



PRESS RELEASE

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Opera Extravaganza Brings Rising Stars to the Flynn

Colchester, VT (January 9, 2013) — The Vermont Youth Orchestra (VYO) is bringing an Opera Extravaganza to Burlington, featuring two of opera's most sought-after rising stars who have delighted audiences from the world's major stages. Internationally acclaimed soprano [Latonia Moore](#) and tenor [Jesus Garcia](#) will perform on Sunday, January 20 at 3 p.m. at the Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, accompanied by the VYO, the VYO Chorus and the Vermont Youth Concert Chorale.

“We are extremely fortunate to have a chance to see opera singers of this caliber in a live performance here in Vermont,” said Jeffrey Domoto, VYOA music director. “It’s an especially exciting opportunity for our young musicians because sharing the stage with a great performer is always thrilling. Watching a world-class performer allows them to see how music is so much more than just notes, and how a virtuoso really illuminates the music. It can be a transformative experience.”

The program features arias, duets and choruses from a number of favorite operas, including Lucia di Lammermoor, Tosca, Eugene Onegin, Don Giovanni, Die Fledermaus, Carmen, Don Carlo, Il Trovatore, Cavalleria Rusticana, Manon and La Traviata.

In addition to the concert, the VYO is offering a special Opera Extravaganza Package, which includes a 30-minute pre-concert talk by opera expert Peter Fox Smith — host of the weekly *A Passion for Opera* show on Vermont Public Radio — and a post-concert reception with the guest artists at Sweetwaters. The pre-concert talk will take place at the Flynn’s Amy E. Tarrant Gallery.

Ms. Moore and Mr. Garcia’s appearance is made possible by the generous support of the Sergio Franchi Music Foundation. Opera Extravaganza events are made possible by Frank & Ducky Donath and the Honorable Yoine and Elaine Goldstein. Sponsors for the VYO 2012-2013

Concert Season include The Amy E. Tarrant Foundation, Champlain Orthodontics, Physician's Computer Company, WCAX TV, RETN and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Tickets to the concert are \$15 adult/\$10 student; tickets for the Opera Extravaganza Package, which includes the pre- and post-concert events and concert ticket, are \$85.

To purchase concert tickets, visit www.flyntix.org. To purchase the Opera Extravaganza Package, call 86-FLYNN.

For more information, contact the VYOA at (802) 655-5030, or go to www.vyo.org

About Jesus Garcia

Mr. Garcia specializes in the romantic roles of the Italian and French repertoire and has received numerous awards, including a 2003 Tony Award Honor for his work as Rodolfo in Baz Luhrmann's production of *La Boheme* on Broadway. He has also won several prestigious competitions, including Placido Domingo's Operalia and the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions.

In addition to performing in opera companies all over the world, Mr. Garcia has made several television appearances, including the Today Show, "Breakfast with the Arts" on A&E, and the 2003 Tony Awards. He has been featured in the pages of the New York Times, Vogue, Vanity Fair, New York Magazine and Opera News.

About Latonia Moore

Ms. Moore became an overnight sensation in March, 2012, when she was a last-minute replacement for the title role in Verdi's *Aida* at the Metropolitan Opera. The audience tossed bouquets and gave her an ecstatic ovation during her solo curtain call. The New York Times called her voice "radiant, plush and sizable at its best, with gleaming top notes."

Ms. Moore has received numerous awards, including the Maria Callas Award as debut artist of the season, and the Metropolitan Opera's National Council Auditions. She has performed on major stages around the world in a wide variety of roles. After her debut at the Royal Opera, Covent Garden, Hugh Canning wrote in Opera that her "creamy, lyric soprano could take her to the top of her profession."

About the VYOA

The Vermont Youth Orchestra Association, celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, serves nearly 500 students from Vermont, New Hampshire and New York. The VYOA offers master classes with renowned musicians, coaching from many of the best music educators in the region and performance opportunities within a community dedicated to supporting students' development as musicians, citizens and leaders. Students range from grades 1 to 12 and have a variety of program options: four orchestras, a beginning string ensemble, a chamber music program, a two-tiered choral program and two summer camps. For more information, visit www.vyo.org.

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