



Connecticut Lyric Opera
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Connecticut Lyric Opera Announces Its 2009-2010 Season

New London, CT – Sept. 1, 2009 – Following last spring's expanded state-wide tour with its critically acclaimed *La Traviata*, Connecticut Lyric Opera is pleased to announce its 2009-2010 Performance Season - the company's seventh - highlighted by two mainstage productions, the comedy *L'Elisir d'amore*, and a twin bill of one-act *verismo* masterpieces, *Pagliacci* and *Gianni Schicchi*, all of which will be performed throughout the state in New London, New Britain, Middletown and Waterbury.

L'Elisir d'amore (The Elixir of Love) by G. Donizetti is annually one of the most performed *bel canto* operas and is a delightful comedy that is a celebration of innocence and true love triumphing amid chicanery and bluster. *L'Elisir d'amore* will be premiered at Trinity-on-Main Performance Hall in New Britain on Nov. 20 and will be repeated on Nov. 28 at the Garde Arts Center in New London, on Dec. 5 at the Middletown High School Auditorium and will conclude with CLO's Western Connecticut debut, the final performance on Dec. 12 at the Palace Theater in Waterbury. Lithuanian soprano Jurate Svedaite will star as the attractive landowner Adina, who must choose between the local bumpkin Nemorino (New York-based tenor Sean Fallen, starring again with CLO) and swaggering Sargent Belcore (outstanding Russian baritone Maksim Ivanov), while the up-and-coming Romanian bass, Laurentiu Rotaru, will perform as the charlatan Dr. Dulcamara.

Król Roger (King Roger) by K. Szymanowski is a magnificent dramatic work, though not so well known outside the composer's native Poland. CLO will present the New England premiere of this beautiful work that Maestro Adrian Sylveen Mackiewicz considers one of the greatest 20th Century operas on Feb. 27 at Welte Hall, on the campus of Central Connecticut State College in New Britain, and repeat it the next evening, Feb. 28 at Evans Hall, on the campus of Connecticut College, New London. CLO favorites (and Conn College voice professors) Maxim Ivanov as King Roger and Jurate Svedaite as Roxanna lead a talented cast.

The chilling drama, *Pagliacci (The Clowns)*, by R. Leoncavallo, and the hilarious *Gianni Schicchi*, by G. Puccini conclude the season. *Pagliacci* is the story of a traveling theater troupe that brings its play to life with tragic consequences. Its comic foil, *Gianni Schicchi*, is about a cunning commoner who outwits a pack of greedy nobles who fight amongst themselves to try to grab an inheritance. Premiering at Trinity-on-Main in New Britain on May 1, the production will be repeated on May 8 at The Garde in New London, on May 15 at Middletown High School, and concludes on May 22 at the Palace Theater in Waterbury. Rising tenor, Jeffrey Hartman, last season's *Traviata* Alfredo, returns to lead the *Pagliacci* cast as Canio, while Maxim Ivanov stars as Gianni Schicchi.

All of the above performances are co-produced with CLO's resident orchestra, the Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra, with all New Britain and Middletown performances presented by the Virtuosi.

In addition to these scheduled performances, CLO will also present abridged versions of its mainstage operas for elementary school students in New London, dates to be announced. And finally, CLO will present an occasional series of recitals and programs featuring CLO resident artists at the beautiful Atrium at Harris Place on State Street, artists and dates to be announced.

About Connecticut Lyric Opera

Founded in 2003 by a group of professional musicians and opera-lovers, CLO is based in New London and is a 501(c)(3) non-profit cultural and educational organization whose mission is:

- **Inspire:** to contribute to the cultural life of Southeastern Connecticut and beyond with the highest quality operas and concerts from the traditional and contemporary repertoires.
- **Involve:** to encourage the development of Connecticut based singers, musicians and theatrical artisans through their participation in professional opera productions.
- **Instill:** to present opera to people of all ages in such a way as to foster a love and appreciation of the form in particular, and classical and vocal music in general.

CLO is grateful for the generous support of The Frank Loomis Palmer Fund, The Bodenwein Public Benevolent Trust, The State of Connecticut's Dept. of Culture and Tourism, Pfizer, the New London Day, and the many individual contributors who have helped make this season possible.

For tickets to New London performances of *L'Elisir d'amore* and *Pagliacci / Gianni Schicchi*, please call The Garde's box office at (860) 444-7373 or visit GardeArts.org; for additional information about these or to purchase tickets for other CLO events, call (860) 440-3594 or visit CtLyricOpera.org.