

PITTSBURGH OPERA

For Immediate Release

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The Diamond Horseshoe Ball

Pittsburgh Opera Opens the 2009-2010 Season in Russian Grand Style

Saturday, September 26, 2009

4:30 PM Cocktails

EQT Plaza across from the Benedum Center

6:00 PM Opening Night Performance of *Eugene Onegin**

Benedum Center for the Performing Arts

9:30 PM Dinner followed by Dancing

Westin Convention Center Hotel

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2009-2010
Season

Pittsburgh, PA...As a principal in the city's cultural community since 1939, [Pittsburgh Opera](#) and its events have developed a reputation for grand style, elegance and lively excitement. [The Diamond Horseshoe Ball](#), one of the Company's most popular and longest running signature events, is no exception.

The name Diamond Horseshoe is derived from the first tier of box seats in the old Metropolitan Opera in New York. U-shaped and slightly elevated from the stage, the seats were filled with the wealthiest patrons clad in all their sparkling diamond jewelry. This tier became commonly known as the Diamond Horseshoe.

Presented by the Pittsburgh Opera Association – an auxiliary group whose purpose is to promote an active interest in and to help financially support Pittsburgh Opera – The 55th annual Diamond Horseshoe Ball will kick off the 2009-2010 season with all the glamour and excitement befitting its noble name, on Saturday, September 26, 2009. All proceeds benefit Pittsburgh Opera.

Guests will begin the evening at 4:30 PM with an elegant, Russian-inspired cocktail reception in downtown Pittsburgh's EQT Plaza. While enjoying hors d'oeuvres and sipping wine – and maybe a little vodka too – guests will be serenaded with classic Russian music.

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For the 6:00 PM curtain of Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin*, the glamour continues as guests walk across 7th Street to the Benedum Center on a Hollywood-style red carpet.

Once seated, guests will enjoy the beautifully moving music of Tchaikovsky and the operatic talents of the world-renowned ensemble cast – soprano Anna Samuil, baritone Dwayne Croft, tenor Raymond Very, mezzo-soprano Susanne Mentzer and bass Oren Gradus.

After the performance, guests will be chauffeured from the Benedum Center to the Westin Hotel Ballroom where, following a multi-course Russian-style dinner service, guests will be invited to dance the night away under the sparkling chandeliers of the ballroom.

Tickets for the 55th annual Diamond Horseshoe Ball are \$350 – \$500 per person. To purchase tickets online, visit www.pittsburghopera.org. To purchase tickets by phone, call (412) 281-0912 ext. 216.

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Season

**Please note that performance tickets are the responsibility of each guest. To purchase performance tickets call 412-456-6666 or visit www.pittsburghopera.org.*

Diamond Horseshoe Event Chairs

Drs. Ellen and Loren Roth

Pittsburgh Opera Association

Mary Turner, President

Pittsburgh Opera Board

Michele Fabrizi, Chair

John Traina, President

Pittsburgh Opera

Christopher Hahn, General Director

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Drs. Ellen and Loren Roth – Getting to the Point, Inc.

The Roths and [Getting to the Point, Inc.](#) are uniquely qualified to be Pittsburgh Opera's ambassadors to the G20 international community that will be invited to share the excitement of Pittsburgh Opera's opening night – featuring a much-loved Russian opera and adding additional international flair to the activities of the G20 Summit.

Dr. Loren Roth is a student of Russian culture and history having worked with the US State Department and Soviet Foreign Ministry during the 1980s. He is Chairman of the Board of the Pittsburgh Regional Business Coalition for Homeland Security, which is assisting local companies make plans for business continuity throughout the G20 summit. Dr. Ellen Roth is President of Getting to the Point, Inc., a premier relocation company that has had a positive impact on business growth in Southwestern Pennsylvania through the recruitment, relocation and retention of executive talent and international companies to the Greater Pittsburgh Region. She has also been a member of the Pittsburgh Opera Board of Directors since 2007 and is a co-chair of the Education committee.

Discover Yourself
2009-2010
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[Pittsburgh Opera](#) celebrates its 71st season in 2009-10 with *Eugene Onegin, Falstaff, The Rape of Lucretia, Carmen and The Marriage of Figaro*. In addition to its mainstage productions, Pittsburgh Opera produces a range of programs to engage and enrich the community with more than 20,000 students, families and educators participating in its educational events annually. The internationally-renowned Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist Program is among the country's top training programs for rising opera stars, and the company's newly-designed administrative and rehearsal space, housed in a 139-year-old Air Brake Factory in the city's Strip District, provides space for events ranging from free community Brown Bag concerts to concert and recitals by world-class opera singers.

[2009-2010 Season](#)

[Eugene Onegin](#) September 26, 29; October 2, 4, 2009

[Falstaff](#) October 24, 27, 30, November 1, 2009

[The Rape of Lucretia](#) January 30; February 2, 5, 7, 2010

[Carmen](#) March 20, 23, 26, 28, 2010

[The Marriage of Figaro](#) April 24, 27, 30; May 2, 2010

Single tickets for as little as \$10

Season subscriptions for as little as \$21

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

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