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Opera Birmingham Tickets On Sale Today!

Birmingham, Ala. - September 6, 2011 – The wait is over! Individual tickets are on sale now for Opera Birmingham’s highly-anticipated 2011-2012 Season, “*A Song of Desire*.” This year’s exciting line-up includes *Catch a Rising Star* (November 6), *Home for the Holidays* (December 16 & 18), *An Evening with Angela Brown: An Italian Opera Gala* (January 27), and *Carmen* (March 16 & 18).

Order your tickets early for the best seat selection. Individual tickets may be purchased in three ways:

- Log on to www.operabirmingham.org (24 hours a day)
- Call 205-322-6737 (Monday-Friday, 9:00am-5:00pm)
- Visit the Hill Opera Center, located at 3601 Sixth Ave. S. (Monday-Friday, 9:00am-5:00pm)

The season begins with *Catch a Rising Star*, as Opera Birmingham welcomes back soprano Melissa Shippen Burrows, the winner of the 2011 Opera Birmingham Vocal Competition. Past winners of Opera Birmingham’s Vocal Competition have gone on to stellar careers, singing on the world’s most prestigious stages. Catch this rising star while you can! Individual ticket prices range from \$20 for rear mezzanine seating to \$45 for seating in the prime orchestra.

Opera Birmingham will celebrate the holidays with two performances of *Home for the Holidays*, a heartwarming, family-friendly concert featuring a quartet of talented singers. Traditional carols and popular holiday favorites will make this concert a highlight of your holiday celebrations! Individual ticket prices range from \$20 for rear mezzanine seating to \$45 for seating in the prime orchestra.

The Opera Birmingham Season continues into 2012 as the Company presents *An Evening with Angela Brown: An Italian Opera Gala*, which will be the grand opening performance in the brand new state-of-the-art theater at The Alabama School of Fine Arts. Acclaimed Metropolitan Opera soprano, Angela Brown, will be joined by the Alabama Symphony Orchestra for this spectacular gala concert. Due to high demand, tickets for *An Evening with Angela Brown* are available only to season ticket holders.

The show-stopping highlight of the 2011-2012 Season will be two dazzling performances of *Carmen*, the world’s favorite opera! *Carmen* returns to the Opera Birmingham stage for the first time in a decade! Diva-of-the-operatic-stage, Kallen Esperian, takes on the title role as the ultimate Spanish seductress. Bizet’s spectacular masterpiece includes some of the most familiar music in all of opera. *Carmen*, which is sung in French, will be presented with projected English translations, so you’ll understand every word! This magnificent, fully-staged

production will feature the Opera Birmingham Chorus and the Alabama Symphony Orchestra. This *Carmen* is a not-to-be-missed treat for all the senses... So experience the passion of Carmen! Individual ticket prices range from \$35 for balcony seating to \$90 for seating in the prime orchestra.

Season tickets are still available by calling 205-322-6737 or by visiting the Hill Opera Center. Season ticket holders receive a discount off regular individual ticket prices, as well as priority seating and other exclusive benefits. Patrons can purchase season tickets—all four performances, including *An Evening with Angela Brown*—for as little as \$99!

Students tickets are available to individuals age 25 or under with a valid full-time student ID, and must be purchased in person at the Hill Opera Center. Student tickets for *Catch a Rising Star*, *Home for the Holidays*, and *Carmen* are \$12 each. Student season subscriptions (which also include *An Evening with Angela Brown*) are \$48.

To inquire about rates for groups of 10 or more, or for any other information regarding Opera Birmingham and performances for 2011-2012, call 205-322-6737. Visit our website at www.operabirmingham.org, and follow Opera Birmingham on Twitter @operabham and on Facebook at Opera Birmingham.

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

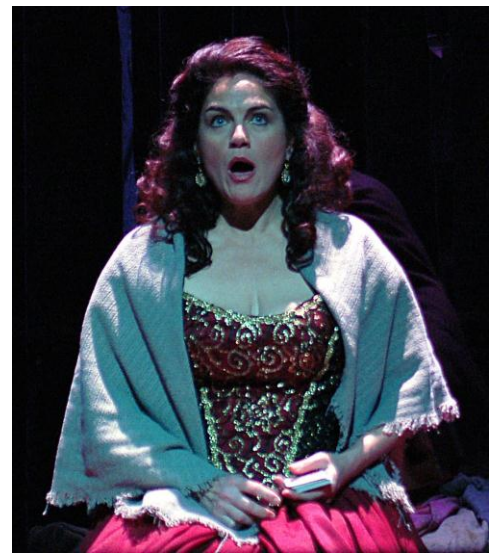
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Melissa Shippen Burrows



Angela Brown
Photo by Roni Ely



Kallen Esperian as "Carmen"
Photo by Sean Davis
Courtesy Opera Memphis