



## Media Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Monday, February 7, 2011**

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# MARCH IS ON! AT THE DALLAS OPERA!

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**BORIS GODUNOV: The Russian Experience**  
**At "Opera Insights," Sunday, March 20, 1:00-4:30 PM**

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**RIGOLETTO Opens Friday, March 25 at 7:30 PM**  
**In the Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House**  
**At the AT&T Performing Arts Center**

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**Paolo Gavanelli, Laura Claycomb, James Valenti, Kirsten Chavez and Raymond Aceto Head an All-Star Cast!**

DALLAS, FEBRUARY 7, 2011 – The **Dallas Opera** is pleased to announce a Russian "cultural immersion" event (longer than a typical sneak preview but guaranteed shorter than a Russian novel), featuring the outstanding international cast of **BORIS GODUNOV** before the opera premieres on the **Shannon and Ted Skokos Stage** of the **Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House at the AT&T Performing Arts Center, Friday, April 1, 2011.**

**BORIS GODUNOV: The Russian Experience** will be presented as an expanded edition of the **Dallas Opera Guild's "Opera Insights"** on **Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM** in **Horchow Auditorium** at the **Dallas Museum of Art**, located in the Downtown Dallas Arts District.

This special "Insights" program starts with a panel discussion moderated by the Dallas Opera's **Director/Manager of Media & PR, Suzanne Calvin.** **Dr. Lonny Harrison, Assistant Professor, Russian Section Head, University of Texas at Arlington** and **Dr. Carol Reynolds,**

Associate Professor of Music History and Literature, Southern Methodist University, will lead us in a fascinating and informative exploration of Russia's art, history and complex cultural landscape.

Following the initial panel, the Dallas Opera's **Chorus Master, Alexander Rom** will help us to better understand Russia through its music in a discussion with Dallas Opera **Coach Accompanist Laurie Rodgers**.

Concluding the afternoon will be a lively panel discussion featuring the singers, conductor, and artistic staff of BORIS GODUNOV. Our final feature will be moderated by Dallas Opera **Artistic Director Jonathan Pell** and includes an opportunity for questions from the audience.

Although "Opera Insights" is free, museum admission is required to be admitted to the Horchow.

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**RIGOLETTO** is set to take center stage on **Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM**.

Renowned Italian baritone **Paolo Gavanelli** will make his much-anticipated Dallas Opera debut in the title role. Mr. Gavanelli has distinguished himself as the "foremost Verdi baritone of his generation," writes Hugh Canning, *The Sunday Times*. Joining him in this impressive, all-star cast is Texas-born coloratura soprano **Laura Claycomb** (an SMU alum) as the tender-hearted Gilda; tenor **James Valenti** (Maria Callas Debut Artist of the Year Award winner) as the lusty Duke; renowned bass **Raymond Aceto** as Sparafucile, one of the most cold-blooded killers in opera; and mezzo-soprano **Kirsten Chavez** in her Dallas Opera debut as Maddalena.

A listing of the major Dallas Opera-sponsored-or-related events for the month of November may be accessed below or by visiting our website, [dallasopera.org/events](http://dallasopera.org/events).

## **Calendar of Events**

**1.) Saturday, March 12, 2011 (Approximately 3:30 PM, following Met Opera broadcast)**  
"Inside the Dallas Opera." A monthly program that takes listeners backstage and behind-the-scenes for a look at timely issues and upcoming productions. Hosted by Suzanne Calvin.  
Location: WRR, Classical 101.1 FM

**2.) Sunday, March 13, 2011 (3:00 – 4:30 PM)**  
"Opera Insights: RIGOLETTO, hosted by The Dallas Opera Guild"  
For a more interactive opera experience, join The Dallas Opera Guild the Sunday afternoon prior to each opening for "Opera Insights," a lively and candid panel discussion featuring artists, directors, designers and administrators from each production. Audience questions are welcome!  
Location: Horchow Auditorium

Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 N. Harwood Street, Dallas, TX 75201

**3.) Sunday, March 20, 2011 (1:00 – 4:30 PM)**

“Opera Insights: BORIS GODUNOV, hosted by The Dallas Opera Guild”

For a more interactive opera experience, join The Dallas Opera Guild the Sunday afternoon prior to each opening for “Opera Insights,” a lively and candid panel discussion featuring artists, directors, designers and administrators from each production. Audience questions are welcome!

