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Opera Birmingham Announces the 2011 -2012 Season

Birmingham, Ala. – General Director of Opera Birmingham, John D. Jones, announces the 2011-2012 Opera Birmingham season schedule. The 2011-2012 season begins in November with the *Catch a Rising Star Recital*, as Opera Birmingham welcomes back the winner of the 2011 Vocal Competition, soprano Melissa Shippen Burrows. In December, Opera Birmingham will present *Home for the Holidays*, a heartwarming holiday concert featuring a quartet of talented singers. In January 2012, the Company participates in the grand opening of the new theater at The Alabama School of Fine Arts—with a gala concert, *An Evening with Angela Brown: An Italian Opera Gala*. The season closes in March with two performances of the world’s favorite opera, Bizet’s masterpiece *Carmen*. *Carmen*, which is sung in French, will be presented with projected English translations, for ease of understanding; and will feature the Opera Birmingham Chorus and the Alabama Symphony Orchestra.

Catch a Rising Star Recital

Sunday, November 6, 2011 at 2:30 p.m.

Melissa Shippen Burrows, soprano

Brock Recital Hall, Samford University

Opera Birmingham celebrates National Opera Week and the opening of the 2011-12 season by shining the spotlight on the winner of the 2011 Vocal Competition, outstanding soprano Melissa Shippen Burrows! Past winners of Opera Birmingham’s Vocal Competition have gone on to stellar careers, singing on the world’s most prestigious stages! So catch this rising star while you can!

Home for the Holidays

Friday, December 16, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 18, 2011 at 2:30 p.m.

Opera Birmingham Chorus

Brock Hall, Samford University

Opera Birmingham's annual family-friendly concert provides the perfect way to celebrate the season with friends and family! Traditional carols and popular holiday favorites will be performed by a quartet of talented singers that will make this concert a highlight of your celebrations!

An Evening with Angela Brown:

An Italian Opera Gala

Friday, January 27, 2012 at 8:00 p.m.

Angela Brown, soprano

Alabama Symphony Orchestra

The Alabama School of Fine Arts Theater

Opera Birmingham proudly participates in the grand opening festivities of the School of Fine Arts' beautiful new theater with astounding soprano Angela Brown in a program of favorite Verdi and Puccini arias. In her first performance here since an acclaimed 2008 concert, she'll be joined by the Alabama Symphony Orchestra and raise the roof—down-home diva style!

***Carmen*/Bizet**

Friday, March 16, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 18, 2012 at 2:30 p.m.

Kallen Esperian, Carmen

John Bellemer, Don José

Corey McKern, Escamillo

Emmanuel Plasson, conductor

Ted Huffman, stage director

Opera Birmingham Chorus

Alabama Symphony Orchestra

Wright Center, Samford University

The world's favorite opera returns to the Opera Birmingham stage for the first time in a decade! Absence does make the heart grow fonder. And the passion more lethal! A magnificent cast headed by Opera Birmingham favorites Kallen Esperian (Carmen), John Bellemer (Don Jose), and Corey McKern (in his very first Escamillo, the dashing toreador, anywhere!) appears in a new production directed by exciting young American stage director Ted Huffman and conducted by acclaimed French maestro Emmanuel Plasson. Bizet's masterpiece includes the most familiar arias and choruses ever written! This Carmen is a not-to-be-missed treat for all the senses!

Season subscriptions are on sale now at 205.322.6737, online at www.operabirmingham.org, or by visiting the Opera Birmingham office at 3601 Sixth Avenue South. Season tickets range from \$99 (balcony) to \$250 (prime orchestra), and season subscriptions are available for \$48 to students age 25 or under with a valid full-time student ID. Individual tickets are available for purchase beginning September 6; and group rates will be available at this time also. For more information, please call Opera Birmingham at 205.322.6737 or visit our website at www.operabirmingham.org.

Opera Birmingham is pleased to be a part of The Year of Alabama Music celebration. Follow Opera Birmingham on Twitter @operabham or on Facebook at Opera Birmingham. Opera Birmingham, the only professional opera company in Northern and Central Alabama, has entertained audiences for over 55 years.

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