



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Growth and Revitalization Plans Announced by Maryland Lyric Opera

**Brad Clark, Founder and Artistic Director, details
expanded MDLO Young Artist Institute**

**Recruitment now underway for invigorated program,
which will remain completely free to young singers;
Four intensive sessions, each followed by free showcase
Gala Concerts, planned for 2017–2018 season**

**Acclaimed conductor Louis Salemno appointed Music Director
Legendary American baritone William Stone
named Head of Voice Faculty**

**Plans for 2018–2019 season and beyond
include a return to fully staged productions**

(HYATTSVILLE, MARYLAND)—Maryland Lyric Opera (MDLO) today announces a bold growth and revitalization plan beginning with its current 2017–2018 season, including the expansion of its flagship MDLO Young Artist Institute, the appointments of Louis Salemno as Music Director and William Stone as Head of Voice Faculty, and a return to fully staged productions beginning with the 2018–2019 season.

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“By expanding its MDLO Young Artist Institute, and by naming Louis Salemno and William Stone to key positions in its administration, Maryland Lyric Opera rededicates itself to its mission of providing essential training and performance opportunities to the most gifted performers of the next generation,” said Founder and Artistic Director Brad Clark. “With key personnel in place, I am proud that we can grow our training regimen to include more students than ever before, and to keep the program completely free.”

In its inaugural season, the MDLO Young Artist Institute will offer four sessions of intensive vocal instruction to promising young singers. These sessions, which will be held in Bethesda, Maryland, are scheduled for November 27 to December 15, 2017; February 5–23, 2018; April 2–20, 2018; and June 4–22, 2018. On the final day of each Institute session, the singers will perform in a Gala Concert that will be free to the local community. More details on the series of Gala Concerts will be announced soon.

In order to eliminate the financial burden on singers at the start of their careers, the MDLO Young Artist Institute will not charge application or tuition fees. In keeping with the organization’s mission, singers will be paid an honorarium for all public performances. Singers should go to MarylandLyricOpera.org for more details; the application can be found at YAP Tracker. Questions can be directed to mdlo@marylandlyricopera.org.

Beginning with the 2018–2019 season, MDLO will return to producing fully staged opera performances at an intimately scaled theater in Maryland. The repertory will be a mix of popular classics as well as operas that are rarely performed in the region.

“We believe that Maryland is ripe for more productions of opera and the MDLO Young Artist Institute will help us create a pipeline of fresh voices who can sing in the performances we are planning for future seasons,” said MDLO’s Music Director Louis Salemno. “I am excited to join MDLO and work with this great team to help bring magic and meaning to opera in our community.”

Maryland Lyric Opera, founded in 2014 and reorganized for expansion in 2017, has produced fully staged performances of *Cavalleria rusticana*, *Pagliacci*, *Roméo et Juliette*,

and *Amahl and the Night Visitors*; created a national vocal competition that drew an impressive field of emerging artists; hosted master classes for young singers with opera luminaries Sherrill Milnes and Aprile Millo; and presented a variety of gala performances, recitals, and holiday programs. With its new strategic plan, it will expand its career-development programs for young artists, return to producing fully staged productions of operas in intimate settings, and grow its outreach programs to the local community.

Save the Date for MDLO Young Artist Institute Gala Concerts

Friday, December 15, 2017

Friday, February 23, 2018

Friday, April 20, 2018

Friday, June 22, 2018

Locations and times for all concerts will be announced soon.

ABOUT MDLO'S FOUNDER AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR BRAD CLARK

Collaborative pianist and music administrator **Brad Clark** is the Founder and Artistic Director of Maryland Lyric Opera. He earned a Bachelor of Music in piano performance from the University of Maryland and two degrees from the Benjamin T. Rome School of Music at The Catholic University of America: a Masters of Music in musicology and a Doctorate of Musical Arts in collaborative piano. Subsequent to his studies, he served as the rehearsal pianist for the Summer Opera Theatre Company in Washington. He has performed in recitals with singers and instrumentalists throughout the United States and Europe including performances with the Kennedy Center Chamber Players, the Amalfi Coast Music and Arts Festival, and celebrated soloists Randall Outland and Aprile Millo. He has also accompanied master classes for such renowned artists as Birgit Nilsson, Pinchas Zukerman, Richard Stoltzman, Carter Brey, Lynn Harrell, Sir James Galway, and others. He is the founder and artistic director of the Avalon Chamber Ensemble and the Wiscasset Salon Series, whose objective is to recreate the intimate performances that were popular in the 19th and early 20th centuries where audiences experienced music in a close, personal way. Secondary goals for the series include giving emerging artists valuable performance opportunities and developing new classical music audiences through invitations to these free performances to individuals who might not otherwise attend. He also serves on the board of Child Justice, an organization that seeks to provide legal and therapeutic help to abused children. He leads Maryland Lyric Opera alongside General Manager Matthew Woorman.