Location: Horchow Auditorium

Cost: Museum Admission

Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 N. Harwood Street, Dallas, TX 75201

**4.) Friday, March 25, 2011 (7:30 – 10:30 PM)**

RIGOLETTO – Opening Night Performance

Verdi's compelling tale of a tragic jester, his corrupt master, and his daughter (an innocent beauty), comes brilliantly to life in this colorful Dallas Opera revival. The star-studded international cast includes baritone Paolo Gavanelli making his company debut in the title role. Call for tickets now!

Location: Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House at the AT&T Performing Arts Center  
2403 Flora Street, Dallas, TX 75201

Cost: Single tickets start at \$25 online. Flex subscriptions start at \$75 for all three productions. Call 214.443.1000 or visit us online at [dallasopera.org](http://dallasopera.org).

**5.) Sunday, March 27, 2011 (2:00 – 5:00 PM)**

RIGOLETTO – First Sunday Matinee

Verdi's compelling tale of a tragic jester, his corrupt master, and his daughter (an innocent beauty), comes brilliantly to life in this colorful Dallas Opera revival. The star-studded international cast includes baritone Paolo Gavanelli making his company debut in the title role. Call for tickets now!

Location: Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House at the AT&T Performing Arts Center  
2403 Flora Street, Dallas, TX 75201

Cost: Single tickets start at \$25 online. Flex subscriptions start at \$75 for all three productions. Call 214.443.1000 or visit us online at [dallasopera.org](http://dallasopera.org).

**6.) Wednesday, March 30, 2011 (7:30 – 10:30 PM)**

RIGOLETTO – Mid-Week Performance

Verdi's compelling tale of a tragic jester, his corrupt master, and his daughter (an innocent beauty), comes brilliantly to life in this colorful Dallas Opera revival. The star-studded international cast includes baritone Paolo Gavanelli making his company debut in the title role. Call for tickets now!

Location: Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House at the AT&T Performing Arts Center  
2403 Flora Street, Dallas, TX 75201

Cost: Single tickets start at \$25 online. Flex subscriptions start at \$75 for all three productions. Call 214.443.1000 or visit us online at [dallasopera.org](http://dallasopera.org).

*EVENTS AND GUESTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE*

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT "FEBRUARY AT THE DALLAS OPERA"  
IS CONVENIENTLY AVAILABLE ONLINE  
VISIT [WWW.DALLASOPERA.ORG](http://WWW.DALLASOPERA.ORG) AND CHECK THE CALENDAR LISTINGS

*For high-resolution, digital photographs suitable for print*

*To arrange an interview*

*Or for additional information*

*Please contact Suzanne Calvin, Manager/Director of Media & PR  
214.443.1014 or [suzanne.calvin@dallasopera.org](mailto:suzanne.calvin@dallasopera.org)*

THE DALLAS OPERA WISHES TO EXPRESS ITS GRATITUDE TO OUR EXCLUSIVE PARTNERS:

AMERICAN AIRLINES – OFFICIAL AIRLINE OF THE DALLAS OPERA

LEXUS – OFFICIAL VEHICLE OF THE DALLAS OPERA

CARTIER – OFFICIAL JEWELER & WATCHMAKER OF THE DALLAS OPERA

ROSEWOOD CRESCENT HOTEL – OFFICIAL HOTEL OF THE DALLAS OPERA

In grateful appreciation of their service and commitment,  
The Dallas Opera dedicates this season to Joanna and Peter Townsend.

### **Ticket Information for the 2010-2011 Dallas Opera Season**

All performances are in the new Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House at the AT&T Performing Arts Center. Opera Three-Packs start at just \$75 and are on sale now. Single tickets start at just \$25 and students with a valid ID can obtain "best available seats" for the same price 90 minutes prior to curtain at each performance. For more information, contact The Dallas Opera Ticket Services Office during normal business hours at 214.443.1000 or visit us online at [www.dallasopera.org](http://www.dallasopera.org).

### **THE DALLAS OPERA 2010-2011 SEASON INFORMATION**

The Dallas Opera celebrates its Fifty-Fourth International Season with 30 performances of five productions in the Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House at the AT&T Performing Arts Center in downtown Dallas. Evening performances will begin at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees will begin at 2:00 p.m. English translations will be projected above the stage at every performance. Assistance is available for the hearing impaired; inquire at the front desk of the Winspear prior to your performance.

#### **2011 SPRING SEASON:**

**ROMEO AND JULIET** by Charles Gounod  
February 11, 13(m), 16, 19, 25 & 27(m), 2011  
Production from Montréal Opera

An opera in five acts first performed in Paris' Théâtre Lyrique, April 27, 1867.  
Text by Jules Barbier and Michel Carré after William Shakespeare's play.

