

**PITTSBURGH OPERA NEWS RELEASE**

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## **CHATHAM BAROQUE AND PITTSBURGH OPERA CENTER REUNITE FOR “MUSIC OF LOVE & WAR”**

**WHAT** “Music of Love & War” Concert with Chatham Baroque and the Resident Artists of Pittsburgh Opera

**WHERE** Hillman Center for the Performing Arts, Shady Side Academy, Senior School Campus  
 423 Fox Chapel Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15238

**WHEN** Saturday, February 9 at 8:00 PM

**TICKETS** General admission \$25 (\$22 in advance); seniors \$20;  
 students \$8. Call (412) 687-1788.

Pittsburgh, PA... [Chatham Baroque](#) and [Pittsburgh Opera](#) combine forces once again, this time for the music of Claudio Monteverdi, John Dowland, and other Baroque masters. The torments of love and war—expressed in solos, duets, madrigals, lute songs, and more—have never sounded so sweet.

Last year’s highly successful collaboration on Cavalli’s opera *Ormindo* followed two other audience and critical favorites: Monteverdi’s *The Coronation of Poppea* and *The Return of Ulysses*.

The concert takes place on Saturday, February 9 at 8:00 PM at the Hillman Center for the Performing Arts at Shady Side Academy (Senior School Campus). General admission tickets can be purchased in advance for \$22 (\$25 at the door); seniors \$20 and students \$8. For tickets visit [www.pittsburghopera.org](http://www.pittsburghopera.org) or call (412) 687-1788. Proceeds benefit both organizations.

Chatham Baroque’s ensemble of **Julie Andrijeski** (baroque violin) **Patricia Halverson** (viola da gamba) and **Scott Pauley** (theorbo, lute and baroque guitar) provide a compelling and multi-faceted accompaniment for six of the resident artists of Pittsburgh Opera in a program that includes English lute songs by John Dowland, Robert Jones, and Nicholas Lanier, along with spectacular Italian solo and ensemble madrigals by Claudio Monteverdi, whose madrigal dramas were among the ancestors of opera. Bringing the words and drama to life are soprano **Deborah Selig**, mezzo-soprano **Katherine Drago**, tenors **Carlos Feliciano** and **Dean Kokanos**, baritone **Jonathan Beyer**, and bass **Liam Moran**.

Pittsburgh Opera's Artistic Director, Christopher Hahn, noted that traditional opera audiences are becoming more interested in repertoire of the early Baroque. "The increasing number of fine performances of early opera and other dramatic vocal works—including those wonderful madrigals of Monteverdi—prove that audiences are hungry for passionate performances of this music. By collaborating with Chatham Baroque, one of the premier ensembles in the country, we are able to offer our audiences the complete spectrum of dramatic vocal music this season, from the 16th century right up to Jonathan Dove's new opera, *Flight*."

Chatham Baroque's Co-Artistic Director and lutenist, Scott Pauley, says, "The chance to work with outstanding young singers, many of whom are rising stars in the opera world, is always a welcome treat for us. Working with the Opera Center has allowed us to expand our repertoire by participating in several fully staged operas of Monteverdi and Cavalli, which we as a small chamber ensemble don't have the resources to produce ourselves. This year's concert gives both opera audiences and early music audiences the chance to hear lovely and rarely-heard gems by these early baroque masters."

[The Pittsburgh Opera Center](#) is one of America's premier training centers for young opera singers. Competitively selected from over 500 applicants each year, these resident artists are among the nation's most sought-after emerging opera singers. Through performance opportunities, community outreach, and coaching with the opera industry's most distinguished professionals, alumni of Pittsburgh Opera's resident artist program perform on the world's greatest stages.

[Chatham Baroque](#), western Pennsylvania's only professional baroque ensemble playing on period instruments, excites audiences with dazzling technique and artful interpretation. In recent years the trio has taken its performances and educational programs to Montreal, Mexico City, the British Virgin Islands, California, Texas, Ohio, Maryland, Tennessee, Florida, North Carolina, Alabama and Washington, DC. Chatham Baroque's performances at the 2005 Piccolo Spoleto Festival were so popular that the ensemble was immediately invited to return in 2006, where it once again received great praise. Chatham Baroque's live performances have been recorded and broadcast on NPR's *Performance Today*, generating calls and e-mails from as close to Pittsburgh as Virginia and as far away as Montana and Denmark.

**Web links:**

Opera Center bios: [http://www.pittsburghopera.org/opera\\_center/opera\\_center\\_0708artists.shtml](http://www.pittsburghopera.org/opera_center/opera_center_0708artists.shtml)

Chatham Baroque bios: <http://www.chathambaroque.org/bios.html>

Pittsburgh Opera, celebrating 69 years of opera in southwestern Pennsylvania, is a member of OPERA America, the national organization for opera companies, and the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council. Pittsburgh Opera's performances are supported, in part, by the National Endowment for the Arts, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, the PA Department of Community and Economic Development, and Allegheny Regional Asset District. The *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* and WQED-FM are season media sponsors.