

12th Concert Season

Internationally acclaimed artists to be featured in Verdi's "La Traviata" at Trinity-On-Main

Unforgettable
Performances
International Soloists
Wonderful time!

Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra is pleased to announce the second operatic production of its 2008-2009 Season, a fully staged production of Verdi's *La Traviata*, to be premiered on May 3rd at 6 PM at the Trinity-On-Main Arts Center in downtown New Britain.

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Making her title role debut as the tragically heroic Violetta is radiant Lithuanian soprano Jurate Svedaite, who most recently performed a critically acclaimed Tatiana in CLO's *Eugene Onegin*, as well as Mimi in *La Boheme* and Countess in *Le Nozze di Figaro*. Making his CLO debut as the passionate young Alfredo is celebrated tenor Jeffrey Hartman, heralded as "one of the fastest-rising tenor stars on the opera horizon today." Rounding out this stellar cast is the dynamic baritone Chad Karl who previously delighted CLO audiences at Dr. Falke in last season's *Die Fledermaus*. This original production will be directed by internationally acclaimed, Metropolitan Opera stage director, Yefim Maizel, with sets and costumes designed by world renowned designer Iosef Yusupov (Metropolitan Opera, La Scala) and will be conducted by CLO's General and Artistic Director, Adrian Sylveen Mackiewicz. The opera will be fully staged with orchestra, chorus and English super-titles projected above the stage.

La Traviata is co-produced with the New London based Connecticut Lyric Opera

La Traviata, which translates as "the woman who strayed" or more figuratively as "the fallen one," is the story of the worldly Parisian courtesan, Violetta, who must sacrifice her happiness to spare her lover's family from scandal. Based on a true story, there are many echoes of Verdi's own life in *La Traviata*, and since its debut in 1853, it has enraptured audiences and gone on to become one of the most-performed operas of all time. According to music historian Nicholas John, "it was the character of the fallen woman which attracted Verdi in the first place. In her, vice and virtue are combined. Violetta is a courtesan who is called upon to be an example of noble self-sacrifice in a venal, materialistic society." And once he threw himself into its creation, Verdi created a musical masterpiece whose immortal score absolutely shines with virtuosic arias, inspired ensembles, and marvelously crafted duets.

About the Artists

Lithuanian soprano, **Jūratė Švedaitė**, has performed throughout Europe and the United States with the Lithuanian National Chamber Orchestra, the European Baroque Festival Opera, Connecticut Lyric Opera, Kaunas Chamber Orchestra, Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra, the Lithuanian National Ensemble "Lietuva," and Mystic River Chorale, among others. Having earlier this season performed Tatiana in *Eugene Onegin*, her previous roles include Mimi in *La Bohème*, Contessa in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni*, Marguerite in *Faust*, Micaela in *Carmen*, and Rosina in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*. The granddaughter of one of Lithuania's most revered composers and arrangers of traditional music, Jonas Švedas, she began performing at an early age and made her recording debut at the tender age of twelve. Ms. Švedaitė later attended the Lithuanian Music Academy where she earned Bachelors and Masters and Degrees in Opera and Vocal Instruction. She now resides in SE Connecticut where she is on the faculty of Connecticut College and Thames Valley Music School.

Tenor **Jeffrey Michael Hartman** is heralded as "one of the fastest-rising tenor stars on the opera horizon today" (Lucine Amara). He made his Boston debut this year as Calaf in Puccini's "Turandot" where he got rave reviews. His rich, full, round lyric voice has made him a popular choice for the leading roles of in the most famous operas of the standard repertoire. Jeffrey's young career already includes performances in some of the important regional American opera houses, including Indianapolis Opera, Dicapo Opera Theatre, Sarasota Opera, New Jersey Association of Verismo Opera, Coro Lirico and the New York Metro Vocal Arts Ensemble. Jeffrey won first place in the Dicapo Opera Theatre Competition in 2003, third place in the New Jersey Verismo Opera Competition in 2005, and received the Ralph Appleman Award for Most Promising Singer with the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) in 2000. His guest appearances include solos at Carnegie Hall and other venues in the New York City area. He has studied with Metropolitan Opera soprano Lucine Amara in New York and currently studies with Metropolitan Opera tenor Francisco Casanova.

Baritone **Chad Karl** made a triumphant CLO debut last season as Dr. Falke in the hilarious *Die Fledermaus*, and his many roles include Marcello and Schaunard in *La Bohème*, Papageno in *The Magic Flute*, Silvio in *Pagliacci*, Sharpless in *Madama Butterfly*, Belcore in *L'Elixir d'Amore*, Guglielmo in *Così fan Tutti*, Count Almaviva in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Figaro in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, Valentin in *Faust*, Angelotti in *Tosca*, Don Giovanni, Escamillo in *Carmen*, Marullo in *Carmen* and Cascada in *The Merry Widow*. He was performed with Tulsa Opera, Jacksonville Lyric Opera, Opera Company of the Highlands, the Belleayrne Music Festival, Union Avenue Opera and the Bronx Opera. Upcoming productions include Silvio with Opera in the Highlands, Schaunard with Grandview Opera, the title role of *Macbeth* and Ford in *Falstaff*, both in Houston for Opera in

the Heights.

