

PITTSBURGH OPERA

For Immediate Release

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Pittsburgh Opera showcases its Resident Artists in a "Rising Stars" concert, Sept. 25 A RADical Days Event

Pittsburgh, PA... [Pittsburgh Opera](#) will soon welcome its 2010-'11 Resident Artists as it prepares for the annual Rising Stars concert on Saturday, September 25 at 6:00 PM, at the Company's headquarters at 2425 Liberty Avenue in the Strip District. A [RADical Days](#) event, this yearly introduction to the Resident Artists attracts 300+ guests to witness the Resident Artists' grace under pressure in a unique audition-format concert that now includes direct audience participation. The [Resident Artists](#) introduce themselves first via their favorite arias, and then audience members will be able to vote on the final aria, via texting technology.

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[Christopher Hahn](#), Pittsburgh Opera General Director, is excited about the audience participation element added to concert. "For once, we ask you to bring your cell phones to a Pittsburgh Opera production – and turn them on!" Instructions for voting via text message will be given at the event.

Rising Stars 2010 welcomes back second-year Resident Artists [Lindsay Ammann](#), mezzo-soprano; [Shannon K. Dooley](#), soprano; [James Flora](#), tenor; and [Dan Kempson](#), baritone. The event is also a debut for first-year Resident Artists [Adam Fry](#), bass; [Stephanie Lauricella](#), mezzo-soprano; and [Alexandra Loutsion](#), soprano.

Admission is free but reservations are required. Reservations are limited to four seats per person. To reserve a seat, call 412-281-0912 x 216 by 4:00 PM on Friday, September 24.

The Resident Artist program is the backbone of Pittsburgh Opera's education and outreach programs, and gives each singer varied performing opportunities plus vocal coaching and career guidance. This season, the Resident Artists will perform a total of 14 roles on the Benedum Center stage and all of the principal roles in *Rinaldo* at CAPA Theater in January/February, as well as the principal roles in the *Barber of Seville* Student Matinee.

Each year, an exceptionally talented group of opera singers is chosen to enter Pittsburgh Opera's program from a pool of over 600 applicants, through a highly competitive audition process that attests to the program's standards of excellence. Several Resident Artists have gone on to be regular performers at the major opera houses around the world, including [Kate Aldrich](#) (1998-2000) and [Rolando Villazón](#) (1998-'99).

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**Giant Eagle Foundation is the 2010-11 season sponsor of the Resident Artist program.
PNC Financial Services Group is Pittsburgh Opera's 2010-2011 season sponsor.
Pittsburgh Opera receives funding from Allegheny Regional Asset District.**

Pittsburgh Opera 2010-11 Resident Artists



LINDSAY AMMANN, mezzo-soprano

Lindsay Ammann is a second-year Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist. In the 2010-11 season, she is slated to perform *Alisa/Lucia di Lammermoor* and *Goffredo/Rinaldo*. In 2009-10, she sang *Olga/Eugene Onegin*, *Mistress Quickly/Falstaff*, *Lucretia/The Rape of Lucretia*, and *Marcellina/The Marriage of Figaro*. She also was the mezzo soloist in Erie Philharmonic's Verdi Requiem. She reprised *Olga/Eugene Onegin* at Opera Theatre of Saint Louis in Summer 2010, and has also sung the roles of Page of

Herodias/Salome, *Kate Pinkerton/Madame Butterfly*. In 2008, Ms. Ammann also sang the roles of *Lola/Cavalleria Rusticana* and *3rd Lady/Die Zauberflöte*. She has many competition wins including: National Semi-Finalist in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions 2007, Finalist in the HGO Eleanor McCollum Competition 2009, and an Encouragement Award in the Lissner Foundation Competition 2009. As a Masters student at Indiana University, Ms. Ammann was an Associate Instructor of Voice and continues her studies with Costanza Cuccaro. Ms. Ammann makes her Metropolitan Opera debut in April 2011 as *Rossweisse/Die Walküre*. **Mr. and Mrs. Stuart P. Simpson and Margaret Terbell generously sponsor Ms. Ammann's residency.**



SHANNON K. DOOLEY, soprano

Shannon Kessler Dooley is a second-year Resident Artist with Pittsburgh Opera. In the 2010-11 season, she will perform as *Almirena/Rinaldo* and *Sister Constance/Dialogues of the Carmelites*. In the 2009-2010 season, she was seen as *Nannetta/Falstaff*, *Lucia/The Rape of Lucretia*, *Frasquita/Carmen* and *Susanna/The Marriage of Figaro* Student Matinee. She has also recently performed as *Zerlina/Don Giovanni* and *Clorinda/La Cenerentola* with Utah Opera. In Summer 2010, Ms. Dooley was seen as

