

Pittsburgh OPERA NEWS RELEASE

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Artist performing with Pittsburgh Opera in *Aida* wins major award

Stephanie Blythe wins prestigious *Opera News* award for artistic excellence

Mezzo-soprano Stephanie Blythe, who appears next spring as Amneris in Pittsburgh Opera's *Aida*, has just been named one of the five winners of the coveted *Opera News* award, which is co-sponsored by Metropolitan Opera Guild. Artistic Director Christopher Hahn commented, "We are delighted to be bringing Stephanie to Pittsburgh audiences, and this award from a major force in the opera world confirms our view. What's even more important is that Stephanie has chosen Pittsburgh Opera to make her role debut as Amneris here - an encouraging sign as we continue to attract world-class singers to our roster." Hahn also noted that Ms. Blythe will be making yet another major role debut in the following season, the details of which will be announced in February. Among the other *Opera News* award winners is legendary conductor Julius Rudel, who led *The Barber of Seville* here in 2003. For the rest of the winners, click here <http://www.playbillarts.com/news/article/7170.html>

For more information, please contact Pittsburgh Opera at 412-281-0192.

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