ABOUT MDLO'S NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR LOUIS SALEMNO

Louis Salemno is an acclaimed vocal coach, conductor, and music director. For nearly a decade, he was the Resident Coach with the Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program at Washington National Opera, and has also worked with the young artist programs at the Centre de Perfeccionament Plácido Domingo at the Palau de les Arts Reina Sofía in Valencia, Spain and at the Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires, Argentina. After studies with Nadia Boulanger in France, he was trained at the Curtis Institute of Music in his native Philadelphia by Mieczyslaw Horszowski and Max Rudolf. He began his career by serving on the conducting staff of Barcelona's Gran Teatre del Liceu, San Francisco Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, and Teatro alla Scala in Milan. He has been a frequent guest conductor of New Orleans Opera and at Houston Grand Opera, where he conducted new productions of *Aida*, *Hansel and Gretel*, and *Dialogues of the Carmelites*. He has been a regular guest conductor with opera companies throughout North America, including Opéra de Montréal, New York City Opera, Vancouver Opera, Seattle Opera, Florentine Opera Company, Opera Pacific, Opera Philadelphia, Baltimore Opera, The Dallas Opera, Opera Columbus, Opera

Carolina, Michigan Opera Theatre, and many others. He has previously served as Music Director of Portland Opera, Artistic Director of Manitoba Opera, and as Principal Guest Conductor of the Serbian National Theatre in Novi Sad.

ABOUT MDLO'S NEW HEAD OF VOICE FACULTY WILLIAM STONE

Celebrated baritone **William Stone** is one of the most sought-after voice teachers in the opera world today. He is Professor Emeritus of Voice and Opera at Temple University and is currently on the Voice Faculty at the world-renowned Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia. In addition to his teaching career, he has sung extensively in the major opera houses of Europe and especially in Italy, having twice opened the May Festival in Florence as Wozzeck with conductor Bruno Bartoletti, and as Orestes in Gluck's *Iphigénie en Tauride* under Riccardo Muti. His North American opera engagements include the Metropolitan Opera—in *Moses und Aron*, *Wozzeck*, *La traviata*, *Sly*, *Die Fledermaus*, *Roméo et Juliette*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, and *Madama Butterfly*—and the New York City Opera, as the Count in a “Live from Lincoln Center “ telecast of *Le nozze di Figaro* and the title roles in new productions of Hindemith's *Mathis der Maler* and Busoni's *Doktor Faust*. His creation of the role of Adam for the Lyric Opera of Chicago's world premiere of Penderecki's *Paradise Lost* was followed by his debut at La Scala in the work's European premiere and a performance at the Vatican for Pope John Paul II. With Sir Georg Solti he performed the Count in *Le nozze di Figaro* on a Chamber Orchestra of Europe tour to London, Paris, Frankfurt and Cologne. Other notable appearances include Sharpless in a new production of *Madama Butterfly* at the Opéra Bastille in Paris, Figaro in *Il barbiere di Siviglia* in Stuttgart, Germont in *La traviata* in Brussels, Frankfurt and Nantes, Ford in *Falstaff* at the Aix-en-Provence Festival, and Rodrigo in *Don Carlos* at the Dutch National Opera. As a concert artist, he has appeared with every major orchestra in the country, including the New York Philharmonic under Kurt Masur and the Boston Symphony Orchestra under Seiji Ozawa. His long relationship with Robert Shaw resulted in two Grammy Award®-winning recordings.

ABOUT MARYLAND LYRIC OPERA

A company committed to education, **Maryland Lyric Opera's** mission is to provide employment to all creative artists who are part of the production of opera, and to bring together seasoned professionals with promising young talent for mutually rewarding collaborations. To that end, the MDLO Young Artist Institute and High School Mentorship Programs were created to ensure that the next generations of singers are exposed to and have the opportunity to learn from experienced opera professionals who have spent years studying and improving their craft on the world's stages. In its short history, MDLO has also produced major operatic works by the likes of Gounod, Leoncavallo, Mascagni, and Menotti, as well as a national vocal competition, aria concerts, and chamber works. MDLO is further dedicated to bringing performances to those who do not have regular access to the professional arts. Programs such as *Sharing Music*, *Sharing Love* bring unique operatic performances to vulnerable populations who are underserved and in need.

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