FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press contact: Matt Gray, AOP Company Manager, email: mgray@operaprojects.org phone: 718-398-4024

BROOKLYN OPERA COMPANIES UNITE FOR NIGHT OF NEW OPERA IN DUMBO

NEW YORK, NY, February 12, 2009—On Friday, March 20, 2009 at 8:00PM, three Brooklyn opera groups, American Opera Projects (AOP), Opera on Tap, and Remarkable Theater Brigade, will come together for OPERA GROWS IN BROOKLYN, an evening of all new opera scenes and songs from contemporary composers. The show will be held at the Galapagos Art Center’s new home in Brooklyn’s ultra-hip DUMBO neighborhood. Tickets are $20 ($15 for students/seniors).

“Galapagos director Robert Elmes is adding opera to a space known for rock concerts, burlesque and avant-garde video and performance art,” says AOP Executive Director Charles Jarden. “We think it’s not just cool for opera to be in a spectacular space like Galapagos, it’s essential for creating new music that connects to audiences. Opera away from opera houses is the best way for the genre to thrive and grow. It is economically smart and creatively daring and the voices sound great to both new listeners and fans. If one audience member walks out with an interest in discovering music by living composers, we’ll know we are on the right track.”

American Opera Projects, in association with the Manhattan School of Music, will showcase scenes from Love/Hate by composer Jack Perla, a wry look at the makings and breakings of romantic relationships among a group of young Americans. The staged performance will feature students from the Manhattan School of Music under the direction of Caren France and conducted by Silas Huff. Love/Hate began development with AOP in the 2007-08 season of the Composers & the Voice fellowship program where Mr. Perla and five other emerging composers spent a year learning to write for the operatic voice. Mr. Perla, a San Francisco native, recently received a major commission from the Minnesota Opera for a full length opera for the 2012 season as part of their Opera Works Initiative.

Opera + Beer +….Shakespeare? Why not! Opera on Tap, a group of singers who have made headlines for bringing opera to barrooms and taverns across the city, will present scenes from Cymbeline by Christopher Berg, an operatic rendering of the play by William Shakespeare. Referred to as “the American Hugo Wolf” (American Record Review) for his ability to illuminate the inner meaning of texts with his subtle harmonic language, Mr. Berg has composed countless songs as well as musicals and operas. His work has been performed around the world and in New York at the New York Festival of Song, The Mirror Visions Ensemble, and the New York Musical Theater Festival. Featuring select members of the Opera on Tap troupe, the scenes will be directed by Gorilla Repertory Theater founder Christopher Carter Sanderson (Macbeth, The Pirates of Penzance) whose theatrical production, Cymbeline, The NY Times declared a “rarity… in which all the tangled plotlines are clear”. “Cymbeline is not often performed; it is seldom done this well.”(D.J.R. Bruckner, NY Times)

Finally, it doesn’t get more Brooklyn than G Train the Musical, Christian McLeer’s comedy about five zany characters that get trapped on the train together, and have to figure out how to get along with one another. The Remarkable Theater Brigade, whose new operas and musicals have been engaging NYC audiences since 2003, will produce a selection of scenes from G Train the Musical with electronic accompaniment featuring sounds taken from the New York Subway System. G Train the Musical premiered in 2005 at the Arclight Theater in Manhattan and was recently featured at the 18th Annual Natchez Festival of Music in Mississippi. This production will feature original cast members as well as members of the Natchez Festival cast and will be directed by Monica Harte. “With its unique combination of music forms, story and voices it is not hard to understand an audience on their feet applauding at its beautiful conclusion.” (Paris Winn, Natchez Democrat)

Visit www.operaprojects.org for press material and profiles on this event’s featured artists and organizations.

Continued…
Love / Hate
American Opera Projects presents scenes from new opera in development
Music by Jack Perla
Libretto by Rob Bailis
Performed by students from the Manhattan School of Music
Silas Huff, conductor
Stage Director, Caren France
Piano, Mila Henry

Cymbeline
Opera on Tap presents scenes from new opera in development
Music and Libretto by Christopher Berg
Performed by Anne Ricci, Jessica Miller-Rauch, Matt Curran, Erika Hennings
Musical Direction: Christopher Berg
Directed by Christopher Carter Sanderson
Piano, Christopher Berg

G Train the Musical
Remarkable Theater Brigade presents scenes from new musical
Music and Lyrics by Christian McLeer
Book by Dan Jeselsohn, Monica Harte & Christian McLeer
Performed by Julia Amisano, Chas Elliott, Monica Harte, Kevin Misslich, David Schnell
Musical Director, Christian McLeer
Stage Director, Monica Harte

Friday, March 20, 8:00pm

Location: Galapagos Art Space 16 Main Street at Water Street, DUMBO, Brooklyn, NY.
Subway – F train to York Street; A/C train to High Street.
Directions: www.galapagosartspace.com

Tickets: $20 General, $15 Students/Seniors.
Tickets available at www.galapagosartspace.com

Visit www.operaprojects.org for press material and profiles on this event’s featured artists and organizations.