



BOSTON LYRIC OPERA

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Big Things Happening in Boston Lyric Opera's 2009-2010 Season

Bizet's
CARMEN
November 6-17, 2009
New BLO production

R. Strauss'
ARIADNE AUF NAXOS
March 12-23, 2010
North American
premiere of Welsh
National Opera
production

Mozart's
IDOMENEO, RE DI CRETA
(Idomeneo, King of Crete)
April 23-May 4, 2010
New BLO production

NEW Opera Annex
Britten's
**THE TURN OF
THE SCREW**
February 3-6, 2010
New production at a new
location

Boston, MA — Boston Lyric Opera announces a 2009-2010 Season that is bursting with exciting new elements: new productions, a fourth opera beyond the Shubert's stage, and new events. It's all part of the new era at BLO heralded by General & Artistic Director Esther Nelson and her team: Nicholas G. Russell, Director of Artistic Operations; Dan Duro, Director of Production; and John Conklin, Artistic Advisor. The team's vision includes internationally renowned directors, artists and designers; more inspiration and deeper enjoyment through new productions; the launch of Opera Annex, an annual site-specific production in addition to BLO's subscription series; the Signature Series, a lively exploration of BLO's opera roster through art forms of all kinds; and BLO's Open House at the Shubert. All of this plus our annual Opera for Young Audiences offers something for everyone.

The Company hopes to take opera in Boston to a new level in a way that enriches current opera lovers' experiences and attracts new audiences to the art form. It's made possible by generous support of BLO's board, donors and sponsors.

The Operas:

Passion, egos and gods wreak colossal havoc on love stories of all stripes. The subscription series opens with a new BLO production of Bizet's **Carmen** directed by **Nicholas Muni** and conducted by **Keith Lockhart**, followed by the North American premiere of the acclaimed **Neil Armfield/Welsh National Opera Ariadne auf Naxos** by R. Strauss, conducted by **Erik Nielsen**. 31-year-old Maestro Nielsen flew in from Germany last summer to conduct Tanglewood's "Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny" in place of James Levine. The third opera in the subscription series is a new production by **Lillian Groag** of Mozart's **Idomeneo, re di Creta** (*Idomeneo, King of Crete*) conducted by **David Angus**.

New this Season is BLO's **Opera Annex**: productions which are fully-staged and designed for a found space outside the traditional opera house. They offer a fresh approach to opera and lower prices, both of which should appeal to opera aficionados plus those curious about the art form. For the launch of Opera Annex, BLO presents a new production of Benjamin Britten's haunting **The Turn of the Screw** directed by Sam Helfrich.

In spring 2010, BLO will present its annual **Opera for Young Audiences**. This season's production will be Rossini's exuberant classic, *The Barber of Seville*.

The Artists:

Dana Beth Miller, Carmen, started collecting accolades as a soprano and hasn't stopped now that she sings mezzo-soprano with "ravishing...voluptuous tone" and gorgeous stage presence. Ms. Miller has appeared with New York City Opera and the Metropolitan Opera among many others. **John Bellemer**, Don José in *Carmen*, brings his "warm, rich...clarion-toned" tenor to BLO's stage after thrilling Boston audiences as Don José in *Carmen* on the Common (2002). Mr. Bellemer sings an expansive repertoire from standard and contemporary opera to concert performance to vocal recital. His strong portrayals of leading roles have thrilled audiences across North America and Europe. Soprano **Marjorie Owens**, Ariadne, was a Grand Finals winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and with each performance demonstrates why she's a singer to watch. Critics and audience alike hailed her Ariadne at Wolf Trap. Tenor **Brandon Jovanovich** presents a voice that's "smooth, big...with a gleaming edge of steel" as Bacchus in *Ariadne auf Naxos*. The 2007 Richard Tucker Award winner is in international demand, starred in San Francisco Opera's *Madama Butterfly* in cinemas nationwide, and sang in the soundtrack of the 2008 James Bond movie, *Quantum of Solace*. **Jason Collins**, Idomeneo, is making news across the US both in opera houses and on the concert stage as a tenor with "virile tone and... boundless talent." He's a graduate of Juilliard and The Curtis Institute, winner of numerous awards and scholarships. Boston native **Sandra Piques Eddy**, Idamante in *Idomeneo, re di Creta*, is a graduate of Boston University School for the Arts. A highly acclaimed mezzo-soprano with "apparently endless range", she made her Met debut in 2001 and appears regularly there and in opera houses across the country. **Emily Pulley's** soprano voice is "faultless and exquisite." Our Governess in *The Turn of the Screw* is a regular at the Met, debuted at Covent Garden as Mimi in *La bohème*, and was New York City Opera's Richard F. Gold Debut Artist Award winner. Finally, **Joyce Castle**, the mezzo-soprano who performs the role of Mrs. Grose in *The Turn of the Screw*, offers a "richly nuanced voice, profound dramatic skills." Ms. Castle will be celebrating her 40th anniversary in opera with our production.