Conductor and virtuoso violinist **Adrian Sylveen Mackiewicz** is a graduate of Paderewski Music Academy in Poznan, Poland and of the Yale University School of Music. His awards include First Prize at the International Chamber Music Competition in Lodz, Poland, the President of the Republic of Poland's Award For Outstanding Achievement "Primus Inter Pares" and the Polish Department of Education National Scholarship. Mr. Mackiewicz has performed extensively in Poland, former USSR, Germany, and the US, where he has resided since 1992. In 1997 Maestro Mackiewicz founded the Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra, a New Britain based orchestra dedicated to presenting and preserving the traditions of chamber music, both traditional and contemporary, that is also CLO's resident orchestra. In addition to his duties with CLO and the Virtuosi, Mr. Mackiewicz is Artistic Director of the New Britain Chorale and Artistic Director of the Eastern CT Symphony Youth Orchestra.

Yefim Maizel was born in Latvia, in the former Soviet Union. He began studying music at the age of six and graduated with a master's degree in violin from the Riga Conservatory in 1980, followed by another master's degree in opera stage direction from the St. Petersburg Conservatory in 1987. He worked as an assistant stage director at the St. Petersburg Conservatory Opera (Il Barbiere di Siviglia, Le Nozze di Figaro, Eugene Onegin), at the Tallinn Opera (Khovanshchina), at the Moscow Chamber Opera (Don Giovanni; Imeneo, Handel; The Marriage, Mussorgsky). His own productions from this period include Tales of Hoffmann at the Alma-Ata Opera in 1988, Così fan tutte at the Tallinn Opera and The Nursery at the Kirov Opera in 1989. After moving to New York at the end of 1989, Mr. Maizel directed Fidelio for New York Opera Forum, Lohengrin and Eugene Onegin for Opera on the Hudson, Haensel und Gretel for Opera Excelsior. He went to assist on two Santa Fe Opera productions (Don Giovanni, Der Rosenkavalier), as well as Portland Opera's Eugene Onegin, St. Petersburg National Opera's at the New York State Theatre (Boris Godunov, Le Coq D'Or, Pique Dame), Opera Pacific's Faust and Lucia di Lammermoor and Wexford Festival Opera's Cherevichki by Tchaikovsky.

In 1994 Mr. Maizel directed a production of Faust at the Michigan Opera Theatre and made his European directorial debut with a production of The Demon by Rubinstein at the Wexford Festival Opera in Ireland. Since 1993 Yefim has worked as an assistant stage director for the San Francisco Opera (Pique Dame, Ruslan and Lyudmila, Madama Butterfly, Faust, Rusalka, Prince Igor, Eugene Onegin). He started directing in the Bay Area in 1997 with a production of Manon Lescaut for the Berkeley Opera, followed by Il Trovatore for the San Francisco Lyric Opera and Don Pasquale for the West Bay Opera. In 1998 he will direct Luisa Miller, by Verdi and Madame Georgetown's Daughter (based on La Fille de Madame Angot, by LeCocq) at the

Berkeley Opera, Rigoletto for the Bay Shore Lyric Opera, Das Rheingold for the San Francisco Lyric Opera and also assist at the San Francisco Opera on the production of Betrothal in a Monastery, by Prokofiev.

Iosef Yusupov graduated from the Saint Petersburg Institute of Theater and designed sets all over Russia, Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. His first major success came with the production of *Oedipus Rex*, for which he received the prestigious State Prize of the USSR for the Arts. Since moving to the United States, he has designed numerous shows in New York, including plays, operas, and TV, and has worked on major Hollywood motion pictures. He has been involved in all George Tsypin Opera Factory productions since the early 1990s as a collaborator, and has worked for many years with famous directors such as Peter Sellars, Julie Taymor, Pierre Audi, Francesca Zambella and Jürgen Flimm in such illustrious theatres as the Metropolitan Opera, La Scala, Covent Garden, Bolshoi Theatre, Mariinski Theatre and Opera Bastille. He also has a special creative relationship with designers George Tsypin, Michael Shemyakin, and Georgi Alexi-Meskhesvili.

About The Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra

The Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra is a professional orchestra based in the Greater New Britain area dedicated to presenting both traditional and contemporary classical chamber works to the public. The orchestra was established in 1997.

The Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra, led by founder and Artistic Director Adrian Sylveen Mackiewicz, continues to grow in size and repertoire, presenting approximately twenty five regular and educational performances each year. Over the last decade the orchestra expanded its geographical outreach to include Hartford New London, Mystic, Meriden, CT, and New York City. The mission of Virtuosi is to preserve and perpetuate the great traditions of chamber music through the expansion of its public performance season, its education series, and, by showcasing the excellence of regional talent. In the choice of repertoire special attention is given to music from Eastern Europe. The organization consists of a Music/Executive Director, approximately 20 professional Musicians, and administrative staff of two. In addition to performances the Orchestra makes an effort to enrich the community by providing other programs such as free tickets to the local schools, concerto competition, lectures etc.

A frequent guest at the Kosciusko Foundation's Chamber Music Series, in 2003 the Virtuosi was invited to perform at the Gala Concert celebrating the 25th anniversary of John Paul II papacy. In the same year the group became the permanent orchestra of the New London based Connecticut Lyric Opera.