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Elizabeth Futral returns to Opera Birmingham November 16

Birmingham, AL — **Opera Birmingham** opens the season with a dazzling recital by the magnificent soprano Elizabeth Futral. *An Evening with Elizabeth Futral*, presented in collaboration with the Samford University School of Arts, will take place on Tuesday, November 16, 2010 at 7:30 pm at Brock Recital Hall, Samford University. Ms. Futral will be accompanied by William Billinghamurst on the piano.

This season's opening gala concert is a once-in-a-lifetime musical event with limited seating. "Elizabeth Futral has continued to set the opera world afire since her last appearances here in 1999 and 2005," said John D. Jones, General Director of **Opera Birmingham**.

Ms. Futral has appeared at the major opera houses of the world, including the **Metropolitan Opera** (the title role in *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Princess Eudoxie in *La juive*, Elvira in *I Puritani*, and Princess Yueyang in the world premiere of *The First Emperor*), **Royal Opera House, Covent Garden** (Musetta in *La bohème*), **San Francisco Opera** (Stella in the world premiere of *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Violetta in *La traviata*), **Bayerische Staatsoper** (Nannetta in *Falstaff*), **Gran Teatre del Liceu** (Gilda in *Rigoletto*), **Berlin State Opera** (Violetta), **Lyric Opera of Chicago** (Violetta and the title role in *Partenope*), and **Washington National Opera** (Adina in *L'elisir d'amore*, Violetta and Lucia).

With her stunning vocalism and vast dramatic range, Elizabeth Futral has established herself as one of the major coloratura sopranos in the world today. "In a bright, focused and sizable voice, she spins out streams of florid coloratura roulades and makes embellishments seem natural elaborations of long melodic lines," said The New York Times of her Metropolitan Opera performance in *Lucia di Lammermoor*.

In addition to the concert with **Opera Birmingham**, the 2010-2011 opera season for Elizabeth Futral will include performances in other venues throughout North and South America. She will be singing the four heroines in *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* with the **Florida Grand Opera**, in addition to performances as Violetta in *La traviata* with the **Minnesota Opera**. She will perform the title role in *Thaïs* with the **Teatro Municipal de Santiago, Chile**.

Eleanor Parker, Director of Marketing for **Opera Birmingham**, explained, "This concert is not a part of our regular season subscription, so must be purchased separately. There are less than 40 seats remaining, so tickets are going quickly."

Tickets for *An Evening with Elizabeth Futral* are \$50. A reception with the artist will be held a private home following the performance. Tickets for the concert and reception are \$100.

Ms. Futral, a graduate of Samford University, will also present a master class for Samford students on Wednesday, November 17.

Opera Birmingham, Northern Alabama's only professional, regional opera company, has entertained audiences in the region for over 50 years.

For more information about *An Evening with Elizabeth Futral* or the **Opera Birmingham** season in general, please call 205-322-6737 or visit www.operabirmingham.org. For more information on Elizabeth Futral, please visit www.elizabethfutral.com. Follow **Opera Birmingham** on Twitter @operabham or on Facebook at Opera Birmingham. *An Evening with Elizabeth Futral* is sponsored by Patty McDonald.



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