**Time:** Renaissance Period

**Place:** Verona, Italy

**Conductor:** Marco Zambelli\*

**Stage Director:** Michael Kahn  
**Production Design:** Claude Girard\*  
**Lighting Design:** Mark McCullough  
**Wig & make-up Design:** David Zimmerman  
**Chorus Master:** Alexander Rom  
**Choreographer:** Candace Evans  
**Fight Choreographer:** Bill Lengfelder  
**Starring:** Charles Castronovo\* (*Romeo*), Lyubov Petrova (*Juliet*), Robert Lloyd (*Friar Laurence*), Joshua Hopkins\* (*Mercutio*), Roxana Constantinescu\* (*Stephano*), Stephen Morscheck (*Capulet*), Jane Bunnell (*Gertrude*), Mark McCrory (*The Duke*), Aaron Blake (*Tybalt*) and Stephen LaBrie\* (*Paris*).

**RIGOLETTO by Giuseppe Verdi**

**March 25, 27(m), 30, April 2, 7 & 10(m), 2011**

**A classic Dallas Opera revival!**

An opera in two acts first performed in Venice at Teatro La Fenice, March 11, 1851

Text by Francesco Maria Piave after Victor Hugo's play, *Le roi s'amuse*

**Time:** Renaissance Period

**Place:** Mantua, Italy

**Conductor:** Pietro Rizzo

**Stage Director:** Harry Silverstein

**Scenic Design:** Michael Yeargan

**Costume Design:** Peter J. Hall

**Lighting Design:** Stephen Strawbridge

**Wig & make-up Design:** David Zimmerman

**Chorus Master:** Alexander Rom

**Choreographer/Asst.Dir.:** Keturah Stickann

**Starring:** Paolo Gavanelli\* (*Rigoletto*), Laura Claycomb\* (*Gilda*), James Valenti (*The Duke*), Raymond Aceto (*Sparafucile*), Kirsten Chavez\* (*Maddalena*), Stephen Hartley\* (*Marullo*), Aaron Blake (*Borsa*), Bradley Garvin\* (*Count Monterone*), Quinn Patrick\* (*Giovanna*) and Katie Bolding\* (*Countess Ceprano*).

**BORIS GODUNOV by Modest Mussorgsky**

**April 1, 3(m), 6, 9, 15 & 17(m), 2011**

**Original production for Royal Opera, Covent Garden!**

Text by the composer based on a tragedy by Alexander Pushkin and supplemented by materials from the historical works of Nikolay Mikhaylovich Karamzin and others.

**Time:** 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> century

**Place:** Russia and Poland

**Conductor:** Graeme Jenkins

**Original Production:** Andrei Tarkovsky

**Stage Director:** Stephen Lawless

**Production Design:** Nicolas Dvigubsky\*

**Lighting Design:** Robert Bryan\*

**Wig & make-up Design:** David Zimmerman

**Chorus Master:** Alexander Rom

**Choreographer:** Nicola Bowie

**Starring:** Mikail Kazakov\* (*Boris Godunov*), Elena Bocharova\* (*Marina Mniszek*), Evgeny Akimov\* (*The Pretender*), Vitally Efanov\* (*Pimen*), Mikhail Kolelishvili\* (*Varlaam*), Sergei Leiferkus\* (*Rangoni*), Allan Glassman (*Shuysky*), Oksana Shilova\*\* (*Xenia*), Andrei Spekhov\*\* (*Schelkalov*), Meredith Arwady\* (*The Hostess*), Keith Jameson (*The Simpleton*) and Steven Haal (*Missail*).

\* Dallas Opera Debut

\*\* American Debut

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The Dallas Opera is supported, in part, by funds from: **City of Dallas, Office of Cultural Affairs; TACA;** the **Texas Commission on the Arts** and **The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)**. **American Airlines** is the

official airline of The Dallas Opera. **Lexus** is the official vehicle of The Dallas Opera. **Cartier** is the official jeweler of The Dallas Opera. **Rosewood Crescent Hotel** is the official hotel of The Dallas Opera. Advertising support from *The Dallas Morning News*. The **T. Boone Pickens YMCA**, **Smartwater** and **Stephen Pyles Restaurant** – new supporting partners! A special thanks to **Mrs. William W. Winspear** and the **Elsa von Seggern Foundation** for their continuing support.

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