



BREVARD MUSIC CENTER
SUMMER INSTITUTE AND FESTIVAL

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BMC Presents Marriage of Figaro

(Brevard, NC) – The Brevard Music Center is staging W. A. Mozart's "**The Marriage of Figaro**" on Saturday, August 7, 2010 at 7:30 pm. This performance will feature talented members of the Janiec Opera Company. Conductor Christopher Larkin and director David Gately will lead the cast in this lively and exciting production. This performance is exclusively sponsored by Jacquelyn and Bruce Rogow and the Rogow Greenberg Foundation.

Mozart's delightful opera exemplifies intrigue and deceit. This is the story of a botched attempt at marital infidelity. The story provides subtle mockery of the nobility - the very benefactors who financed Mozart's work. This opera features some of the composer's best-known arias and duets.

Baritone Jonathan Christopher will be playing the role of Figaro. He come from Bermuda, and is attending McGill University. He previously performed as Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte* and Ubalde in *Armide*. Soprano Sara Ptak dazzles in the role of Susanna. She is from Peru, IL, and attends DePaul University. Notable roles include Gretel in *Hansel und Gretel* and Lauretta in *Gianni Schicchi*. Soprano Véronique Coutu plays the Countess. She hails from Montreal, Canada, and attends McGill University. She has performed as Colinette in *Colas et Colinette*, Dido in *Dido and Aeneas*, and Nancy in *Albert Herring*. Baritone John Allen Nelson will play the role of the count. He hails from Kansas City, MO, and attends UMKC Conservatory of Music. Notable roles include Belcore in *L'Elisir d'Amore*. Lastly, Cherubino is played by mezzo-soprano Reilly Nelson. She is from Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, and attends the Eastman School of Music. She has performed as Rose in *The Secret Garden* and Dryad in *Ariadne auf Naxos*.

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 Bohème* with Florida Grand Opera; *La Traviata*, *La Bohème*, *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; *Così 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 Christopher Larkin is Artistic Director of the Ashlawn Highland Festival and a regular guest of companies throughout North America. He has appeared on the podiums of the Santa Fe Opera (*La Traviata*), Washington Opera (*Samson et Dalila*, *I Puritani*), New York City Opera (*Don Giovanni*, *La Bohème*), Houston Grand Opera (*Tosca*, *Romeo et Juliette*, *Le Nozze di Figaro*), Portland Opera (*The Turn of the Screw*, *La*

Cenerentola, Il Viaggio a Reims and Die Entführung aus dem Serail), Opera Pacific (Little Women), Florentine Opera and Utah Opera (Il Barbiere di Siviglia), Opera Carolina (La Cenerentola), Fort Worth Opera (Falstaff, Little Women, Dialogues of the Carmelites, and Angels in America), Boston Lyric Opera (East Coast premiere of Todd Machover's Resurrection), Nashville Opera (La Boheme), Utah Opera (L'Italiana in Algeri, Il Barbiere di Siviglia, Le Nozze di Figaro) Lake George Opera (L'Italiana in Algeri), Kentucky Opera (Dialogues of the Carmelites), and Music Academy of the West (Il Viaggio a Reims and La Boheme).

He has also conducted Floyd's *Susannah* at the Wexford Festival and the Brevard Music Center for performances of *The Mikado* and *Little Women*. As Music Director of the New York City Opera National Company, he led national tours of *Madama Butterfly* and *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*. Prior to coming to New York, he held the position of Associate Conductor with Houston Grand Opera. While in Houston, he led the world premieres of *Little Women* and Michael Daugherty's *Jackie O* with the Houston Opera Studio, and also conducted the highly acclaimed multi-media productions of *Carmen*, *Madama Butterfly*, and *I Pagliacci*. Maestro Larkin has worked as an Assistant Conductor and vocal coach with several major opera companies in North America, including the Metropolitan Opera, San Francisco Opera, Opera Company of Philadelphia, Vancouver Opera, and the Canadian Opera Company.

Auditorium tickets for "**The Marriage of Figaro**" are \$35, \$30, and \$25. Lawn tickets are \$15. The Opera Company will also hold a dress rehearsal on Thursday, August 5 at 7:30 pm. All tickets are \$25. 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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