

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**operamission** will present ‘**SCHOENBERG and STRAVINSKY: Defining Classics**’ at the Gershwin Hotel in New York, June 3 and 4, 2011.

NEW YORK, New York (May 23, 2011) ~ ‘SCHOENBERG and STRAVINSKY: Defining classics’ - an evening of dramatic chamber music, will be presented by **operamission** and Neke Carson at the Gershwin Hotel on Friday, June 3 and Saturday, June 4 at 8:00 PM. The program will feature two classic masterpieces from the early twentieth century: **Arnold Schoenberg’s melodrama *Pierrot Lunaire*** from 1912 and **Igor Stravinsky’s chamber theater work, *L’Histoire du Soldat*** (‘The Soldier’s Tale’), 1918.

**Jennifer Peterson**, director of **operamission**, will conduct both works. Four internationally-acclaimed vocal actors will be interpreting the challenging roles: mezzo-soprano **Jennifer Berkebile** (Wexford Festival Opera, Opera Theatre of Saint Louis) will perform *Pierrot Lunaire*, and the Stravinsky will be performed ‘radio style’ by **John Carlo Pierce** (Bayerische Staatsoper, Florida Grand Opera) as the Narrator, **Ryan Allen** (Metropolitan Opera, Oregon Shakespeare Festival) as the Devil, and **Cameron Smith** (Tanglewood, New York Gilbert & Sullivan Players) as the Soldier.

The ten first-rate instrumentalists featured will be **Maria Johnson** (flute), **Cory Tiffin** (clarinet), **Timothy Emerson** (bassoon), **Mike Gurfield** (trumpet), **Sean Scot Reed** (trombone), **Ed Gonzales** (percussion), **Gloria Kim** (piano), **Mialtin Zhezha** (violin), **Paul Wolfram** (violoncello), and **Doug Balliett** (double bass).

**operamission**, bringing the art ‘from the composer to the audience,’ has quickly established its presence in the New York classical music scene by presenting opera both of today and of the past. Productions range from concerts of Handel opera with period instruments to cabaret to operatic world premieres, as well as innovative presentations fulfilling a mission of enriching audience awareness in opera as an accessible and vivid genre.

The **Gershwin Hotel** is located at 7 East 27<sup>th</sup> Street in New York. General admission is \$20, tickets available at the door.

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