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Contact: Joyce Linehan (617) 282-2510, joyce@ashmontmedia.com
Gillian Morrison (617) 451-3388, gmorrison@operaboston.org

OPERA BOSTON ANNOUNCES 2007-08 SEASON
Highlights include Dawn Upshaw, Osvaldo Golijov, Barbara Quintiliani and
collaborations with Peter Sellars, Boston Baroque

Osvaldo Golijov

Ainadamar

October 19, 21, 23, 2007

With Dawn Upshaw

Boston premiere

George Frideric Handel

Semele

February 1, 3, 5, 2008

With Martin Pearlman and the Boston Baroque Period Instrument Orchestra and Chorus

Giuseppe Verdi

Ernani

May 2, 4, 6, 2008

With Barbara Quintiliani

(BOSTON – Feb. 9, 2007) –Opera Boston announces its 2007-08 season, to be presented at the Cutler Majestic Theatre: **Golijov’s *Ainadamar*, Handel’s *Semele*, and Verdi’s *Ernani***. Principals include three internationally-renowned sopranos: *Dawn Upshaw* and **Lisa Saffer** in their company debuts, and the return of **Barbara Quintiliani** in her third starring role with the company. Opera Boston will stage the regional premiere of Boston-based Argentinean composer Osvaldo Golijov’s *Ainadamar*, presenting the Peter Sellars production originated by Santa Fe Opera; it will be the first Boston staging of Mr. Sellars’ operatic work since his *Marriage of Figaro* in 1991.

Says General Director Carole Charnow, “This is an exciting season for us, because it hits many of the marks we’re known for. In *Ainadamar*, we have the highly-anticipated Boston premiere of a work by a great contemporary composer with close ties to the city. With *Semele*, we revisit the rich collaboration with Martin Pearlman and Boston Baroque that brought us so much acclaim with *Alceste*. And we chose *Ernani* specifically for Barbara Quintiliani, whose career trajectory has been particularly satisfying to watch. This is her third starring role with us, as she has really emerged as a world class talent. We’re proud of our accomplishments, and look on this season as one that perfectly illustrates what we do well.”

Opera Boston offers three performances of each opera: Friday evenings at 7:30 pm, Sunday afternoons at 3 pm, and Tuesday evenings at 7:30 pm.

Gil Rose, Opera Boston's Music Director, conducts *Ainadamar* and *Ernani*, and Martin Pearlman, founder and Artistic Director of Boston Baroque, leads his own period ensemble in *Semele*.

Opera Boston is now taking subscription renewals; new subscription brochures will be available in early May. Patrons may request a brochure by calling (617) 451-3388, or by e-mailing: info@operaboston.org. Individual tickets go on sale after Labor Day through Telecharge and the Cutler Majestic Theatre box office.

Founded in 1980, Opera Boston presents innovative repertoire and rarely-heard works. Over twenty-six seasons, Opera Boston has presented more than 70 concerts and staged 34 regional premieres and two world premieres.

THE 2007-2008 SEASON

Ainadamar

Oswaldo Golijov

Libretto by David Henry Hwang

Boston Premiere

World Premiere: August 10, 2003, Tanglewood, Lenox, MA

Commissioned by the Boston Symphony Orchestra

2005 revised version originated at Santa Fe Opera

October 19, 21m, 23

Cutler Majestic Theatre at Emerson College

Boston, Massachusetts

Sung in Spanish with surtitles

Margarita Xirgu: Dawn Upshaw*, soprano

Federico Garcia Lorca: Kelley O'Connor*, mezzo-soprano

Nuria: Jessica Rivera*, soprano

Conductor: Gil Rose

Stage Director: Robert Castro*

Scenic Design: Gronk*

Original Production Concept: Peter Sellars*

* Opera Boston debut

Golijov's *Ainadamar*, is a mystical and poetic meditation on memory, politics, and exile, based on the life and work of Federico Garcia Lorca. Dawn Upshaw reprises the role of Margarita Xirgu, a Catalan actress and Garcia Lorca's muse, which she created at Tanglewood and Santa Fe Opera. Mezzo **Kelley O'Connor**, who created the role of

poet Federico Garcia Lorca, makes her Opera Boston debut. **Jessica Rivera** makes her Opera Boston debut as Nuria, a student of Margarita Xirgu. She has previously performed this role at Santa Fe Opera, and at Lincoln Center; her most recent Boston appearance was as the soprano soloist in Adams' *El Niño* with the BSO.

Opera Boston presents *Ainadamar* in a production that originated at the Santa Fe Opera in 2005 and was originally conceived and directed by the visionary Peter Sellars. Mr. Sellars' collaborator Robert Castro will oversee Opera Boston's staging, and the production will use scenic designs created by Gronk for the Santa Fe Opera. Said Charnow, "With *Ainadamar*, Opera Boston departs from our practice of creating all-new productions because Peter's definitive production must be seen by Boston audiences."

Semele

George Frideric Handel

Libretto by William Congreve (ca. 1705); later edits by Alexander Pope for Handel setting

Premiere: February 10, 1744, Covent Garden, London

February 1, 3m, 5

Cutler Majestic Theatre at Emerson College

Boston, Massachusetts

Sung in English with surtitles

Semele: Lisa Saffer*, soprano

Juno: Margaret Lattimore*, mezzo-soprano

Conductor: Martin Pearlman

Stage Director: Sam Helfrich

* Opera Boston Debut

After the success of 2005's sold-out and internationally acclaimed performances of Gluck's *Alceste*, Opera Boston again collaborates with Martin Pearlman and the Boston Baroque Period Instrument Orchestra and Chorus to present Handel's *Semele* starring Lisa Saffer. Handel's Cleopatra (*Giulio Cesare* with Boston Baroque) and Berg's Lulu (English National Opera: Olivier Award nominee). Mezzo-Soprano **Margaret Lattimore** makes her Opera Boston debut in the role of Juno; she has appeared locally in recital with the Celebrity Series and in Harbison's *Requiem* with the BSO.

Conductor Martin Pearlman will lead the Boston Baroque period instrument orchestra and chorus in this production. He previously conducted *Semele* in his Kennedy Center debut with the Washington National Opera. Stage Director Sam Helfrich, who will direct *The Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny* for Opera Boston, returns to stage this all-new production.

Ernani

Giuseppe Verdi

Libretto by Francesco Maria Piave, after *Hernani* by Victor Hugo

Premiere: March 9, 1844, La Fenice, Venice

May 2, 4m, 6, 2008

Cutler Majestic Theatre at Emerson College

Boston, Massachusetts

Sung in Italian with surtitles

Elvira: Barbara Quintiliani, soprano

Ernani: TBA

Don Carlo: Jason Stearns*, baritone

* Opera Boston Debut

Conductor: Gil Rose

Soprano Barbara Quintiliani returns as Elvira for her third starring role with Opera Boston, after receiving critical and audience acclaim for the title roles of Verdi's *Luisa Miller* (2004) and Donizetti's *Lucrezia Borgia* (2006). Elvira, a woman betrothed to her guardian, harbors a secret love for the nobleman Don Giovanni di Aragona, disguised as the bandit Ernani. Baritone **Jason Stearns** makes his Opera Boston debut as Don Carlo, the king (later Holy Roman Emperor) that Ernani is called upon to assassinate. Mr. Stearns was awarded First Prize in the 2005 Chester Ludgin American Verdi Baritone Competition, judged by James Morris, Regina Resnik, and Plácido Domingo

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