

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Pittsburgh Opera announces *Paul's Case* as Second Stage Project**

*Idealistic Pittsburgh boy escapes his oppressive world...for a New York minute*

**Pittsburgh, PA...** [Pittsburgh Opera](#) General Director Christopher Hahn has announced that Gregory Spears's opera **Paul's Case** is the Second Stage Project for 2014. The Second Stage Project is an additional showcase for the company's Resident Artists, some of whom have gone on to sing on the world's most famous stages. The opera runs February 22 – March 2, 2014 in the George R. White Studio at Pittsburgh Opera Headquarters.

**Paul's Case**, by 36-year-old Gregory Spears, with a libretto by Mr. Spears and Kathryn Walat, is based on Willa Cather's 1905 short story. Paul is a high school "dandy" whose artistic and social aspirations drive him to escape from sooty turn-of-the-century Pittsburgh. He defies his headmaster and his father, steals money, and goes to New York City to live the high life at the Waldorf Astoria. After a drunken night with a Yale student, reality comes crashing down, and Paul's longings are crushed in a wrenching finale.

Scored for a nine-piece orchestra and seven singers, [Paul's Case](#) premiered in April 2013 at Arlington, Virginia-based Urban Arias, earning rave reviews from The Washington Post and The Wall Street Journal. [Gregory Spears](#)'s compositional style blends romanticism, minimalism, and early music; his work has been called "astonishingly beautiful" (New York Times), and "some of the most beautifully unsettling music to appear in recent memory" (Boston Globe). His current projects include a new completion of Mozart's Requiem, commissioned by Seraphic Fire and Firebird Chamber Orchestra, to premiere in Fall 2013.

Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist Stage Director George Cederquist directs **Paul's Case**. Specific casting and other details will be announced in August 2013. All tickets are \$40 in advance, available exclusively to Pittsburgh Opera season ticket buyers until August 26.

*Pittsburgh Opera's celebrates its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2013-14 with OPERA FOR A NEW AGE, a mix of long-beloved operas and new favorites. Established by five intrepid women in 1939, Pittsburgh Opera is viewed as one of the most vibrant opera organizations in the U.S., with a rich artistic tradition, outstanding educational programs, an acclaimed artist training program, and a progressive outlook toward the future. Its green initiative culminated in LEED® Silver certification for its Strip District headquarters, and its capacity as a true community partner has increased significantly under General Director Christopher Hahn's leadership. Tickets for the 2013-2014 season start at just \$12.*

### **2013-14 Season**

**AIDA** • October 12 – 20, 2013

**THE MAGIC FLUTE** • November 9 – 17, 2013

**DARK SISTERS** • January 25 – February 2, 2014

**SECOND STAGE PROJECT: PAUL'S CASE** • February 22 – March 2, 2014

**LA BOHÈME** • March 26 – April 6, 2014

**ORPHÉE** • April 26 – May 4, 2014

For ticket information visit our website [www.pittsburghopera.org](http://www.pittsburghopera.org) or call (412) 281-0912  
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