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CONTACT: Chuck Duritsch  
Marketing & Communications Director  
(937) 461-8282



**DAYTON OPERA ANNOUNCES**  
**THE 2010-2011**  
*50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Season*  
**OF**



**The Gershwins'**  
***Porgy and Bess***  
**October 23, 29 & 31, 2010**  
Sung in English w/ English Surtitles

**Ludwig van Beethoven's**  
***Fidelio***  
**January 28 & 30, 2011**  
Sung in German w/ English Surtitles

**Gaetano Donizetti's**  
***The Daughter of the Regiment***  
**April 15 & 17, 2011**  
Sung in French w/ English Surtitles

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Star Gala**  
**May 22, 2011**  
Featuring recent stars of the  
Dayton Opera

(Dayton, OH) – January 19, 2010 – Dayton Opera is pleased to announce its 2010-2011 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Season, scheduled to open October 23, 2010 and run through May 22, 2011, with four exciting productions in the beautiful Mead Theatre in the Schuster Center plus important new season sponsorship support and unique artistic and community collaborations.

“Our 50<sup>th</sup> season will truly be a community-wide celebration filled with many *firsts* for Dayton Opera and our audience. *First* of all, we are thrilled to announce **The Miriam Rosenthal Memorial Trust Fund** as the presenting sponsor of Dayton Opera’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Season,” **Thomas Bankston**, General and Artistic Director, announced at today’s press conference. “We are also delighted to welcome with the 2010-2011 Season, **Kettering Health Network** as Dayton Opera’s *first* ever Main Stage Season Title Sponsor. We are truly grateful to both of these historic supporters of the arts in our community and for their very generous commitment to our company as we embark on this landmark season. Indeed, they will help guarantee that we continue our mission to provide ‘*excellence in every experience.*’”

-more-

138 North Main Street Dayton, Ohio 45402-1776  
Administration: 937.228.0662 Fax: 937.228.9612 Ticket Center: 937.228.SING

*Dayton Opera 50<sup>th</sup> Season - Page 2*

Dayton Opera opens its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season with George Gershwin's ***Porgy and Bess*** with the company's *first* solely produced presentation of the work. This is *The Great American Opera*, celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its premiere in 2010! With beloved music like "Summertime," "I Got Plenty O' Nuttin'," "It Ain't Necessarily So" and "Bess You Is My Woman Now," the residents of Catfish Row, 1920's Charleston SC, will vividly come to life on the stage of the Schuster Center. This production will bring together a broad-based community-wide collaboration – including **Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, Central State University, Wilberforce University** and **Dayton Philharmonic Conductor Neal Gittleman**.

The season continues with another *first* for Dayton Opera with the company premiere of Ludwig van Beethoven's monumental and only opera ***Fidelio. Freedom... Devotion... Heroism and Sacrifice*** are the themes of this intense drama set to Beethoven's magnificent music. In a special 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary collaboration with **Dayton Philharmonic and Conductor Neal Gittleman**, this production will be presented in a unique semi-staged, dramatized concert presentation employing a narrator who will weave, among Beethoven's music, the story of the heroic deeds of a devoted wife who struggles to free her wrongly imprisoned husband from the chains of oppressive rule. Its thrilling choral finale is one that truly rivals the famed "Ode to Joy" of his 9<sup>th</sup> Symphony!

Dayton Opera goes "military" with Gaetano Donizetti's ***The Daughter of the Regiment***, the simple, sweet and utterly delightful comedy about the rambunctious tomboy Marie, raised by the 21<sup>st</sup> regiment of the French army. Sadly, she may have to abandon the regiment and her beloved Tonio as she's forced to assume the airs of French aristocracy. However, all ends happily, in this opera famous for Tonio's "9 High C's" aria! As we celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> with performances of this charming military romp, we will also celebrate and honor Dayton's own military and support personnel of **Wright Patterson Air Force Base!** Dayton Opera's chorus master and conductor **Jeffrey Powell** will conduct, celebrating his 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the company.

Dayton Opera brings to a close its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Season with a celebratory ***Star Gala*** featuring an impressive roster of recent stars of the Dayton Opera, joined by the **Dayton Opera Chorus**, in a recital of some of opera's greatest music, highlighting the rich 50 years of the company. Interspersed with the music will be projected images of the people and productions from our history, fittingly reminiscing as we bring this landmark season to a close. As an optional add-on to this Sunday matinee performance, a special **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Dinner** attended by the *Star Gala* artists will follow.

"I am also pleased to announce an exciting 50th Anniversary project with Dayton's art community. In collaboration with Dayton lithographer **John Driesbach** and the Art Department of **Central State University**, a limited edition portfolio of 12 lithographs by

### *Dayton Opera 50<sup>th</sup> Season - Page 3*

local and regional African-American artists entitled “From Porgy to Barack” is being created.” added Bankston. “This project which honors our 50th and the production of *Porgy and Bess*, also raises funds for the CSU’s Art Department. The lithographs will be exhibited at the performances of *Porgy and Bess*.

Coordinating the various celebratory events for the Dayton Opera’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Season are 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee Co-Chairs **Jackie Lockwood**, **Mary Karr** and **Carolyn “Toni” Winger**. They are joined by Honorary Co-Chair **Donald G. Schweller**, who was instrumental in the founding of Dayton Opera and was the first President of the Dayton Opera Board of Trustees.

Look for upcoming announcements of Dayton Opera’s 2010-2011 **Opera on the Road** in-school education programs for elementary grades and, in collaboration with **The Muse Machine**, secondary grades. Details on Dayton Opera’s community outreach programs, including *Opera Overtures* and *Art & Arias*, a collaboration with **The Dayton Art Institute**, will be announced in the near future.

