



## For Immediate Release

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### Opera Birmingham Presents *The Great Wagner Concert*

Birmingham, AL - **Opera Birmingham** presents "The Great Wagner Concert" on Saturday, April 16 at 7:30pm at Samford University's Wright Center. Soprano **Jane Dutton** and tenor **Bryan Register** join **Maestro Steven White** and the **Alabama Symphony Orchestra** to bring Wagner's sweeping Romantic music to the stage for an evening of the composer's greatest hits.

German composer Richard Wagner's music has been featured in everything from commercials, to cartoons, to TV shows, to movies. "Ride of the Valkyries" is heard during the famous helicopter scene in Francis Ford Coppola's "Apocalypse Now" and is the tune to which Elmer Fudd sings "Kill the Wabbit" in the animated cartoon short "What's Opera, Doc?" starring Bugs Bunny. A familiar extract from Wagner's romantic opera *Lohengrin*, the Bridal Chorus—known better as "Here Comes the Bride"—is frequently played as the bride's processional wedding march in much of the western world.

It has been almost 30 years since Wagner was last performed on the **Opera Birmingham** stage. His music ranks high among audience requests, and **Opera Birmingham** is listening! "The Great Wagner Concert," which will be performed in German with projected English translations, will feature selections from some of Wagner's most beloved operas, including *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*, *Tristan & Isolde*, *Die Walküre* and *Götterdämmerung*. To complete the experience, Maestro White will present fascinating comments and introductions to the pieces you know so well. Wagner is known for his lengthy operas; however the length of this concert is only two hours, which includes a twenty-minute intermission, making it appealing to a broad audience!

Dutton has been an **Opera Birmingham** mainstay since her initial **Opera Birmingham** performance as a mezzo-soprano a decade ago in *The Marriage of Figaro*. Since that time she has delighted the **Opera Birmingham** audience with her performances in *Carmen*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Aida* and the *Gala 2009*. Among her many notable performances around the world, are *Henry VIII*, *Norma*, *Pique Dame*, *Hamlet*, *Rigoletto*, *Madama Butterfly* and *Die Walküre* with **Gran Teatre Del Liceu** in Barcelona, *Elektra* with **Tokyo Opera**, *Parsifal*, *Aida* and *Cavalleria Rusticana* with **English National Opera**, *Susannah*, *Lulu*, *Madama Butterfly* and *Rigoletto* with the **Metropolitan Opera**, and *Don Carlo* with **Opera North**, Leeds, UK.

This will be Register's debut with **Opera Birmingham**. He has performed *Don Quichotte*, *Samson et Dalila* and *Lucia di Lammermoor* with **San Diego Opera**, *Die Walküre* for the **Wagner Society of Washington, D.C.**, *Carmen* with **Virginia Opera**, *Dialogues des Carmélites* and *Orlando Paladino* with **Glimmerglass Opera**, and *Falstaff*, *Wozzeck* and *Idomeneo* with **Santa Fe Opera**.

White, who developed the concert format for "The Great Wagner Concert," returns to **Opera Birmingham** after an absence of six seasons. His previous **Opera Birmingham** productions include the *Elizabeth Futral Gala*, *Madama Butterfly* and *Le nozze di Figaro*. He has also conducted *La Traviata* for the **Metropolitan Opera**, *Don Giovanni*, *Carmen* and *La bohème* for **New York City Opera**, and *I puritani*, *La sonnambula*, *The Siege of Corinth* and *Roméo et*

*Juliette* for **Baltimore Opera**. His other engagements include concerts with Kiri Te Kanawa, Angela Gheorghiu and Rolando Villazon.

Tickets to “The Great Wagner Concert” may be purchased by phone at 205-322-6737, online at [www.operabirmingham.org](http://www.operabirmingham.org), or by visiting the **Opera Birmingham** office at 3601 Sixth Avenue South. Single tickets range from \$20 (balcony) to \$80 (center front orchestra), and student tickets may be purchased for \$12 with a valid ID. Group rates are also available.

**Opera Birmingham**, Alabama’s largest opera company, is pleased to be a part of The Year of Alabama Music celebration. Additional information may be found at [www.operabirmingham.org](http://www.operabirmingham.org). Follow **Opera Birmingham** on Twitter @operabham or on Facebook at Opera Birmingham. **Opera Birmingham**, Northern and Central Alabama's only professional, regional opera company has entertained audiences for over 55 years.

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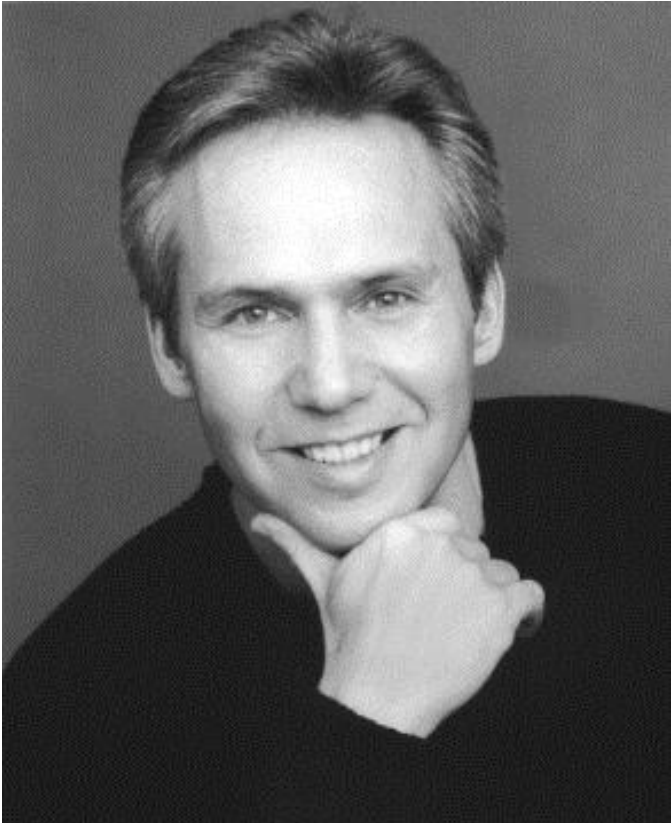
**Opera Birmingham** offers a discount for YP Birmingham cardholders.



Jane Dutton



Bryan Register



Steven White