

PITTSBURGH OPERA

For Immediate Release

April 22, 2009

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**Internationally-Renowned Mezzo-Soprano Vivica Genaux
to Perform Benefit Concert for Pittsburgh Opera**

Pittsburgh, PA... Internationally acclaimed mezzo-soprano Vivica Genaux will perform a benefit concert for [Pittsburgh Opera](#) on Wednesday, May 6 at the company's new headquarters in the Strip District.

*Experience is
Everything
2008-2009
Season*

Since her Pittsburgh Opera debut as Angelina in *Cinderella (La cenerentola)* in 2002, Genaux has returned as Romeo in *The Capulets and The Montagues (I Capuleti e i Montecchi)* and will be starring as Isabella in the May 2, 5, 8 and 10 performances of [The Italian Girl in Algiers \(L'italiana in Algeri\)](#).

In 2008, Genaux was honored at Pittsburgh Opera's annual [Maecenas](#) gala with the Renaissance Award for her contributions to the industry and for advancing opera as an art form. In an unfortunate twist, Genaux accepted her award at the gala but was unable to perform due to the sudden onset of laryngitis. Genaux has graciously offered this upcoming performance as recompense.

"Pittsburgh Opera is very near and dear to my heart," said Genaux. "Having studied in Pittsburgh with Claudia Pinza and then living here for many years, I was able to enjoy many of the Opera's productions, both as a performer and an audience member. I am very excited to be helping support such a wonderful opera company."

Genaux will be performing a compilation of Neapolitan and Andalusian songs. She will be accompanied by Spanish-born pianist Carlos de Aragon. De Aragon specializes as an opera accompanist and has worked with artists such as Angeles Blancas-Gulin, Ainoha Arteta, Cecilia Lavilla-Berganza, Maria Grazia Schiavo and Sonia Prina.

(more)

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The May 6 event will begin with a cocktail reception at 5:00 PM, followed by the concert at 6:00 PM and a dinner at 7:00 PM. Tickets are \$100 per person with all proceeds benefiting Pittsburgh Opera. Reservations are required by May 1. To make a reservation, contact Erin Wolfe at (412) 281-0912 ext. 204 or ewolfe@pittsburghopera.org.

[Pittsburgh Opera](#), now celebrating its 70th season, is one of America's leading opera companies. It produces a range of programs, from mainstage productions to free community concerts to intimate cabarets. Pittsburgh Opera's internationally renowned resident artist program is among the country's top five training centers for rising opera stars. More than 20,000 students, families and educators participate in Pittsburgh Opera educational events annually. The company's newly designed administrative and rehearsal space is housed in a 140-year-old air brake factory in the city's Strip District.

2008-2009 Season

[Samson & Dalila](#) by Camille Saint-Saëns – October 18, 21, 24, 26, 2008

[The Grapes of Wrath](#) by Ricky Ian Gordon – November 15, 18, 21, 23, 2008

[Don Pasquale](#) by Gaetano Donizetti – February 7, 10, 13, 15, 2009

[La Bohème](#) by Giacomo Puccini – March 28, 31, April 3, 5, 2009

[The Italian Girl in Algiers](#) (L'italiana in Algeri) by Gioachino Rossini – May 2, 5, 8, 10, 2009

Subscriptions for as little as \$41. Single tickets for as little as \$16. For ticket information visit our website www.pittsburghopera.org or call (412) 281-0912

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