



For Immediate Release

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Anchorage Opera Announces Its 2008-2009 Season: *Passions of Spain!*

Tickets: Season Subscriptions, \$75 - \$230 per person, available through September 26, 2008.
Single Tickets, \$35 - \$95 available through CenterTix starting October 4, 2008.
Youth/Senior and Student/Military discounts available on Single Tickets.

Information: www.anchorageopera.org

(Anchorage, Alaska – March 20, 2008) Anchorage Opera (AO) is pleased to announce an exciting line-up for the **2008-09 Season**: Georges Bizet's *Carmen*, Gioacchino Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*, and *Hot Spanish Nights*, an evening of Spanish inspired music and dance. In addition, the UAA /AO Opera Apprenticeship Program brings popular Spanish opera to the Anchorage stage with *Viva Zarzuela*. This collaboration between UAA's Opera Ensemble and AO marks the creation of an unprecedented opportunity for young Alaskan artists and is on the cutting edge of arts education in the United States.

Georges Bizet's *Carmen*

Sung in French with English supertitles

November 8, 12, 14, & 16, 2008

The artistic team for AO's production of *Carmen* includes dynamic young San Francisco Opera conductor, Sara Jobin, renowned New York City Opera director, Cynthia Edwards, and a world-class cast featuring Kathryn Allyn as Carmen, Christopher Jackson as Don Jose and Anton Belov as Escamillo. Well-known Alaskan artists will round out the cast with Mari Hahn as Michaela, Marlene Bateman as Mercedes, and Stacia Jameson as Frasquita. Additional casting details will be announced during the summer of 2008.

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Gioacchino Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*

Sung in Italian with English supertitles

February 7, 11, 13, & 15, 2009

AO's sparkling production of *The Barber of Seville* will be lead by former Assistant Conductor of the Metropolitan Opera, William Hicks. Anchorage favorite, Bill Fabris will direct a stellar cast of accomplished singers including one of the world's leading character basses Jan Opalach as Bartolo, Kate Egan as Rosina, James Taylor as Figaro and Nancy Caudill as Berta. Additional casting details will be announced during the summer of 2008.

Anchorage Opera's *Hot Spanish Nights*

An evening of Spanish inspired music & dance

March 25, 27, 28, & 29, 2009

Hot Spanish Nights will feature breathtaking flamenco performances by one of world's leading ladies of flamenco, Omayra Amaya – grandniece of the greatest flamenco dancer who ever lived, Carmen Amaya. The evening will also feature highlights from the world's greatest Spanish inspired operas and selections from Spain's powerful form of lyric theater, Zarzuela. Additional production details will be announced during the summer of 2008.

UAA Opera Ensemble's *Viva Zarzuela*

April 16, 17, 18, & 19, 2009

Viva Zarzuela brings popular Spanish opera to the Anchorage stage. Celebrate the launch of the UAA/AO Opera Apprenticeship Program ~ an exciting, unprecedented opportunity for young Alaskan artists. Additional production details will be announced during the summer of 2008.

Anchorage Opera continues its commitment to educating the community about opera and reaching out to people who are new to the world of opera. There will be several opportunities to learn more about each opera. The **AO website**, www.anchorageopera.org, has a wide range of information on the opera and cast, as well as **Study Guides** to download. **Brown Bag Opera** is a behind-the-scenes look at the mainstage performances, co-sponsored with Anchorage Public Library. It will be held the Friday before the shows open, at 12 noon in the Assembly Chambers at the Loussac Library. And, **Before the Opera** is a 30-minute talk filled with insights about the opera and answers to your questions; **Before the Opera** starts an hour before each performance in Voth Hall at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts.