



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WORLD PREMIERE OF "SUMMER OF THE SWANS"

Harrisburg, Pa....In collaboration with Capitol Opera Harrisburg, the Central Pennsylvania Youth Opera will present the WORLD PREMIERE of Tina Davidson's family opera "SUMMER OF THE SWANS"-April 25th & 26th, 2009. Performance:2:00 p.m.- William Penn Campus Auditorium-2915 North Third Street-Harrisburg. Pre-performance "Meet the Composer/Lyricist" lecture-1:30 p.m.

"Summer of the Swans" a new work for family audiences, explores contemporary culture as it grapples with how to accept diversity and disabilities. At the heart of the opera are the themes of love, family, acceptance, and more importantly, difference. Sara, just fourteen, is wrestling with adolescence, loss of her mother and the absence of her father. Her brother Charlie has cognitive learning disabilities and lives in his own silent world. When Charlie gets lost, Sara goes out to search for him. After a long search, she finally finds him, and a new understanding and compassion for those who are different. The opera is based on the award winning children's book "Summer of the Swans" by Betsy Byars.

Charlie is acted by Central Pennsylvania Youth Opera member Jesse Splaine; the role of his sister Sara is sung by Capitol Opera soprano Lynn Panattoni; caregiver Aunt Willie is sung by mezzo-soprano Elizabeth Splaine, and Sara's "frenemy" Joe is sung by tenor Ryan Traub. Members of Central Pennsylvania Youth opera sing the roles of the magical swans/young neighbors joined by chorus members of Capitol Opera Harrisburg as adult neighbors.

General admission is \$15 Seniors/students-\$12 group rates: 10 +-\$10.00

Gala dessert reception including celestial "swan" harp music in honor of composer Tina Davidson after the 4/25 performance. There will be a children's basket raffle, and dvd's of "Summer of the swans" can be ordered at both performances. Tickets: 717-540-9717 or via Ticket Leap:

www.capopera.com

The Central Pennsylvania Youth Opera is supported in part by the Greater Harrisburg Foundation, a component regional foundation of the Foundation for Enhancing Communities, plus additional grants from Jumpstreet (Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts), Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Pennsylvania and the Seven Trees Foundation. Additional underwriting support also comes from the Hershey Company, Target Stores, Commerce Bank and Lois Lehrman Grass.

Capitol Opera Harrisburg was founded by Harrisburg native Kathleen Torchia in 2000. Mayor Stephen Reed and the Harrisburg School District offered the William Penn Campus Auditorium as the home of Capitol Harrisburg, and productions have included "Tosca". "The Marriage of Figaro", "Carmen", "La Traviata", "La Serva Padrona/I Pagliacci."