



Connecticut Lyric Opera  
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### **Connecticut Lyric Opera to Perform Tchaikovsky's "Eugene Onegin" at The Garde**

**New London, CT – Oct. 10, 2008** – Connecticut Lyric Opera (CLO) is pleased to announce the first production of its 2008-2009 Performance Season, the Connecticut Russian-language premiere of Tchaikovsky's magnificent romantic drama, *Eugene Onegin*, on November 23 at 7 PM at the Garde Arts Center in downtown New London.

*Eugene Onegin*, Pyotr Tchaikovsky's – and perhaps Russia's – most performed opera is based on Pushkin's classic verse novel of a young woman's infatuation that is met with an aristocrat's insensitivity. Set in Imperial Russia, the opera recounts the story of a dashing but jaded nobleman, Eugene Onegin, who lacks empathy and suffers from restlessness, melancholy, and ultimately, regret. Onegin's rejection of Tatyana, a young and passionate girl who falls hopelessly under his spell, sets in motion a series of events that culminates in remorse, death and love unfulfilled. First performed in 1879, *Eugene Onegin* has a libretto that closely follows Pushkin's novel - one of the classics of Russian literature - retaining much of his poetry, to which Tchaikovsky adds an incredibly rich lyrical and romantic score.

Starring in the two leading roles are returning CLO favorites, Russian baritone Maksim Ivanov as Onegin (Marcello in *La Boheme*, Capulet in *Romeo et Juliette*) and Lithuanian soprano Jurate Svedaite as Tatyana (Mimi in *La Boheme* and Countess in *Le Nozze di Figaro*), both vocal instructors at Connecticut College. Making his CLO debut as Lenski, Onegin's best friend, is celebrated American tenor Andrew Drost, a frequent soloist at New York City Opera and elsewhere. Rounding out the outstanding cast is radiant mezzo-soprano Valerie Nicolosi (Count Orlovsky in *Die Fledermaus* and Stephano in *Romeo et Juliette*) as Olga, Tatyana's sister. This original production will be directed by internationally acclaimed Polish stage director, Jaroslaw Strzemien, sets and costumes designed by Broadway designer Ken Mooney and conducted by CLO's General and Artistic Director, Adrian Sylveen Mackiewicz. The opera will be fully staged with orchestra, chorus and English super-titles projected above the stage.

*Eugene Onegin* is co-produced with CLO's resident orchestra, the Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra and will be repeated at Trinity-on-Main Arts Center in New Britain on Nov. 28 at 8 PM and again on Dec. 7 at 6 PM., with these performances presented by the Virtuosi.

## 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 the New London performance of *Eugene Onegin* call The Garde's box office at (860) 444-7373 or visit [GardeArts.org](http://GardeArts.org); for additional information call (860) 440-3594 or visit [CtLyricOpera.org](http://CtLyricOpera.org).