



BOSTON LYRIC OPERA

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## **One Month to Go Before Boston Lyric Opera Debuts City's First Fully-Staged Production of *Rusalka***

**Boston, MA** — On March 20, the curtain will rise on Boston's first fully-staged production of Antonín Dvořák's moonlit fairy tale, *Rusalka*, presented by Boston Lyric Opera (BLO). Breathtakingly beautiful music, award-winning directors and designers, and 14 video projectors that bring the underwater and woodland worlds alive combine to create an experience arts lovers will not want to miss. *Rusalka* is the second of BLO's three productions in its 2008-2009 "Spellbound" Season at the Citi Performing Arts Center<sup>SM</sup> Shubert Theatre.

The brand new production of Dvořák's sublime yet sad fairy tale follows a water nymph who longs for human love, bargains with a witch, but comes up empty-handed. This opera is best known for the famous "Song to the Moon," and additional music of extraordinarily sensual beauty. Co-producer Minnesota Opera reported that its audiences gasped in awe of the enchanting scenery and were deeply moved by the music. Despite being Dvořák's most beloved opera, *Rusalka* is rarely staged in the U.S.—a treat for Boston audiences!

Evening performances are on March 20, 25, 27, and 31 at 7:30pm; Sunday matinees are at 3pm on March 22 and 29. Run time is approximately three hours. *Rusalka* is sung in Czech with projected English translations.

### **Learn more before Opening Night:**

**March 3, 7pm: Tuesday Night at the Opera** — Free one-hour presentation with mini-performance at the Rabb Auditorium in the Boston Public Library in Copley Square. Designed to offer creative perspectives on the opera. For more information, call 617.542.4912 x242 or email [education@blo.org](mailto:education@blo.org).

### **About the artists:**

**Rusalka:** Marquita Lister — Performed title role in BLO's 2001 *Salome*; studied at the New England Conservatory of Music; sang role of High Priestess with Plácido Domingo in Wortham Theater Center's televised broadcast of the inaugural production of *Aida*

**The Prince:** Bryan Hymel\* — First-Prize Winner of the 2008 Licia Albanese/Puccini Foundation Competition; first came to attention at age 19 when he was a winner in the 1998 Verdi Aria Competition at the Aspen Musical Festival. At 20, he was a grand finalist in the 2000 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions; made his European debut as The Prince at Wexford, Ireland, in 2007. "With his strong, distinctive voice, American Bryan Hymel made a splendidly bold, virile Prince." *Opera News*, September 2007

**Vodník** (*The water gnome*): John Cheek — BLO's 2005 *Eugene Onegin*; Met regular since 1977; has sung with nearly every US opera company and several overseas as well as in numerous concerts and recordings

**Jezebaba** (*The witch*): Nancy Maultsby — Role debut; infuses mystery and magic into her performance just as she did as the fortune teller in 2006's *Un ballo in maschera*; recent appearances include Covent Garden, the Hollywood Bowl, and opera houses and concerts across Europe, Canada, China, Australia and South America; can be heard on Boston Baroque's premiere recordings of Mozart's "Requiem" as well as *Dido and Aeneas*, both through Telarc

**The Foreign Princess:** Rochelle Bard\* — Worcester native; Master's Degree in Vocal Performance with Academic Honors from the New England Conservatory of Music; vocal fellow at Tanglewood

**Conductor:** Ari Pelto — BLO's 2007 *La bohème*; New York City Opera Guest Conductor; at age 24 he became Assistant Conductor of the Spoleto Festival USA

**Stage Director:** Eric Simonson\* — Academy Award® winner for 2006 film, "A Note of Triumph: The Golden Age of Norman Corwin;" Tony-nominated for direction of Steppenwolf's *The Song of Jacob Zulu*, with Ladysmith Black Mambazo

**Set Designer:** Erhard Rom — BLO's 2007 *La bohème*, 2004 *L'Italiana in Algeri*, 2002 *Carmen* on the Common; two of his designs were featured in the 2007 Prague Quadrennial, the pre-eminent scenographic exhibition in the world

**Costume Designer:** Kärin Kopischke\* — Recipient of the Joseph Jefferson Award, the AriZoni Award and nominated for the Prague Quadrennial; designer for 2007 world premiere of *The Grapes of Wrath* at Minnesota Opera with Eric Simonson and Robert Wierzel

**Lighting Designer:** Robert Wierzel — BLO's 1994 *Werther*, 1992 *Lost In The Stars*; received a 2005 Obie Award-Special Citation; on Broadway, designed David Copperfield's "Dreams and Nightmares" and "The Deep Blue Sea"

**Projections Designer:** Wendell K. Harrington\* — Designer for PBS 2008 broadcast of "Great Performances - Dance in America: San Francisco Ballet's Nutcracker;" Drama Desk winner for projections in the 15th Anniversary benefit reunion performance of "The Who's Tommy" in NYC December 2008

\**BLO debut*

All 2008-2009 mainstage productions will be performed in the Shubert Theatre, 265 Tremont Street in Boston's Theatre District. This season is supported in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

## Subscription and Ticket Information

- Mini-subscriptions for *Rusalka* and *Don Giovanni* are on sale now starting at \$62. Learn more at [blo.org/subscribe](http://blo.org/subscribe) or call Audience Services at 617.542.6772.
- Single tickets are on sale starting at \$33 and are sold exclusively at 866.348.9738 (TTY 888.889.8587), [citicenter.org](http://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 at the Citi Performing Arts Center Box Office and day of show at the Shubert Theatre box office with a valid student ID.

## Be Spellbound Beyond the Stage

BLO strives to not only provide high quality opera on stage, but to enrich opera newcomers' and aficionado's enjoyment of opera-at-large with educational programming and special events. Learn more and enjoy photos, fun activities, study guides and samples of famous arias or duets from each opera on [blo.org](http://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 Center<sup>SM</sup> 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](http://blo.org)