The Signature Series:

The Signature Series is a new partnership between BLO and the Museum of Fine Arts that offers a Sunday morning mix of lively arts with an optional brunch. In the weeks preceding the operas, the Company will explore an aspect of each opera through theatre, literature, cinema, or exhibits. Attendees can enjoy the event on its own, or they can weave even more enjoyment into their opera experience by attending both the Signature event and the subject opera. Place: MFA. Date: TBD.

BLO Open House:

BLO opens the doors of the Shubert—and opera—for a free day of performances, activities, backstage tours and more. Fun for adults, kids, opera aficionados and newcomers—everyone's invited! Place: The Citi Performing Arts CenterSM Shubert Theatre. Date: TBD.

The three subscription series productions will be performed in the Company's home, the Citi Performing ArtsCenterSM Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont Street in Boston's Theatre District. BLO's Opera Annex will open at a location to be announced soon.

BLO's 2009-2010 Season is sponsored in part by The Calderwood Charitable Foundation, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and The Wallace Foundation.

For more information and updates on BLO's 2009-2010 Season, education programs, and special events, please visit blo.org.

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Boston Lyric Opera (BLO) is New England's largest opera company. Founded in 1976, BLO is recognized for its artistically excellent productions of a diverse repertoire that entertain and inspire audiences and feature emerging operatic talent. BLO produces three mainstage productions at the Citi Performing Arts CenterSM Shubert Theatre in Boston and a production of a fully staged, one-hour English version of a popular opera for school children and families throughout New England. BLO's programs are funded, in part, by a grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. blo.org

Carmen
Georges Bizet
New BLO Production

- WHAT** BLO's 2009-2010 Season opens in November with ***Carmen***. Carmen and Don José crash into each other with a passion that's as much about will as it is about desire. At its premiere, Bizet's opera shocked and thrilled audiences. The thrill's still there in this new, highly theatrical BLO production.
- WHEN** Friday, November 6, 2009 at 7:30pm Friday, November 13, 2009 at 7:30pm
Sunday, November 8, 2009 at 3:00pm Sunday, November 15, 2009 at 3:00pm
Wednesday, November 11, 2009 at 7:30pm Tuesday, November 17, 2009 at 7:30pm
- WHERE** The Citi Performing Arts CenterSM Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont Street in Boston's Theatre District
- CREATORS** Composer.....Georges Bizet
Librettist Henri Meilhac and Ludovic Halévy, after Prosper Mérimée's novel
- PRODUCTION** Conductor Keith Lockhart
Stage DirectorNicholas Muni*
Set DesignerJohn Conklin
- ARTISTS** CarmenDana Beth Miller*
Don José John Bellemer
Escamillo Daniel Mobbs*
Micaëla Hanan Alattar*
With Darren Anderson, Stephanie Chigas, Andrew Garland, Gregory Gerbrandt*,
Meredith Hansen* and BLO's Orchestra and Chorus.
* *BLO Debut*
- LANGUAGE** ***Carmen*** will be sung in French with French dialogue and projected English translation.
- TICKETS**
- Season tickets go on sale to the public on May 1, 2009 with prices starting at \$96. Subscribe online at blo.org/subscribe or call Audience Services at 617.542.6772.
 - Single tickets for ***Carmen*** go on sale to the public on October 1, 2009 with prices starting at \$34. Single tickets will be sold exclusively at 866.348.9738 (TTY 888.889.8587), citicenter.org, or in person at the Citi Performing Arts Center Box Office, 270 Tremont Street in Boston.
 - Discounts on group tickets are available to groups of ten or more by calling Audience Services at 617.542.6772.
 - Half price student tickets are available in advance and day of show at the Shubert Theatre box office with a valid student ID.

Ariadne auf Naxos

Richard Strauss

North American premiere of critically-acclaimed Welsh National Opera production

- WHAT** BLO's 2009-2010 Season continues with ***Ariadne auf Naxos***. An unseen producer makes changes to an opera just before the curtain rises. That's how the clowns get onstage. The composer? Backstage, tearing his hair out. Strauss weaves voices and orchestra beautifully in his half farce, half *opera seria*.
- WHEN** Friday, March 12, 2010 at 7:30pm Friday, March 19, 2010 at 7:30pm
Sunday, March 14, 2010 at 3:00pm Sunday, March 21, 2010 at 3:00pm
Wednesday, March 17, 2010 at 7:30pm Tuesday, March 23, 2010 at 7:30pm
- WHERE** The Citi Performing Arts CenterSM Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont Street in Boston's Theatre District
- CREATORS** Composer.....Richard Strauss
Librettist Hugo von Hofmannsthal
- PRODUCTION** Conductor Erik Nielsen*
Stage Director Neil Armfield*
Revival Director/Choreographer Denni Sayers
Set/Costume Designer..... Dale Ferguson
- ARTISTS** Ariadne Marjorie Owens*
Bacchus Brandon Jovanovich
Zerbinetta..... Rachele Gilmore*
Komponist..... Edyta Kulczak*
Tanzmeister/BrighellaJulius Ahn*
Harlekin..... Jesse Blumberg*
With Mara Bonde*, Andrea Coleman, Joanna Mongiardo, Tracy Wise*, and BLO's Orchestra.
- * BLO Debut
- LANGUAGE** ***Ariadne auf Naxos*** will be sung in German with projected English translation.
- TICKETS**
- Season tickets go on sale to the public on May 1, 2009 with prices starting at \$96. Subscribe online at blo.org/subscribe or call Audience Services at 617.542.6772.
 - Single tickets for ***Ariadne auf Naxos*** go on sale to the public on October 1, 2009 with prices starting at \$34. Single tickets will be sold exclusively at 866.348.9738 (TTY 888.889.8587), citicenter.org, or in person at the Citi Performing Arts Center Box Office, 270 Tremont Street in Boston.
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Idomeneo, re di Creta

