



## Green Mountain Opera Festival

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## Green Mountain Opera Festival Announces 2007 Season

**Waitsfield, VT** -- The Green Mountain Opera Festival will return to Vermont in June 2007 for a three week sojourn in the Green Mountains. The festival will highlight two fully staged performances of Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* at the beautifully restored Barre Opera House in Barre, Vermont and a series of events and concerts in the scenic Mad River Valley. Festival dates are **June 4<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>, 2007**.

*Madama Butterfly* will be accompanied by the Green Mountain Opera Orchestra at the Barre Opera House with an evening performance on June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30 pm and a matinee performance on June 24<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm, showcasing traditional sets, costumes, and staging. Throughout the festival, selections from favorite operas as well as a series of open rehearsals and concerts will be featured at the Bundy Center for Arts, Lareau Farm Inn, and the Joslyn Round Barn at the Inn at the Round Barn Farm, all located in Waitsfield, Vermont.

Artistic director, **Taras Kulish**, expands upon last year's two week festival and nearly sold out production of *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*. He has assembled a stellar group of opera professionals from several countries for the three week, 2007 festival and is adding a new Young Artist Program and master classes that will be open to the public at the Joslyn Round Barn.

"The enthusiasm from opera lovers in the area and beyond is inspirational," Kulish comments. "This year's production promises to be of equally high quality and we look forward to introducing both returning and new talent to the Green Mountains of Vermont." In addition to his role as artistic director for the Green Mountain Opera Festival, Kulish is a renowned bass hailing from Montreal of Ukrainian heritage who most recently engaged audiences singing the part of Magnifico in *La Cenerentola* at the Calgary Opera.

Maestro **Timothy Vernon**, the founding artistic director of Pacific Opera Victoria, will serve as music director for the festival and as conductor of the Green Mountain Opera Orchestra. Stage director, **Brian Clay Luedoff**, is also currently director of Opera Theatre at the University of Northern Colorado and was founding director of LyriCo, the light opera company of St. Louis. Returning from last year's festival is lighting designer, **Jeff Davis**, whose credits include the New York City Opera, Lincoln Center, and Washington Opera.

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**Annemarie Kremer**, an accomplished bel canto singer born in the Netherlands and now living in France, will sing the title role of *Madama Butterfly* as well as marking her North American debut. The role of Pinkerton will be sung by American, **Theodore Chletsos**, a tenor who most recently sang with the New Jersey Opera. **Julie Nesrallah**, a mezzo-soprano and Canadian of Lebanese background, will sing the role of Suzuki. Later this year she will sing the title role in *Carmen* at the Syracuse Opera. American **Jonathan Carle**, who thrilled audiences last year with his performance of Figaro in the Green Mountain Opera Festival's *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, returns this year to sing Sharpless. Canadian character tenor, **Michel Corbeil**, will sing Goro and bass-baritone, **Kristopher Irmiter**, will sing the Bonze. Irmiter will also serve as director of the Young Artist Program. Renowned American soprano, **Phyllis Curtin**, will conduct master classes along with **Claude Corbeil**, **Timothy Vernon** and **Brian Clay Luedloff**. Montpelier based pianist, **Mary Jane Austin-Reynolds**, will be the pianist and coach for the Young Artist Program along with **Emily Hamper**, who will also be the pianist-repetiteur for the entire festival.

The Green Mountain Opera Festival is sponsored by the Green Mountain Cultural Center, a non-profit organization that has promoted the visual and performing arts in Vermont's Mad River Valley for eighteen years. For specific dates and times of performances and to order tickets, call 802-496-7722 or visit the festival's website at [www.greenmountainoperafestival.com](http://www.greenmountainoperafestival.com).

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