Narcissa/Philemon and Baucis at Spoleto Festival USA. Ms. Dooley's concert credits include soprano solos in *The Messiah* and *Peer Gynt* with Utah Symphony and the Brahms Requiem solo with her undergraduate alumni, Webster University Symphony, in St. Louis. She was the Utah District winner of the Metropolitan Opera Council Competition and received a Regional Encouragement Award. Ms. Dooley is an avid recitalist, with French repertoire closest to her heart. Mrs. Dooley's education includes two Master's degrees from New England Conservatory of Music and participation in apprentice programs at The Santa Fe Opera, Utah Opera, Tulsa Opera and Ash Lawn Opera Festival. **Dr. and Mrs. George R. White generously sponsor Ms. Dooley's residency.**

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JAMES FLORA, tenor

James Flora is a second-year Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist. In the 2010-11 season, he will be seen on the main stage as Arturo/*Lucia di Lammermoor*, Pang/*Turandot*, and L'Aumonier/*Dialogues of the Carmelites*. In 2009-10, he was seen as Fenton/*Falstaff* and Dancairo/*Carmen*. Mr. Flora returns to Pittsburgh after spending a summer in Maine singing Don Ottavio/*Don Giovanni* at Quisisana on Lake Kezar. He holds a Bachelor of Music from The Ohio State University and a Master of Music in Voice from

Florida State University, where he sang Orpheus/*Orpheus in the Underworld*, Mayor/*Albert Herring*, and The Man in the world premiere of *The Art*. Mr. Flora was a Young American Artist at Glimmerglass Opera in Summer 2009, where he covered Gastone/*La traviata*. At Arizona Opera from 2007-2009, Mr. Flora was an inaugural member of the Arizona Opera Studio and appeared on the mainstage as Spoletta/*Tosca*. Other mainstage assignments included covering the roles of Don Ottavio/*Don Giovanni*, Nemorino/*The Elixir of Love*, and Nanki-Poo/*The Mikado*. He also performed several small roles and understudied leading tenor roles in productions of *Die Fledermaus*, *The Magic Flute* and *La traviata*. He made his Arizona Opera debut as Malcolm/*Macbeth* and performed as Elder Gleaton/*Susannah*. **Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Sclabassi generously sponsor Mr. Flora's residency.**

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ADAM FRY, bass

Pennsylvania native Adam Fry is a first-year Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist. In 2010-11, he is slated to cover Basilio/*The Barber of Seville*, Raimondo/*Lucia di Lammermoor*, and perform the roles of Mago/Herald in *Rinaldo* plus Basilio/*The Barber of Seville* Student Matinee. In 2009, Mr. Fry was a member of Glimmerglass Opera's esteemed Young American Artist Program, where as a cover he went on stage to perform Don Magnifico/*La Cenerentola*, and both Marchese d'Obigny and Dr.

Grenvil/*La traviata*. In 2010 at Glimmerglass, he sang the role of Bartolo/*Le nozze di Figaro*. While pursuing both his Artist Diploma and Master's of Music at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, he performed Colline/*La bohème*, Don Basilio/*Il barbiere di Siviglia*, Man with a Cornet Case/*Postcard from Morocco*, and Dulcamara/*L'elisir d'amore*. Since making his Dayton Opera debut as the Imperial Commissioner/*Madame Butterfly*, Mr. Fry has continued his relationship with the company, also appearing as the Mandarin/*Turandot*, and as Doctor/Servant/*Macbeth*. Mr. Fry has also been a member of the Chautauqua Young Artist Program and the Lake George Opera Studio Program. Recent competition wins include First Prize and Audience Favorite in the Dayton Opera Guild College Competition, Third Place at the Annapolis Opera Competition, Finalist at the Lotte Lenya Competition, and CCM's Andrew White and Norman Treigle awards. **Mr. and Mrs. John E. Traina generously sponsor Mr. Fry's residency.**

