

Pittsburgh Opera NEWS RELEASE

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Sudden Death of Leading Tenor for Pittsburgh Opera's Opening Production of "Samson & Dalila"

Pittsburgh, PA (August 19, 2008) . . . Pittsburgh Opera's General Director Christopher Hahn was informed yesterday of the tragic and unexpected death of tenor Mark Lundberg, who was scheduled to sing the role of Samson in *Samson & Dalila* by Saint-Saëns. Mr. Lundberg passed away on Friday, August 15 at the age of 50 on Long Island, New York, following a brief illness.

Christopher Hahn commented, "We are all deeply saddened by Mark Lundberg's untimely death. He was a fine singer who made a great contribution to the opera stages of the world. His talent was larger than life, which makes his loss all the more wrenching. We send our heartfelt sympathy to his family at this extraordinarily difficult time."

Described by *Chicago Sun Times* as, "A thrilling Siegfried," Mark Lundberg gained international recognition as a heldentenor. He sang bass and baritone roles for many years before making the transition to dramatic tenor roles such as Samson, Verdi's Otello, and Beethoven's Florestan. He is the only artist to have competed at the regional finals of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions as a bass, a baritone, and a tenor.

Mr. Hahn will shortly announce a new Samson to partner with mezzo-soprano Stephanie Blythe as Dalila. Staging rehearsals for the French grand opera begin on September 29th, and the production opens on October 18.

Links:

Mark Lundberg's management website <http://www.herbertbarrett.com/artist.php?id=mlundberg>
Samson & Dalila <http://www.pittsburghopera.org/0809season/samson.shtml>

<p>Pittsburgh Opera, celebrating its 70th anniversary 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 the Allegheny Regional Asset District.</p>
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