 p.m.), *Pagliacci* at the Ohio Theatre (October 23, at 8 p.m., & 25, at 2 p.m., 2009), a *Mario Lanza Tribute Concert* at the Palace Theatre (December 12, 2009, 8 p.m.) and *Romeo & Juliet* at the Ohio Theatre (February 12, at 8 p.m., & 14, at 2 p.m., 2010).

Two subscription options are available including a three-show and two-show package. *Go Wild! for Opera* will be available as an add-on show to any package. Subscription renewals for 2008-2009 subscribers will begin on May 18. New subscriptions will go on sale beginning July 1, 2009. Subscriptions range in price from \$45.00 - \$247.50 and can be ordered by calling 614.469.0939. Single tickets will go on sale September 1, 2009.

About the Shows

Go Wild! For Opera at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium

The seventh annual *Go Wild! for Opera* at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium concert will be held on the evening of July 10, 2009 at 8 p.m. at the Columbus Zoo's Water's Edge Events Park. The concert, *One Enchanted Evening: The Music of Rodgers & Hammerstein and Andrew Lloyd Webber*, will some of Columbus' most talented singers, including **Sean Anderson**, **Benjamin Bunsold**, **Sarah Lewis Jones** and **Katherine Tombaugh**.

The concert, with emcees Cabot Rea and Chuck Gillespie, will feature music from *Carousel, South Pacific, Oklahoma!, Evita, The Phantom of the Opera* and many others.

Several ticket options are currently available to this add-on event including patron tickets which include a pre-concert dinner. For ticket pricing and purchases, please call 614.724-3570 or visit www.columbuszoo.org.

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<u>Pagliacci</u>

Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci*, performed on the Ohio Theatre stage on October 23 (8 p.m.) and 25 (2 p.m.), 2009, tells the tragic story of a traveling troupe of actors who perform a play throughout the course of the opera. Nedda (**Robin Follman**), Canio's (**Roy Cornelius Smith**) wife, is having an affair with Silvio (**Sean Anderson**). Tonio (**Grant Youngblood**), in love with Nedda, reveals this to Canio, who must decide how to make the show go on while dealing with a broken heart. Unfortunately, the action of the play mirrors that of Nedda and Canio's relationship and tragic consequences ensue as theatre and real life blur in this verismo shocker.

Sung in Italian with English supertitles, the opera will be directed by **William Florescu**, conducted by **William Boggs** and accompanied by the **Columbus Symphony Orchestra**.

Mario Lanza Tribute Concert

The artistry of singing sensation Mario Lanza will be re-lived with a special tribute concert performed by renowned tenors **Eduardo Villa**, **Randolph Locke** and **Gerard Powers**. Rare performance video of this legendary tenor will also be used to celebrate Mario Lanza's music at the Palace Theatre on December 12, 2009 at 8 p.m.

Romeo & Juliet

Gounod's beautiful music sets the scene for this romantic retelling of Shakespeare's classic play. *Romeo & Juliet*, performed on the Ohio Theatre stage on February 12 & 14, 2010, tells the story of two star-crossed lovers, their feuding families and the tragic chain of events that lead to several deaths. Romeo and Juliet (played by real-life married couple **Jonathan Boyd** and **Malinda Haslett**) meet at the Capulet ball and fall madly in love. Neither family approves of the young love, so they are secretly married by Friar Laurent (**Brian Banion**). Through a series of misfortunate circumstances the young couple meets a perilous end.

Sung in French with English supertitles, the opera will be directed by **John Hoomes**, conducted by **William Boggs** and accompanied by the **Columbus Symphony Orchestra**.

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Opera Columbus enriches Central Ohio, educating, enlightening, and entertaining people of all ages and backgrounds through the live music theatre experience by employing a diverse supply of creative talent, ideas and artistic energies.

OPERA COLUMBUS 2009-2010 SEASON

Go Wild! for Opera
Columbus Zoo and Aquarium • July 10, 2009
Pagliacci by Ruggiero Leoncavallo
Ohio Theatre • October 23 & 25, 2009
Mario Lanza Tribute Concert
Palace Theatre • December 12, 2009
Romeo & Juliet by Charles Gounod
Ohio Theatre • February 12 & 14, 2010