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

New BLO production based on scenery and costumes owned by Glimmerglass Opera

- WHAT** In the third opera of BLO's subscription series, Idomeneo, King of Crete, makes a promise to Neptune, God of the Sea. When the king realizes the terrible price it will exact, vows and hearts are broken. Longing pours into arias and ensembles as only Mozart writes them.
- WHEN** Friday, April 23, 2010 at 7:30pm Friday, April 30, 2010 at 7:30pm
Sunday, April 25, 2010 at 3:00pm Sunday, May 2, 2010 at 3:00pm
Wednesday, April 28, 2010 at 7:30pm Tuesday, May 4, 2010 at 7:30pm
- WHERE** The Citi Performing Arts CenterSM Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont Street in Boston's Theatre District
- CREATORS** Composer.....Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Librettist Giovanni Battista Varesco after Antoine Danchet's *Idomenée*
- PRODUCTION** Conductor David Angus*
Stage Director Lillian Groag
Set Designer John Conklin
Costume Designer Constance Hoffman
Lighting Designer..... Robert Wierzel
- ARTISTS** Idomeneo..... Jason Collins*
Idamante..... Sandra Piques Eddy
Elettra Caroline Worra*
Ilia Camille Zamora*
Arbace Steven Sanders
High Priest Joshua Kohl
With BLO's Orchestra and Chorus.
- LANGUAGE** *Idomeneo, re di Creta* will be sung in Italian with projected English translation. * BLO Debut
- TICKETS**
- Season tickets go on sale to the public on May 1, 2009 with prices starting at \$96. Subscribe online at blo.org/subscribe or call Audience Services at 617.542.6772.
 - Single tickets for ***Idomeneo, re di Creta*** go on sale to the public on October 1, 2009 with prices starting at \$34. Single tickets will be sold exclusively at 866.348.9738 (TTY 888.889.8587), citicenter.org, or in person at the Citi Performing Arts Center Box Office, 270 Tremont Street in Boston.
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NEW OPERA ANNEX PRODUCTION:

The Turn of the Screw

Benjamin Britten

New BLO production

- WHAT** A Governess arrives at a lonely English country house to care for two parentless children and something is very, very wrong. Wire-taught tension mounts as she gradually senses the truth....Evil has corrupted the children and she must fight it. Britten's chamber opera will glue you to your seats. Devastating story, riveting music. Don't say you weren't warned.
- WHEN** February 3, 5, 6, 2010
- WHERE** Found space outside the traditional opera house. Location TBA.
- CREATORS** Composer..... Benjamin Britten
Librettist Myfanwy Piper after the story by Henry James
- PRODUCTION** Conductor Andrew Bisantz*
Stage DirectorSam Helfrich*
- ARTISTS** Prologue/Quint:.....Vale Rideout*
The Governess:Emily Pulley*
Mrs. Grose:.....Joyce Castle*
(This production marks Ms. Castle's 40th year in opera!)
Miss Jessel:Rebecca Nash*
Flora.....Kathryn Skemp*
With Chamber Ensemble from BLO's Orchestra.
- * *BLO Debut*
- LANGUAGE** *The Turn of the Screw* will be sung in English with projected titles.
- TICKETS**
- Single tickets for *The Turn of the Screw* go on sale to subscribers May 1, 2009 and to the public on October 1, 2009 with prices starting at \$33 for subscribers and \$39 for the public. Single tickets will be sold online at blo.org and through BLO's Audience Services at 617.542.6772.
 - Discounts on group tickets are available to groups of ten or more by calling Audience Services at 617.542.6772.
 - Half price student tickets are available in advance and day of show through BLO's Audience Services with a valid student ID.

Opera for Young Audiences
The Barber of Seville
Gioacchino Rossini

- WHAT** The legendary barber Figaro uses every trick in the book to free the lovely Rosina from the clutches of crotchety Dr. Bartolo and unite her with the dashing Count Almaviva. BLO introduces families, students and educators to the amazing multidisciplinary world of opera in a production tailored for children: fully staged, sung in English and just one squirm-proof hour long.
- WHEN** Early 2010. BLO will update blo.org/Barber with more information as it becomes available.
- WHERE** Family Performances will be scheduled in Boston, Weston, and several other metro Boston communities. BLO will update blo.org/Barber with more information as it becomes available.
- CREATORS** Composer..... Gioacchino Rossini

The Calderwood Charitable Foundation is the Principal Production Sponsor of ***The Barber of Seville***.

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