

## **Pittsburgh Opera NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Jane Dutton replaces Stephanie Blythe in Pittsburgh Opera's *Aida***

**Pittsburgh, PA** . . . Opera companies expect their drama in high doses, but this week at Pittsburgh Opera has been more stimulating than most. Mezzo-soprano superstar **Stephanie Blythe** was to have made her long-anticipated company and role debut as Amneris in Pittsburgh Opera's production of Verdi's *Aida*. Blythe, however, fell victim to a virus and had to bow out the day before the show opened on March 29.

Following a remarkable last-minute rescue of the opening night by **Marianne Cornetti**, Ms. Blythe had to cancel the second performance, leaving the company without a back-up for the remaining shows. This time Artistic Director Christopher Hahn secured **Jane Dutton**, another highly-regarded American mezzo who has recently added the killer role to her repertoire with highly successful performances at English National Opera. Dutton sings the Tuesday, April 1 performance and remains available to safeguard the production. Pittsburgh Opera anticipates the return of a healthy Ms. Blythe for the final performances on April 4th and 6th.

Ms. Cornetti's appearance was nigh on miraculous. An experienced Amneris and alumna of the company's training program, the Pittsburgh Opera Center, Cornetti was released from a rehearsal in Amsterdam and got the last available seat on a KLM flight. She arrived in Pittsburgh at 2:30 PM, and after a mad dash from the airport, a brief rehearsal and costume fitting, the Metropolitan Opera star nailed the 8 PM performance. She returned to Amsterdam the next morning, having spent less than 18 hours in Pittsburgh.

Pittsburgh Opera performs *Aida* at the Benedum Center. For ticket information, call 412-456-6666 or visit [www.pittsburghopera.org](http://www.pittsburghopera.org).

#### **Links with downloadable photos:**

Jane Dutton <http://www.intermusica.co.uk/artists/mezzosoprano/jane-dutton/biography>

Stephanie Blythe <http://www.opus3artists.com/artists/stephanie-blythe>

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 KDKA are season media sponsors.

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