

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

operamission announces its fifth season: Borzoni's *Antinous and Hadrian* and Handel's *Agrippina*.

NEW YORK, New York (August 23, 2013) – Conductor Jennifer Peterson's arts organization **operamission** will present two full-length operas in 2013-'14, its fifth consecutive season of producing operas, concerts, cabarets, and song evenings in New York City.

Wednesday, August 28; Thursday, August 29, at 7:00 PM; and Saturday, September 7, at 4:00 PM, 2013, **operamission** collaborates with New York's **Queer Urban Orchestra** in '[Creating the Work](#),' a three-part miniseries offering a complete reading of composer Clint Borzoni and librettist Edward Ficklin's new two-act opera, *Antinous and Hadrian*, with full cast and orchestra. Peterson, Borzoni, and Ficklin host, giving the audience a guided tour through the processes of creation, development, rehearsal, revision, preparation, and performance, in three exposed public workshop sessions. The readings will be held at the **Church of the Holy Apostles** in Chelsea, 296 Ninth Avenue, at 28th Street in New York. Tickets are \$10 for each session, available at the door or in advance at [Brown Paper Tickets](#).

Thursday, January 16, 2014, at 7:00 PM; Saturday, January 18; and Sunday, January 19, at 3:00 PM the season continues with George Frideric Handel's second Italian opera, *Agrippina*, HWV 6, from Venice 1709, libretto by Vincenzo Grimani. Staged and costumed with period orchestra, stage director **Jeff Caldwell** and costume designer **Charles Caine** join conductor **Jennifer Peterson**, who will lead from the harpsichord. Both venue and setting will be the 15th Century Ducal Library of the **Fabrizio Mansion** at 7 East 95th Street in New York. Advance tickets will go on sale in September of 2013.

The cast for *Antinous and Hadrian* will change between sessions. Featuring bass **Cory Clines** in the role of 2nd Century Roman Emperor Hadrian and tenors **Christopher Sokolowski** and **Tommy Wazelle** in the role of the Bithynian Greek youth Antinous, this historically-based romantic tragedy will also showcase sopranos Caroline Worra, Elisabeth Turchi, and Jennifer Behnke; mezzo-sopranos Kimberly Sogioka, Stephanie McGuire, and Jia Ling; countertenors Brennan Hall and David Stanley; tenor Jonathan Hill; baritones Brian Mextorf, Dennis Blackwell, Seth Gilman, and Jeff Caldwell; and bass-baritone Brad Baron.

The cast of Handel's *Agrippina* will be led by soprano **Karen Driscoll** in the title role and bass **Paul Goodwin-Groen** as her husband, 1st Century Roman Emperor Claudio, joined by American soprano **Marcy Richardson** as Poppea, Brazilian countertenor **José Lemos** as Ottone, and mezzo-soprano **Kimberly Sogioka** as Nerone.

Also this season, **operamission** will host and present the newly-formed [New Vintage Baroque](#) in their inaugural concert at the Gershwin Hotel at 7 East 27th Street, New York on Friday, September 13 and Saturday, September 14, 2013, at 8:00 PM. This original offering, entitled 'Diana, Goddess of the Hunt and the Moon,' will focus on Diana, goddess of the hunt, as seen through the eyes of her victims, nymphs, and lovers, told through music of the high baroque alongside the world premiere of composer and monologist **Doug Balliett's** *Diana and Actaeon*.

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More information can be found at www.operamission.org.