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BOHEME OPERA NJ TO MOUNT MOZART'S "THE MAGIC FLUTE"

Hamilton, NJ – February 20, 2012 ----- Boheme Opera NJ ("Boheme"), one of the oldest opera companies in New Jersey, providing opera, concerts and outreach in the New Jersey/Pennsylvania region, will be taking audiences on the magical, musical journey that is Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's "The Magic Flute", on April 20 and 22 at The College of New Jersey Center for the Arts in Ewing, NJ.

Rounding out its 23rd season entitled "Into a Forest of Fantasy", "The Magic Flute" continues Boheme's mission of making the arts accessible to artists and audiences. Performed in English with English supertitles, the production at Kendall Hall Theatre will be under the artistic and musical direction of Artistic Director and Conductor Joseph Pucciatti. "We are offering a visionary presentation of Mozart's amazing imagination," said Mr. Pucciatti, "through the combination of the latest, state-of-the-art, high-definition (HD) projection technology and the lifelike artistry of J. Matthew Root." Mr. Pucciatti continued, "Boheme promises our audiences a visual experience unlike anything else in our main stage history."

The cast will be making the production an extravaganza for the ear, as well as the eye. The dynamic ensemble of emerging and veteran artists is headed by New York City Opera soprano Lorraine Ernest as the Queen of the Night. Acclaimed by critics for her portrayal of the Queen in opera houses throughout the United States and Europe, her Boheme appearances have included Musetta in "La Boheme", Adina in "The Elixir of Love", Lucia in "Lucia di Lammermoor" and Violetta in "La Traviata".

Joining Ms. Ernest is baritone Kenneth Overton as Papageno, the bird catcher, a signature role for this nationally-travelled singer, who sang Germont in Boheme's 2007 production of La Traviata. He recently toured the British Isles as Porgy in Living Arts' "Porgy and Bess", as well as opening Opera Memphis' 51st season in the same role. As Tamino, the Egyptian prince, will be Boheme newcomer tenor James Price, who is enjoying a crossover career in venues throughout the world, including multiple appearances at the Macau International Music Festival and Hawaii Opera Theatre. Singing the role of Pamina, the Queen's daughter, in her Boheme debut is emerging-artist soprano Kristin K. Vogel, soon to be portraying Donna Elvira in "Don Giovanni" at the Natchez Festival of Music, as well as an appearance as soprano soloist in Mahler's 8th Symphony with Montana's Helena Symphony.

Described by the “New York Times” as an “oceanic bass”, Tom McNichols will be bringing the role of Sarastro, enemy of the Queen of the Night, to life with his powerful voice and commanding stage presence, a role he will reprise with Opera Grand Rapids later in 2012. Rounding out the cast are tenor Aaron Blankfield as Monostatos, soprano Erica Cochran as Papagena, the Boheme Opera NJ chorus, and ancillary and supernumerary roles adeptly acted by area performers. Mr. Pucciatti will conduct the Boheme Opera NJ Orchestra.

About the venue

“The Magic Flute” will be performed on April 20 at 8:00 p.m. and April 22 at 3:00 p.m. at the Kendall Hall Theatre of The College of New Jersey Center for the Arts. Pre-curtain talks will be given one hour and fifteen minutes before each performance. Directed and conducted by Boheme Opera NJ Artistic Director Joseph Pucciatti. Special “early bird” and group sale ticketing is available. Visit www.bohemeoperanj.com for more information on the production and ticketing, or visit the Center for the Arts box office at The Brower Student Center on the campus of the College of New Jersey, call (609) 771-2775 or visit the box office online at <http://tcnjcenterforthearts.pages.tcnj.edu/tcnj-box-office>. Major funding is made possible in part by a grant from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts; The Boheme Opera Guild, Inc.; and Roma Bank.

About Boheme Opera NJ

Boheme Opera NJ is one of the oldest opera arts organizations in New Jersey. Since 1989, the Company’s mission continues to be making world-class musical performance accessible and available to artists and audiences in the New Jersey-Pennsylvania region through opera, concerts and outreach. Boheme Opera NJ is committed to preserving and promoting the operatic art form and introducing it to new and diverse audiences, while actively promoting community involvement, business partnerships and collaborations with other arts organizations. The Company has been recognized by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts with three Citations of Excellence.