



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Opera Birmingham Celebrates National Opera Week October 29 – November 7**

Birmingham, AL —Opera Birmingham is proud to join nearly 100 other opera organizations nationwide to celebrate **National Opera Week (October 29 – November 7)**, organized by OPERA America, the national service organization for opera, with support of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). Opera Birmingham will host a variety of events to celebrate National Opera Week at their Hill Opera Center and on campuses and at churches throughout the Birmingham and Tuscaloosa areas.

“National Opera Week is an opportunity to highlight the astounding diversity and creativity of opera activity across the United States today,” stated Marc A. Scorca, president & CEO of OPERA America. “There is something for everyone during National Opera Week, providing both the seasoned attendee and newcomer a chance to learn about, experience and enjoy the art form in an informal setting.”

National Opera Week celebrates the vitality of opera in America today and brings the inventiveness and excitement of opera to a broader national audience. The strength and diversity of established opera companies, community opera ensembles and opera training programs across the United States will be shared through a variety of free and accessible activities for opera lovers and newcomers to the art form.

“Opera Birmingham is pleased to participate in the second National Opera Week. This year, our focus is on the young singer and features events on five college campuses,” said John Jones, General Director of Opera Birmingham. “Our great local asset—the Opera Birmingham Chorus—kicks off the week with a Chorus Cabaret and an Open Rehearsal for “Faust.” Our first Opera Attic Sale—to benefit the Company’s programs in the community, such as discounted tickets for students—will end the week with something new and different with wide appeal.”

Coinciding with the presentation of the NEA Opera Honors in Washington, D.C., National Opera Week honors the careers of the outstanding artists chosen each year for this award. The recipients of the 2010 NEA Opera Honors are Soprano **Martina Arroyo**, General Director **David DiChiera**, Composer **Philip Glass** and Music Director **Eve Queler**. Previous honorees include Composer John Adams, Composer Carlisle Floyd, Mezzo-Soprano Marilyn Horne, Conductor James Levine and Soprano Leontyne Price. The

2010 NEA Opera Honors will take place on Friday, October 22 at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. ([www.neaoperahonors.org](http://www.neaoperahonors.org)).

**Opera Birmingham National Opera Week Event Details:**

Opera Birmingham Chorus Cabaret

Unitarian Universalist Church, 4300 Hampton Heights Drive, Birmingham, AL 35209

October 29, 7:30pm

Audience members will be entertained by the Opera Birmingham Chorus, performing favorite opera choruses from Aida's Triumphal Chorus to Carmen's famous Toreador Chorus. Admission is \$10.

Opera Birmingham Chorus Open Rehearsal

The Altamont School, 4801 Altamont Road South, Birmingham, AL 35213

October 30, 10:00am

Observers will see and hear the Opera Birmingham Chorus, under the direction of Daniel Seigel, as it prepares for January's production of Gounod's timeless classic, "Faust." Admission is free.

Opera Birmingham Annual Subscriber Open House and Dedication of the McDonald Event Room

The Hill Opera Center, 3601 Sixth Avenue South, Birmingham, AL 35222

October 31, 3:00pm

Opera Birmingham dedicates the newly renovated McDonald Event Room, named in honor of Patty McDonald and in memory of her husband, Pat McDonald, in the Hill Opera Center. Admission is free.

"What's Opera, Kitty?"

Hill Hall - Birmingham-Southern College, 900 Arkadelphia Road, Birmingham, AL 35254

November 1, 7:00pm

Opera Birmingham General Director John Jones is joined by Birmingham-Southern College Director of Opera Studies Jeff Kensmoe for a discussion about auditioning and repertoire for young artists. Admission is free.

Opera Birmingham Mock Auditions

Hulsey Recital Hall - UAB, 950 13<sup>th</sup> St. South, Birmingham, AL 35294

November 2, 3:30pm

Opera Birmingham General Director John Jones hears and critiques auditions featuring UAB vocalists. This event is free.

Opera Birmingham Mock Auditions

Le Baron Recital Hall - Davis Music Building - University of Montevallo, Montevallo, AL 35115

November 3, 12:00pm

Opera Birmingham General Director John Jones hears and critiques auditions featuring Montevallo vocalists. Admission is free.

Wright Center Backstage Tour

Lobby of the Wright Center - Samford University, 800 Lakeshore Drive, Birmingham, AL 35229

November 4, 4:00pm

Step behind the curtain for a look backstage at Opera Birmingham's mainstage home, the Leslie Wright Center on the Samford University campus. Admission is free.

"Real to Reel: Opera Goes to the Movies"

Choral/Opera Room - Moody Music Building - University of Alabama

November 5, 7:30pm and November 7, 3:00pm

The University of Alabama Opera Theatre presents a multimedia evening of opera scenes and arias heard in famous motion pictures. The evening will include scenes from a documentary on the opera program which will be filmed during the fall semester and the performance itself, along with the audience, will become part of the finished film. Tickets are \$10 for General Admission and \$5 for Students. For tickets and information call 205-348-7111. Box Office Hours are 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Samford Opera Works Homecoming Cabaret

Harry's Coffeehouse - Student Union - Samford University, 800 Lakeshore Drive, Birmingham, AL 35229

November 5, 8:30pm

Admission is free.

The Opera Attic Sale

The Hill Opera Center, 3601 Sixth Avenue South, Birmingham, AL 35222

November 6, 7:00am – 12:00pm

Treasures, including costumes and props from Opera Birmingham productions, will be the stars of this sale! A wide variety of household and electronic goods will give new meaning to the words "Rummage Sale!" Admission is free.

For more information about National Opera Week events around the country, please visit [www.operamerica.org/now](http://www.operamerica.org/now). Follow the National Opera Week conversation on Twitter with #operaweek.

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Eleanor L. Parker, Director of Marketing & Communications

Opera Birmingham

3601 Sixth Avenue, South

Birmingham, AL 35222

P: 205-322-6737

F: 205-322-6206

[eleanor@operabirmingham.org](mailto:eleanor@operabirmingham.org)

[www.operabirmingham.org](http://www.operabirmingham.org)

Additional press contacts:

**For OPERA America:** Patricia Kiernan Johnson, 212-796-8620, ext. 217, [PKJohnson@operaamerica.org](mailto:PKJohnson@operaamerica.org)

**For NEA:** Victoria Hutter, 202-682-5692, [hutterv@arts.gov](mailto:hutterv@arts.gov)