



BREVARD MUSIC CENTER
SUMMER INSTITUTE AND FESTIVAL

NEWS RELEASE

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Die Fledermaus

(*Brevard, NC*) – The Brevard Music Center is staging Johann Strauss' operetta "**Die Fledermaus**" on Friday, July 9 at 7:30 pm. This lively, new production will feature members of the talented Janiec Opera Company with director David Gately and conductor Ken Lam. This performance is co-sponsored by the Audrey Love Charitable Foundation and The Zimmerli Family Opera Endowment.

"Die Fledermaus," composed by Johann Strauss, is a light-hearted operetta that presents an array of practical jokes and secret identity where the prankster – aided by champagne – gets the last laugh! The Viennese setting of the operetta provides the perfect opportunity to enjoy Strauss waltzes, polkas, and other sparkling dances.

Stage director and 2010 faculty member David Gately is known for his vivid story telling and clever productions. *Opera News* has commended him for his "stylish direction which put the cast through well-timed paces and coaxed telling characterizations," and the *Vancouver Sun* recently wrote that his "conception was always theatrically effective, and his approach to the long wordy libretto was briskly entertaining."

In recent seasons, Mr. Gately directed *Carmen* and *La Boheme* with Florida Grand Opera; *La Traviata*, *La Boheme*, *L'Italiana in Algeri*, *Little Women*, *Salome*, *Norma*, *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, and *Don Pasquale* all with Fort Worth Opera; *Sweeney Todd* at the Brevard Festival; and Weill's *The Tsar Has His Photograph Taken* at the Fringe Festival in Boston. In addition, he directed *Hansel and Gretel* with Utah Opera; *Don Paquale* with L'Opera de Montreal, Arizona Opera, San Diego Opera, Calgary Opera and Edmonton Opera; *Le Contes D'Hoffman* with Tulsa Opera; *Cosi Fan Tutte* with Kentucky Opera; and *Ariadne Auf Naxos*, *Orpheus in the Underworld*, *Kiss Me Kate*, and *Madame Butterfly* at the Brevard Music Center.

Conductor and 2010 faculty member Ken Lam is assistant conductor of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and conductor of the Cincinnati Symphony Youth Orchestra. Mr. Lam made his professional debut with the National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center in June 2008 at the concluding concert of the National Conducting Institute as one of four conductors selected by Leonard Slatkin. He studied with David Zinman and Murry Sidlin at the American Academy of Conducting at Aspen for three summers (2006-2008), and was nominated for the Aspen/Glimmerglass Opera Prize. Mr. Lam will be a featured conductor in the 2009 Bruno Walter National Conductors Preview in Nashville.

Other productions by the Janiec Opera Company include: **Opera's Greatest Hits** on Sunday, July 18 at 3:00 pm; **Pirates of Penzance** on Saturday, July 24 at 7:30 pm; and **The Marriage of Figaro** on Saturday, August 7 at 7:30 pm.

On Saturday July 10 at 7:30 pm, the Music Center is presenting "**Lockhart conducts R. Strauss**," while on Sunday, July 11 at 3:00 pm, the Music Center will feature "**Brahms Symphony No. 1**." Both performances will be conducted by Artistic Director Keith Lockhart and will feature two outstanding pianists, Joseph Kalichstein and James Cockman. In addition, the Music Center is presenting a chamber music performance featuring **The**

Harlem String Quartet on Monday, July 12 at 7:30 pm. The concert will be held at the Porter Center at Brevard College. For the July 10 and 11 performances, auditorium tickets are \$40, \$35, and \$30, while lawn tickets are \$15. “**Die Fledermaus**” tickets are \$30, \$25, and \$20. Lawn tickets are \$15. Audience members can enjoy dining through Picnics, *Presto!* Pre-orders are suggested. For more information, please visit brevardmusic.org or call (828) 862-2105.

The Brevard Music Center was founded by James Christian Pfohl in 1936. His vision to establish a music program for talented young people has since matured into one of this country’s finest summer institutes and festivals for aspiring musicians. Nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Western North Carolina, BMC welcomes to its 180-acre campus each year 400 students, representing over 40 states and eight foreign countries. It has, as well, 65 distinguished faculty artists drawn from America’s most prestigious conservatories, universities and orchestras. Each summer, the Center invites an array of celebrated guest artists to appear in performance with the students of BMC. BMC’s unique learning environment—students living and working alongside faculty and guest artists—creates an unparalleled sense of community.

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