

PITTSBURGH OPERA

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**Pittsburgh Opera Honors Internationally Renowned Mezzo-Soprano
 Marianne Cornetti with Renaissance Award**

Pittsburgh, PA... [Pittsburgh Opera](#) will present internationally-renowned mezzo-soprano Marianne Cornetti with the Pittsburgh Opera Renaissance Award at the Company's 25th annual [Maecenas](#) gala on May 16 at the Benedum Center.

The Pittsburgh Opera Renaissance Award is given to individuals for their outstanding contributions to the industry and for advancing opera as an art form. Previous award winners include mezzo-soprano Vivica Genaux, mezzo-soprano Stephanie Blythe, baritone Nathan Gunn, composer Jake Heggie and librettist Terrence McNally of *Dead Man Walking*, soprano Renata Scotto, Pittsburgh Opera General Director Emeritus Tito Capobianco and soprano Beverly Sills.

*Experience is
 Everything
 2008-2009
 Season*

An alumna of the [Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist Program](#) and a native of Western Pennsylvania, Ms. Cornetti is recognized internationally as one of the leading Verdi mezzo-sopranos. She has appeared in the great Verdi roles at theatres including Pittsburgh Opera, the Teatro alla Scala, Metropolitan Opera, Vienna State Opera, Bayerische Staatsoper, Teatro dell'Opera di Roma, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Teatro Comunale in Florence, the Arena di Verona and the Teatro San Carlo in Naples.

Since her operatic and professional debut with Pittsburgh Opera 20 years ago, Ms. Cornetti has performed numerous roles with the Company including Marthe in *Faust*, Berta in *The Barber of Seville*, Marta in *Mefistofele*, Suzuki in *Madame Butterfly*, Azucena in *Il Trovatore*, Ulrica in *Masked Ball* and most recently in 2008 when she flew in from Amsterdam on a day's notice to rescue Pittsburgh Opera's production of *Aida* by stepping in to sing the role of Amneris.

Ms. Cornetti frequently performs in concert such works as Verdi's *Requiem*, Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9*, Rossini's *Stabat Mater*, Elgar's *Sea Pictures* and De Falla's *El Amor Brujo*. She has appeared as a soloist in the concert version of *Amaya*, recorded on the Marco Polo label, with the Bilbao Orquesta Sinfonica and Choral Society under the conduction of Theo Alcantara. She has also recorded Cilea's *L'Arlesiana* and Puccini's *Edgar* opposite Placido Domingo.

(more)

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In addition to recognition on stage, Ms. Cornetti is widely known as an advocate for young artists, giving generously of her time and expertise. She has worked on many occasions with Pittsburgh Opera's Resident Artists in personal coaching sessions as well as public Master Classes. In February of this year, Ms. Cornetti moderated the 2008-2009 Pittsburgh Opera High School Vocal Mock Auditions. These mock auditions give high school students studying classical vocal music an opportunity to experience the college audition process with feedback from the panel as well as a Q&A session. In addition to her work in the United States, Ms. Cornetti also offers her talents and expertise to young artists around the world, most recently conducting Master Classes in Romania.

"Ms. Cornetti is such a delight," said [General Director Christopher Hahn](#). "Her work with young artists has made a notable impact on the lives of so many. We are very proud to honor her with this award."

To make a tribute gift in honor of Ms. Cornetti, purchase a table or to make single reservations for the Maecenas gala, contact Tim Richart, Director of Special Events at (412) 281-0912 ext. 225 or trichart@pittsburghopera.org.

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[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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