



**For Immediate Release** – November 18, 2011

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**There's no place like 'Home for the Holidays' with Opera Birmingham!**

**Birmingham, Ala.** – Opera Birmingham continues its merry tradition with a fifth season of *Home for the Holidays*! This concert of holiday favorites will be presented on Friday, December 16, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, December 18, 2010 at 2:30 p.m. at Samford University's Brock Recital Hall.

Traditional carols and popular favorites, performed by a quartet of talented singers, will make this concert a highlight of your holiday celebrations! Join soprano Christina Villaverde, mezzo-soprano Millinee Bannister, baritone Mark Womack, and bass-baritone Timothy Beenken as Opera Birmingham celebrates the holiday season. Accompanied by pianist John Robertson and joined by the Opera Birmingham Chamber Choir under the direction of chorusmaster Daniel Seigel, *Home for the Holidays* is sure to be one of the best holiday concerts around. Opera Birmingham's annual family-friendly concert provides the perfect way to celebrate the season with friends and family!

Order your tickets early for the best seat selection. Individual ticket prices range from \$20 for rear mezzanine seating to \$45 for seating in the prime orchestra and can be purchased as follows:

- Log on to [www.operabirmingham.org](http://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)

Students tickets are available for \$12 to individuals age 25 or under with a valid full-time student ID, and must be purchased in person at the Hill Opera Center. 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.

*Home for the Holidays* is made possible through the generous support of Patty McDonald, and by grants from the Alabama Statue Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. Opera Birmingham's 2011-2012 season continues in the new year with *Carmen* on March 16 and 18, 2012, and *An Evening with Angela Brown* on April 13, 2012. 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. Tickets to *An Evening with Angela Brown* are available exclusively to season ticket holders.

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. Visit our website at [www.operabirmingham.org](http://www.operabirmingham.org), and follow Opera Birmingham on Twitter @operabham and on Facebook at Opera Birmingham.

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A note about the artists, all of whom are “Home for the Holidays”:

**Christina Villaverde** - Birmingham resident and Voice Instructor at Samford University  
(For more information visit [www.ChristinaVillaverde.com](http://www.ChristinaVillaverde.com))

**Millinee Bannister** - Montgomery native and frequent Opera Birmingham artist; married to fellow cast-member, Mark Womack

**Mark Womack** - married to fellow cast-member, Millinee Bannister, a Montgomery native  
(For more information visit [www.MarkWomack.com](http://www.MarkWomack.com))

**Timothy Beenken** - Birmingham native and frequent Opera Birmingham artist

**John Robertson** - Birmingham native and Piano Instructor in the Preparatory Music Department at Samford University



Christina Villaverde, soprano



Millinee Bannister, mezzo soprano



Mark Womack, baritone



Timothy Beenken, bass-baritone



“Home for the Holidays” Image