

Bach Festival Society OF WINTER PARK

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rossini Weekend

The Bach Festival Society of Winter Park and
Orlando Opera Company present a weekend of Rossini

Winter Park, FL The Bach Festival Society and Orlando Opera Company are performing two of famed Italian composer Gioachino Rossini's major works—his choral work, *Stabat Mater*, and his Cinderella opera, *La Cenerentola*—all in one weekend. In addition to seeing these two exciting works, learn more about Rossini the man and the importance of his music in a **free** lecture given by Dr. Edmund LeRoy, Saturday, February 21 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bush Auditorium on the Rollins College Campus.

Rossini is best known for his operas, and *La Cenerentola* was written at the height of his career. In 1829 at the age of 37, after completing *William Tell*, Rossini abruptly retired and completely stopped composing operas. However, he did not stop creating music, and it was in this middle period of life that he composed his ***Stabat Mater***. Written after great personal tragedy and a struggle with depression, the *Stabat Mater* is full of rich melodies that dramatically portray the story of the Virgin Mary's deep love for her son and the agony of watching him perish on the cross.

In Rossini's version of the classic fairytale ***La Cenerentola*** (Cinderella)*, the stepmother is a stepfather and the fairy godmother an emissary of the handsome leading man. Stage director Garnett Bruce gives this production a twist by setting the story in Hollywood during the Great Depression, where a director ("handsome leading man") is searching for beauty, truth, and honesty in his next star. Come see the innocent Cinderella vanquish all against a backdrop of the 1930s soundstage—including a gun-slinging western and Busby Berkeley production numbers.

**Performed in Italian with English supertitles*

Patrons wishing to experience the **Rossini Weekend** can receive ticket discounts by calling each respective Box Office and mentioning the Rossini Weekend, or book a package including the two performances, lecture, and Saturday brunch at Chez Vincente in beautiful Winter Park. For additional package questions, please contact Orlando Arts Getaways at 407.872.2382 or e-mail bookings@artsandculturalalliance.org

Weekend Lineup

Rossini's *La Cenerentola* presented by Orlando Opera

Friday, February 20, 8:00 p.m.

Bob Carr Performing Arts Centre, 401 West Livingston Street, Orlando, FL

Tickets start at \$25

Call the Orlando Opera Company Sales Office at 407-426-1700 or visit www.orlandoopera.org

Focus on Rossini lecture by Dr. Edmund LeRoy

Saturday, February 21, 6:00 p.m.

Bush Auditorium on the Rollins College Campus, 1000 Holt Ave, Winter Park, FL

No ticket required – **FREE** and open to the public

Rossini's *Stabat Mater* presented by the Bach Festival Society

Saturday, February 21, 7:30 p.m.

Knowles Memorial Chapel, Rollins College Campus, 1000 Holt Ave, Winter Park, FL

Tickets range in price from \$20 to \$50, depending on seat location

Call the Bach Festival Society at 407.646.2182 or visit www.bachfestivalflorida.org

Rossini's *La Cenerentola* presented by Orlando Opera

Sunday, February 22, 2:00 p.m.

Bob Carr Performing Arts Centre, 401 West Livingston Street, Orlando, FL

Tickets start at \$25

Call the Orlando Opera Company Sales Office at 407-426-1700 or visit www.orlandoopera.org

About the Bach Festival Society

The Bach Festival Society, located in Winter Park, Florida, is one of the longest continuously operating Bach Festivals in the country and among America's great oratorio societies. The Bach Festival Society brings the highest caliber of classical music to Central Florida. Performances are held in the intimate settings of Tiedtke Concert Hall and Knowles Memorial Chapel on the beautiful campus of Rollins College.

For more information regarding the upcoming season or to order tickets, please call the Bach Festival Society at 407.646.2182 or visit us online at www.bachfestivalflorida.org.

About Orlando Opera Company

Orlando Opera Company is entering its 51st season in 2008–2009, underwritten by Darden Restaurant Foundation. Through the years the company has built a national reputation for presenting first-class singers and producing vivid theatrical productions. Orlando Opera Company has produced the magic and grandeur of live opera in Central Florida since the company's first performances at the Orlando Municipal Auditorium in 1958.

Orlando Opera Company is a non-profit organization, with productions that are made possible, in part, by generous funding from our patrons, Darden Restaurants Foundation, The Dr. P. Phillips Foundation, Lockheed Martin, The National Endowment for the Arts, Florida Department of State Division of Cultural Affairs, Orange County Arts and Cultural Affairs, the Florida Arts Council, and United Arts of Central Florida. For more information visit www.orlandoopera.org.

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