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DAN KEMPSON, baritone

Dan Kempson is a second-year Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist; he will sing *Fiorello/The Barber of Seville* and *Argante/Rinaldo*; he will also cover *Figaro/The Barber of Seville*. In 2009-10, he was seen as *Tarquinius/The Rape of Lucretia*, *Morales/Carmen*, and *Count Almaviva/The Marriage of Figaro* Student Matinee. He spent of the summer of 2010 with the Merola Opera Program of the San Francisco Opera, where he sang scenes of *Figaro/The Barber of Seville*, *Ford/Merry Wives of Windsor*, and the title role of *Hamlet*. A graduate of Manhattan School of Music (MM 2009) and Peabody Conservatory (BM 2007), his school performances included *Gabriel von Eisenstein/Die Fledermaus*, *George Jones/Street Scene*, and *Carl-Magnus/A Little Night Music*, and *Count Almaviva/The Marriage of Figaro*. Other previous performances include *Belcore (cover)/L'elisir d'amore* with the Caramoor Festival, and *Carmina Burana* with the Yale Symphony Orchestra and Connecticut Master Chorale. He can also be found on Albany Records' recording of John Musto's *Later the Same Evening*. A 2009 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions Boston District winner, Dan has received awards from the Gerda Lissner Foundation and Opera Index, Inc, and been a Semifinalist in the Eleanor McCollum Competition of the Houston Grand Opera. **Mr. James Moore generously sponsors Mr. Kempson's residency.**

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STEPHANIE LAURICELLA, mezzo-soprano

Stephanie Lauricella is a first-year Resident Artist with Pittsburgh Opera. In the 2010-11 season she is slated to perform *Rosina/The Barber of Seville* Student Matinee, the title role in *Rinaldo* and *Sister Mathilde* in *Dialogues of the Carmelites*. Ms. Lauricella spent Summer 2010 at The Santa Fe Opera covering *Kate Pinkerton/Madama Butterfly*, *Second Lady/The Magic Flute*, and *Estrella* in the world premiere of *Life is a Dream*. Ms. Lauricella's other roles include *Mrs. Segstrom/A Little Night Music*, *Angelina/La Cenerentola*, *Lola/Cavalleria Rusticana* and *Hansel/Hansel and Gretel*. She has also performed in scene studies as *Meg Page/Falstaff*, *Rosina/The Barber of Seville*, and *Romeo/I Capuleti e i Montecchi*. Ms. Lauricella is a past studio and apprentice artist at Sarasota Opera and Central City Opera, where she was awarded the McGlone Award; in May 2010, she was also a finalist in the Fritz and Lavinia Jensen Foundation Competition. She also studied in Italy at the Opera Theater and Music Festival of Lucca. Ms. Lauricella holds a Master's of Music in vocal performance from Manhattan School of Music and a Bachelor's of Music in vocal performance from Ithaca College, and is currently studying with Barbara Honn in New York City. **Mr. and Mrs. Hans Fleischner generously sponsor Ms. Lauricella's residency.**

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ALEXANDRA LOUSSION, soprano

Alexandra Loutsion, a Pittsburgh area native, is a first-year Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist. In the 2010-11 season, she is slated to appear as Berta/*The Barber of Seville* and Armida/*Rinaldo*. As a 2010 Apprentice Artist at Central City Opera, she sang Cio-Cio San/*Madama Butterfly* family performance, and Minerva/*Orpheus in the Underworld*. In April 2010, Ms. Loutsion sang Isabella in the West Coast premiere of Wagner's *Das Liebesverbot* with the USC Thornton Opera as a featured production of Ring Festival LA. Previous roles at USC include Donna Anna/*Don Giovanni*, Alma/*Summer and Smoke*, and Fay Doyle in the West Coast premiere of Lowell Liebermann's *Miss Lonelyhearts*. Other roles include Second Woman/*The Dido Project* with Sybarite 5, Witch/*The Mortal Thoughts of Lady Macbeth* (Los Angeles premiere) with Vera Ikon Productions and Sie/*Wachsfiguren Kabinett* with the Aspen Music Festival. Ms. Loutsion recently had the honor of singing for His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew at the Athenagoras Human Rights Award Weekend Celebration in New York City. Recent awards include the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions District winner, the John Moriarty Award from Central City Opera, and Aspen Music Festival New Horizon Fellowship. Ms. Loutsion holds music degrees from the University of Southern California and Ithaca College. **Pat and Michele Atkins generously sponsor Ms. Loutsion's residency.**

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Pittsburgh Opera's 2010-2011 season continues a 72-year tradition of excellence in opera. As part of the Company's continued efforts to make opera accessible to all members of the community, single tickets for the 2010-2011 season will again start at just \$10, with subscriptions starting at just \$43 for four mainstage operas. Subscriptions and single tickets are now on sale.

2010-2011 Season

[The Barber of Seville](#) October 9, 12, 15, 17, 2010

[Lucia di Lammermoor](#) November 13, 16, 19, 21, 2010

[Rinaldo](#) January 29; February 1, 4, 6, 2011

[Turandot](#) March 26, 29; April 1, 3, 2011

[Dialogues of the Carmelites](#) April 30; May 3, 6, 8, 2011

Single tickets for as little as \$10

Season subscriptions for as little as \$43

For ticket information visit our website www.pittsburghopera.org or call (412) 281-0912

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