

**OPERA ON FILM RETURNS TO
NEW YORK FOR SECOND SEASON
EXCLUSIVE THEATRICAL SHOWINGS AT
SYMPHONY SPACE**

**CLASSIC OPERAS FILMED LIVE AT EUROPE'S LEGENDARY
OPERA HOUSES WILL SCREEN IN HD
BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 14**

After a 2007/2008 season of packed houses and sold-out screenings, **Symphony Space** and **Emerging Pictures** are teaming up for a second season of their highly successful **Opera on Film** series beginning **September 14** with Gioachino Rossini's *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* and continuing through June 2009. The series brings high-definition digital cinema presentations of great Italian operas staged both in the current season and last season at a number of Europe's famed opera houses including Milan's **Teatro alla Scala (La Scala)**, Venice's **Teatro la Fenice**, Florence's **Maggio Musicale Fiorentino** and the **Salzburg Festspielhaus** among others. Last season the series garnered critical notice from *The New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal* and *New York Sun*, among others. Symphony Space is the exclusive Manhattan location for Opera on Film screenings. **Please see attached for a complete schedule and box office information.**

The Symphony Space/Emerging Pictures collaboration presents many of the opera world's brightest lights, greatest directors and most celebrated conductors of contemporary European opera in a uniquely immersive cinematic experience. Because the performances are not broadcast live, they provide the New York opera fan a greater opportunity to experience the world's greatest opera in a manner more comfortable and profound than ever before.

Il Barbiere di Siviglia debuted at Teatro Argentina in Rome in 1816 and quickly became Rossini's most famous work. On September 14 Opera on Film opens with a performance of the seminal opera from Teatro la Fenice under the direction of Bepi Morassi. Among the screenings that follow are Mozart's *Don Giovanni* (October 26) featuring British baritone Christopher Maltman (winner of the Lieder Prize at the 1997 Cardiff Singer of the World Competition) in the title role, Tony Award winning director Bartlett Sher's European opera debut production of Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette* (November 9) and a new production of Verdi's *Otello* for the Salzburg Festspielhaus by director Stephen Langridge (November 16).

This season Symphony Space celebrates its 31st year of presenting an outstanding array of performing arts to New Yorkers. When Symphony Space opened its doors in 1978 with its first production, Wall To Wall Bach, it gathered together an eclectic group of musicians, professional and amateur, well-known and emerging. What began as a natural outgrowth of the cultural epicenter that is the Upper West Side, traditionally home to many of the great actors, writers, dancers and musicians of our time, remains a unique melding of world-class artistry with the informality and intimacy of a neighborhood salon.

**For more information, please contact Brian Shimkovitz or Carla Sacks at
Sacks & Co., 212.741.1000, brian@sacksco.com or carla@sacksco.com.**

SCHEDULE**Rossini's *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* from Teatro la Fenice, Venice (2008)****September 14 at 3:00 pm \$21; \$19 Members****September 24 at 7:30 pm**

Conductor: Antonino Fogliani Director: Bepi Morassi Artists: Francesco Meli, Bruno De Simone, Rinat Shaham, Roberto Frontali, Giovanni Furlanetto

This production was an immediate hit when it was staged in Spring 2008.

Bellini's *Norma* from Teatro Comunale di Bologna (2008)**October 5 at 3:00 pm \$21; \$19 Members****October 15 at 7:30 pm**

Conductor: Evelino Pido Director: Federico Tiezzi Artists: Daniela Dessi, Fabio Armiliato, Nino Surguladze

This 2008 production marked International star soprano Daniela Dessi's debut in the title role; the critics raved unanimously about her performance.

"In her debut as Norma, Dessi won the game. Her Norma is vocally convincing and emotionally very touching"—*Opera Chic Blog*

Mozart's *Don Giovanni* from the Salzburg Festival (2008)**October 26 at 3:00 pm \$21; \$19 Members****November 5 at 7:30 pm**

Conductor: Bertrand de Billy Director: Claus Guth Artists: Christopher Maltman, Matthew Polenzani and Erwin Schrott

In the title role, British baritone, Christopher Maltman, Winner of the Lieder Prize at the 1997 Cardiff Singer of the World Competition, made his first appearance in Salzburg in an opera production.

"American tenor Matthew Polenzani has perhaps the finest tenor voice of his generation, and he sang with aristocratic elegance and potency. I've never heard Ottavio's first aria, sung more beautifully or expressively."—*Boston Phoenix*

Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette* from the Salzburg Festival (2008)**November 9 at 3:00 pm \$21; \$19 Members****November 12 at 7:30 pm**

Conductor: Yannick Nézet-Séguin Director: Bartlett Sher Artist: Rolando Villazón

"Rolando Villazón of Mexico dominated the ensemble ... blessed with a fresh gleaming tenor, an admirable sense of rapture, a ringing top and pervasive sensibility."—*Financial Times*

Tony Award winning director Bartlett Sher makes his European opera debut with this production.

