



CONTACT:

Erin Sammis, Director of Marketing
Pensacola Opera
Phone: 850-433-6737
Fax: 850-433-1082
Email: erin@pensacolaopera.com
Website: www.pensacolaopera.com

Who: Pensacola Opera
What: Salon Series Concert
When: Saturday, May 14 at 6:30 pm
Where: Home of Susan and John O'Connor: Gulf Breeze, FL
How much: \$125/person

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 17, 2011

Pensacola Opera Presents Salon Series Concert Featuring Corey McKern

On Saturday, May 14, Pensacola Opera will present another installment of its Salon Series Concert program at the beautiful home of Susan and John O'Connor in Gulf Breeze, FL.

This intimate evening of musical entertainment will feature nationally acclaimed baritone Corey McKern. His program will feature selections from opera, classical song and greats from the American Songbook. The evening will begin at 6:30 p.m. with cocktails and heavy hors d'oeuvres and the concert portion will begin at 8:00 p.m. Blake Riley will accompany on piano.

Tickets are \$125 a person and are available for purchase over the phone at (850) 433-6737 or at the Pensacola Opera Center, 75 S. Tarragona Street. Office hours are Mon.-Fri., 8:30 am-5:30 pm. For more information, visit www.pensacolaopera.com.

All proceeds from this event go to support Pensacola Opera's mission to enrich the culture of Northwest Florida by producing professional opera performances, educational programs and other opera-related community events for people of all ages, interests and backgrounds.

About Corey McKern:

Award-winning baritone Corey McKern is earning attention and acclaim in his young career. As Marcello in *La Bohème* at the Santa Fe Opera, the *Santa Fe New Mexican* said, "Corey McKern's resolute, robust-voiced and rambunctious Marcello, a perfect picture of a wannabe Parisian painter, was one of the best I've ever heard."

-more-

In the current 2010-2011 season, engagements include a return to the Santa Fe Opera as Marcello and the title role cover of *Wozzeck*, his Opera Hong Kong and Michigan Opera Theatre debut as Marcello, the Count in *Le Nozze di Figaro* with Nashville Opera and Opera Columbus, Enrico in *Lucia di Lammermoor* in a return to Opera Birmingham, and Zurga in *Les Pêcheurs de Perles* at the Syracuse Opera. Future engagements include Count in *Le Nozze di Figaro* with Michigan Opera Theatre, and Figaro in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* at the Tulsa Opera.

Noted engagements from the past few seasons include a return to the Santa Fe Opera in 2009 performing Masetto in *Don Giovanni* and covering Belcore in *L'Elisir d'Amore*; Papageno in *Die Zauberflöte* with the Arizona Opera and Tulsa Opera; Harlequin in *Ariadne auf Naxos* at the Indianapolis Opera; Count Almaviva in *Le Nozze di Figaro* with Opera Cleveland and Opera Birmingham; Valentin in *Faust* with Opera Carolina; Marcello in *La Bohème* with the Nashville Opera; Pish-Tush in *The Mikado* with Arizona Opera; Ping in *Turandot* and Figaro in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* with Opera Birmingham; and Morales in *Carmen* and Silvio cover in *I Pagliacci* in his New York City Opera debut.

Additional noted engagements include Marcello, Pallante in *Agrippina* and Shepherdin *Daphne* at the Santa Fe Opera; Silvio in *I Pagliacci* with Arizona Opera and Central City Opera; Pilot in *The Little Prince* with Tulsa Opera; and Papageno in *Die Zauberflöte* with Nevada Opera. As house favorite at Opera Omaha, Mr. McKern has performed the roles John Brooke in *Little Women*, Ping in *Turandot*, and Morales in *Carmen*. As former member of the Seattle Young Artist Program, Mr. McKern performed his first Papageno and Marcello.

An active concert performer, Mr. McKern recently made his Carnegie Hall debut as the baritone soloist in the Faure *Requiem*, as well as Mahler's *Ruckert Lieder* with the Missoula Symphony, and performances with the New Choral Society in Handel's *Messiah*, Brahms' *Requiem* and Orff's *Carmina Burana*, which he also performed with the Yakima Symphony Orchestra. His oratorio credits include Vaughan Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem* and a concert of operetta highlights with the Indianapolis Symphony.

Mr. McKern is a former grant recipient from the Sullivan Foundation, as well as the first place winner of Opera Birmingham, Shreveport Opera, and Mobile Opera competitions of 2005. He holds a Master of Music degree from Indiana University, and Bachelor of Music Education from Mississippi State University.