



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA YOUTH OPERA MERGES WITH CAPITOL OPERA HARRISBURG

Harrisburg, PA -- The Central Pennsylvania Youth Opera is delighted to announce the merging of its performance program for young singers with Capitol Opera Harrisburg. The young singers will become the new Capitol Opera Youth Chorus (COYC), under the direction of COH Founding General Director Kathleen Torchia, trained by COH Orchestra and Choral Manager Ruth Beaver. Addie Appelbaum, former Executive Director of the Central Pennsylvania Youth Opera, has joined COH as its new Events Coordinator.

“This could not come at a better time”, said Ms. Appelbaum, “with the current funding problems that many small non-profit groups are facing, it makes perfect sense to merge with Capitol Opera Harrisburg, with whom we’ve had a wonderful working relationship for over 4 years.”

“We have loved working with CPYO; the young people have been a great asset to our productions”, says Kathleen Torchia, Founding General Director of Capitol Opera Harrisburg.” This merger can only enhance productivity for both groups, and I love working with Addie Appelbaum.”

Capitol Opera Harrisburg will offer young singers exciting opportunities to perform in annual COH Fall and Spring productions, plus special events involving the Capitol Opera Youth Chorus. Already planned are appearances by chorus members at the “Shop For A Cause” event at Macy’s - Harrisburg East Mall on Saturday, October 17th; the Linglestown Merchants Fall Festival on Saturday, October 24th, and a holiday kick-off of Christmas songs and carols at St. Thomas Roasters in Linglestown on Saturday, December 12th @ 11:00 a.m.

COH’s November production of Saint-Saen’s bewitching opera “Samson et Dalila”- November 12th, 13th, 14th and 15th, 2009-will feature tenor Paul Pitts as the heroic Samson, with mezzo-sopranos Andrea Arena and Elizabeth Splaine alternating in the

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role of the seductive Dalila. Members of the COH adult chorus and young members of the Capitol Opera Youth Chorus will also appear in the production.

In addition, auditions will be held in late November/early December to expand the Youth Chorus and adult chorus. COH also plans to offer volunteer opportunities through the formation of a Parents Auxiliary to involve parents/family members in seasonal productions, the annual COH fundraiser, and special events.

To order tickets for the November production, receive information on auditions/special events or the Parents Auxiliary, please visit the COH website: www.capopera.com (click on Ticketleap to order tickets) Or call: 717-303-9030