Verdi's *Otello* from the Salzburg Festival (2008)**November 16 at 3:00 pm \$21; \$19 Members****December 3 at 7:30 pm**

Conductor: Riccardo Muti Director: Stephen Langridge Artists: Aleksandrs Antonenko and Carlos Álvarez

Verdi's last tragic opera *Otello*, like Shakespeare's play, is a shattering psychological drama. The new production for the Salzburg Festival is directed by Stephen Langridge, who in 2006 attracted attention with his production of Offenbach's *Bluebeard in Bregenz*.

Humperdinck's *Hänsel und Gretel* from the Glyndebourne Festival

December 21 at 6:00 pm \$21; \$19 Members

December 28 at 6:00 pm

Conductor: Kazushi Ono Director: Laurent Pelly Artists: Jennifer Holloway, Adriana Kučerová, Irmgard Vilsmajer, Klaus Kuttler, Wolfgang Ablinger-Sperrhacker, Amy Freston, Malin Christensson

"What lifts the evening are the beautifully romantic, lovingly nuanced playing of the London Philharmonic under Kazushi Ono's lyrical direction, and the spirited performances of the two main characters."—*Times (London)*

Verdi's *Rigoletto* from Teatro Regio di Parma (2008)

January 4 at 3:00 pm \$21; \$19 Members

January 7 at 7:30 pm

Conductor: Massimo Zanetti Director: Stefano Vizioli Artists: Francesco Demuro, Leo Nucci, Desiree Rancatore, Marco Spotti, Stephanie Iranyi, Katarina Nikolic, Roberto Tagliavini, Orazio Mori, Mauro Buffoli

Verdi's *Don Carlo* from Teatro alla Scala, Milan (2008)

January 25 at 3:00 pm \$21; \$19 Members

February 9 at 7:30 pm

Conductor: Daniele Gatti Director: Stéphane Braunschweig Artists: Ferruccio Furlanetto, Giuseppe Filianoti

Shostakovich's *Lady Macbeth* from Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, Florence (2008)

February 15 at 3:00 pm \$21; \$19 Members

February 18 at 7:30 pm

Conductor: James Conlon Director: Lev Dodin Artists: Vladimir Vaneev, Vselovod Grivnov, Geanne-Michele Charbonnet

In 1998, this remarkably powerful production won the Abbiati Prize, the most prestigious Italian music award given by the Italian Association of Music Critics. Ten years later the production was masterfully conducted by James Conlon, music director of the Los Angeles Opera.

DANCE ON FILM

***Bolt* from the Bolshoi Ballet, Moscow**

April 7 at 7:30 pm \$21; \$19 Members; \$15 Children

Choreographer: Alexi Ratmanski Artists: Anastasia Yatsenko, Andreï Merkuriev

Shostakovich's second ballet Bolt brings together serious and popular music and dance.

“One of those theatrical events that can cause even the most jaded viewer to stand up and cheer.”—*The Moscow Times*

The Pharaoh's Daughter from the Bolshoi Ballet, Moscow

April 14 at 7:30 pm \$21; \$19 Members; \$15 Children

Choreographer: Pierre Lacotte from Marius Petipa Artist: Svetlana Zakharova

Marius Petipa was convinced that music existed just for dance, and dance, just for ballerinas.

“With *The Pharaoh's Daughter* the Bolshoi has a vehicle in which the company's prima ballerina, Svetlana Zakharova, can shine.”—*The New York Times*

Mediterranea from La Scala Ballet, Milan (2008)

April 28 at 7:30 pm \$21; \$19 Members; \$15 Children

Choreographer: Mauro Bigonzetti Artist: Massimo Murru

Mediterranea focuses on the gestures and the moves in a refined balance between lyricism and pure energy.

“A hit with the public, *Mediterranea* was acclaimed by critics for its power.”—*Dance Magazine*

BOX OFFICE

Tickets for performances are available:

- In person at 2537 Broadway at 95th Street, Tuesday-Sunday, noon to 7 P.M.
- Over the telephone at (212) 864-5400, Tuesday-Sunday, 11 A.M. to 7 P.M.,
- Online at symphonyspace.org.

For more information, please contact Brian Shimkovitz or Carla Sacks at Sacks & Co., 212.741.1000, brian@sacksco.com or carla@sacksco.com.