

Opera Atelier

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 27, 2004

Media Contact: Karen Lorenowicz
Tel: 416-243-0168 karen.l@sympatico.ca

YOUTHFUL PASSION AND RECKLESSNESS COLLIDE IN MOZART'S *DON GIOVANNI*

TORONTO, ON... Starting **November 11**, Opera Atelier presents its acclaimed Commedia del'Arte production of Mozart's *Don Giovanni* – a dark, ironic comedy which reflects the style of Mozart's 1787 premiere. First seen in Toronto in 1996, this unconventional *Don Giovanni* has travelled to Korea's prestigious Seoul Arts Centre, toured eight cities in Japan, and visited the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, causing a sensation wherever it is performed. *Don Giovanni* will be sung in Italian with **English and French SURTITLES™** and runs **November 11, 13, 17, 19, 20 at 7:30 pm** and **November 14 and 21 at 3:00 pm** at the Elgin Theatre (189 Yonge Street).

Often regarded as the greatest opera of all time, Mozart's *Don Giovanni* recounts the adventures of an incorrigible young seducer constantly in search of his next conquest. As the day unfolds Giovanni's attempts to seduce are constantly thwarted. First he inadvertently murders the father of his latest conquest in a duel. Next, Donna Elvira appears and claims Giovanni is her husband, and finally, the peasant girl Zerlina inexplicably repels his advances.

Italian/American baritone **Michael Chioldi** who has previously sung in Opera Atelier's *Le nozze di Figaro* (Japan tour) and *Persée* (2000) makes his debut in the role of the Don. This talented young artist has performed at major opera houses throughout the United States including the Metropolitan Opera, Houston Grand Opera, New York City Opera, San Francisco Opera, and Washington Opera. Mr. Chioldi's many awards include The Metropolitan Opera National Council Competition (Winner 1995), the MacAllister Competition, The Licia Albanese-Puccini Competition and The Miami Opera Competition. He can be heard on the Sony Classical, BMG and Newport Classics labels.

Directed by **Marshall Pynkoski** and choreographed by **Jeannette Zingg**, Opera Atelier's co-artistic directors, *Don Giovanni* also features the talents of tenor **Colin Ainsworth** (Don Ottavio), soprano **Peggy Kriha Dye** (Donna Elvira), bass **Olivier Laquerre** (Leporello), soprano **Nathalie Paulin** (Zerlina), soprano **Jackalyn Short** (Donna Anna), baritone **Curtis Sullivan** (Commendatore/Masetto) and **Artists of Atelier Ballet**. Celebrated British conductor **Andrew Parrott** conducts the **Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra**. The production was designed by **William Schmuck** with costumes by **Dora Rust D'Eye** and lighting by **Kevin Fraser**.

Tickets for *Don Giovanni* range from **\$25 to \$107** and may be purchased by calling TicketMaster at **(416) 872-5555**, on-line at www.ticketmaster.ca or in person at the Elgin Theatre Box Office. Student tickets are **\$15** and may be purchased by **full-time students** with valid I.D. in person at the Elgin Theatre Box Office (max. 2 tickets per person, subject to availability) through the **Youth Initiatives Program** made possible by **Scotiabank**. Group discounts (15 people +) are available through Group Sales International **416-597-0965** or **1-800-821-6422**.

-more-

On **November 20th**, Opera Atelier hosts **An Evening at Versailles Celebrates *Don Giovanni***, an Italian themed gala fundraiser in support of the company's education programs. Hosted at the Elgin Theatre, the gala includes a period-faithful pre-performance reception featuring Italian cuisine and wines, VIP tickets to that evening's performance of ***Don Giovanni***, a silent auction, and a post-performance reception with the cast and creative team. Gala Tickets are \$250 and include a tax receipt for the maximum allowable amount. For details, call John R. Farrell at 416-703-3767 ext. 26.

BMO Financial Group Pre-Performance Opera Chats

Opera Atelier offers free introductions to the opera and its themes one hour before each performance in the Elgin Lounge.

Digital photography available at:

http://www.operaatelier.com/media_download.htm

Visit our new website at www.operaatelier.com