

Pittsburgh Opera FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Opera Night Out—It's Fabulous and Fun

Pittsburgh, PA (April 22, 2008) . . .If you're in the GLBT community and looking for friends to share your interest in opera and musical theater, try Pittsburgh Opera's "Opera Night Out" on Friday, May 9. Hosted by opera fanatics Nachum Golan and Steve Hough, the evening begins with a performance of Bellini's *The Capulets & the Montagues* at 8:00 PM at the Benedum Center and concludes with a reception at Bossa Nova. The \$55 price includes an excellent seat to the opera and admission to the reception, where guests will have a chance to mingle with the artists.

In *The Capulets & the Montagues*, international opera stars Vivica Genaux and Laura Claycomb ignite the stage as the doomed lovers, Romeo and Giulietta. In a reversal of the old theatrical custom in which men or boys played women's roles, the composer wrote the part of the teenaged Romeo for a mezzo-soprano. A common operatic practice until the 20th century, these "trouser roles" supposedly gave the impression of an unchanged male voice. But in an era when an exposed ankle could excite comment, the sight of a woman in pants was definitely a guilty pleasure. Add in the implications of cross-dressing, and some people considered it downright scandalous.

To reserve tickets, visit www.pittsburghopera.org or call Lynette Vybiral at 412-281-0912 x240. Bossa Nova is located at 123 7th Street, Pittsburgh 15222.

Links:

http://www.pittsburghopera.org/0708season/cap_mont.shtml *The Capulets & the Montagues*
www.bossanovapgh.com Bossa Nova

For more information, visit www.pittsburghopera.org

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. KDKA is the season media sponsor.

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