Dayton Opera is proud to continue its collaboration with the **Dayton Philharmonic** as the orchestra for all its productions, and its management alliance with the **Victoria Theatre Association**, **Ken Neufeld**, President and CEO. We are also proud of the long-time and committed support we continue to enjoy with our true partner in “building new friends for opera,” the **Opera Guild of Dayton**.

**Subscription renewals for the 2010-2011 Season begin February 1st** by mail and phone. Subscriptions range in price from only \$122 to \$313 for a full series, with further discounts available for seniors, students and -- for the *first* time -- all WPAFB personnel. **New subscriptions go on sale in April**. Single tickets for the 2010-2011 Season will go on sale in August and start at just \$18. **Tickets for groups are available now** by calling Chuck Duritsch at 937.228.0662 ext.3057.

Complete artistic rosters for all productions will be released at a later date. More information will be available in the coming weeks at [www.daytonopera.org](http://www.daytonopera.org). All performances will take place at the **Benjamin and Marian Schuster Performing Arts Center** at 2<sup>nd</sup> and Main Streets in Downtown Dayton. For more information, patrons may call Ticket Center Stage at 937.228.3630, Monday through Friday from 10am – 6pm.

The Dayton Opera gratefully acknowledges the support of:



# 2010-2011 Dayton Opera Season At-a-Glance

The Miriam Rosenthal Memorial Trust Fund  
presents

## Dayton Opera's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration including the Kettering Health Network <sup>SM</sup> 2010-2011 Main Stage Season

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### **PORGY AND BESS**

Saturday, October 23, 2010 at 8 p.m.

Friday, October 29 at 8 p.m.

Sunday, October 31 at 3 p.m.

*Sung in English with English Surtitles*

Dayton Opera opens its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season with George Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*. This is the "Big One;" *The* Great American Opera, celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2010! With beloved music like "Summertime," "I Got Plenty O' Nuttin'," "It Ain't Necessarily So" and "Bess You Is My Woman Now", the residents of Catfish Row, 1920's Charleston SC, will vividly come to life on the stage of the Schuster Center. This production will bring together a broad-based community-wide collaboration and celebration fitting for our 50<sup>th</sup> Season opener!

Music and Lyrics By: George Gershwin, DuBose and Dorothy  
Heyward, and Ira Gershwin

Libretto: DuBose Heyward

World Premiere: October 10, 1935

Previous Dayton Opera Productions: 2001 (Tour); 1982 (co-produced w/ Michigan Opera)

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### **FIDELIO**

Friday, January 28, 2011 at 8pm

Sunday, January 30, 2011 at 3pm

*Sung in German w/ English Surtitles*

Dayton Opera celebrates a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary company premiere with Beethoven's monumental and only opera *Fidelio! Freedom.... Devotion.... Heroism ..... Sacrifice*, these are the themes of this intense drama set to Beethoven's magnificent music. In collaboration with the Dayton Philharmonic, this production will be presented in a unique semi-staged, dramatized concert presentation employing a narrator who will weave, among Beethoven's music, the story of the heroic deeds of a devoted wife who struggles to free her wrongly imprisoned husband from the chains of an oppressive rule. Its thrilling choral finale is one that truly rivals the famed "Ode to Joy" of his 9<sup>th</sup> Symphony!

Music: Ludwig van Beethoven

Libretto: Joseph Sonnleithner

World Premiere: November 20, 1805

Previous Dayton Opera Productions: Dayton Opera Premiere

# THE DAUGHTER OF THE REGIMENT

## (La Fille du Régiment)

Friday, April 15, 2011 at 8 p.m.  
Sunday, April 17, 2011 at 3 p.m./

*Sung in French with English Surtitles*

Dayton Opera goes “military” with Donizetti’s simple, sweet and utterly delightful comedy about the rambunctious tomboy Marie, raised by the 21<sup>st</sup> regiment of the French army. Sadly, she may have to abandon the regiment and her beloved Tonio as she’s forced to assume the airs of French aristocracy. But all ends happily, in this opera famous for Tonio’s “9 High C’s” aria! As we celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> with performances of this charming military romp, we will also celebrate and honor Dayton’s own military and support personnel of Wright Patterson Air Force Base!

Music: Gaetano Donizetti  
Libretto: Jean Francois Bayard and  
J.H. Vernoy de Saint-Georges  
World Premiere: February 11, 1840  
Previous Dayton Opera Productions: 1975

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## 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY STAR GALA

Sunday, May 22, 2011 at 3 p.m.

Dayton Opera brings to a close its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season with a celebratory *Star Gala* featuring an impressive roster of recent stars of the Dayton Opera, joined by the Dayton Opera Chorus, in a recital of some of opera’s greatest music, highlighting the rich fifty years of the company. Interspersed with the music will be projected images of the people and productions from our history, fittingly reminiscing as we bring this landmark anniversary season to a close. As an optional add-on to this Sunday matinee performance, a special 50<sup>th</sup> *Anniversary Gala Dinner* attended by the *Star Gala* artists will follow.

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*Dayton Opera Association has brought the marvel of music and theatre that is opera to Miami Valley audiences since 1961. Dayton Opera Association is a not-for-profit organization funded by Culture Works, the Montgomery County Arts and Cultural District, the Ohio Arts Council, the Opera Guild of Dayton and corporate, individual and private resources. With performances presented at the Benjamin and Marian Schuster Performing Arts Center, the Dayton Opera continues a shared management and staffing alliance with Victoria Theatre Association. The Ohio Arts Council helped fund Dayton Opera with state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, educational excellence and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans.*