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**OPERA BOSTON PRESENTS VERDI'S *ERNANI* MAY 2-6**  
**Soprano Barbara Quintiliani returns as Elvira**  
**Metropolitan Opera tenor Eduardo Villa makes company debut as Ernani**

(BOSTON – Feb. 20, 2008) Opera Boston will close its record-breaking 2007-2008 season with Verdi's *Ernani* May 2, 4, and 6 at the Cutler Majestic Theatre. The performances mark the return of world renowned local soprano **Barbara Quintiliani**, making her third appearance with the company, as Elvira.

**Stephanie Sundine**, who began directing in 1998 after a career as a soprano in many of the world's most important opera houses, will direct. Opera Boston Music Director **Gil Rose** will conduct.

*Ernani* will be sung in Italian with English surtitles. All performances feature a free talk one hour before curtain, and the Sunday matinee will be followed by an artist talkback. Tickets are \$29-\$114 through Telecharge.com, by phone at 800-233-3123 or in person at the Cutler Majestic Theatre box office.

Soprano **Barbara Quintiliani** returns as Elvira for her third starring role with Opera Boston, after inspiring critical and audience acclaim for the title roles of Verdi's *Luisa Miller* (2004) and Donizetti's *Lucrezia Borgia* (2006). Elvira, a woman betrothed to her guardian, harbors a secret love for the nobleman Don Giovanni di Aragona, disguised as the bandit Ernani. Ms. Quintiliani recently became the first American woman in over 25 years to win First Prize in the International Singing Contest Francisco Viñas, and was also awarded the Verdi Prize and the Public Prize. Following her success in the competition, she made her debut with Gran Teatre del Liceu as Elettra in *Idomeneo*. She also appeared on the televised Washington Opera Gala in the sextet from *Don Giovanni* under the direction of Valery Gergiev. Future engagements include her debut with Teatro Real in Madrid. She is a native of Quincy, where she still resides.

Tenor **Eduardo Villa**, makes his Opera Boston debut in the title role. Mr. Villa will cover the role of Ernani at the Metropolitan Opera in Spring 2008, and has appeared in several major roles there, including as Don Jose in *Carmen*, in the title role in *Don Carlo*, as Radames in *Aida*, as Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly*, and as Turiddu in *Cavalleria Rusticana*.

Baritone **Jason Stearns** makes his Opera Boston debut as Don Carlo, the king (later Holy Roman Emperor) that Ernani is called upon to assassinate. Mr. Stearns was awarded First Prize in the 2005 Chester Ludgin American Verdi Baritone Competition, judged by James Morris, Regina Resnik, and Plácido Domingo. Mr. Stearns has made several appearances in Boston with Chorus Pro Musica: in 2001 as Macbeth, in 2003 as Giorgio Germont in *La Traviata*, and in 2007 as Tonio in *I Pagliacci*. In the 2008-09 season, he will make debuts at the Metropolitan Opera and at Chicago Lyric Opera.

Bass **Young-Bok Kim** makes his company debut as Silva, Elvira's guardian and intended husband. 2007-08 marks Mr. Kim's debut season on the New York City Opera roster—where he

appeared in *La bohème*, *Tosca*, *Madama Butterfly*, and *Carmen*—as well as with L'Opera de Montreal as the Bonze in *Madama Butterfly*.

Stage Director **Stephanie Sundine** makes her company debut with *Ernani*. She has extensive credits with the Sarasota Opera, and has directed several operas—*Macbeth*, *Falstaff*—as part of that company's Verdi Cycle, a project that spans 1989-2013 to present the Verdi canon.

Scenic Designer **Cristina Todesco** makes her company debut with this production. Ms. Todesco's recent work includes *Silence* and *The Santaland Diaries* for New Repertory Theatre, *The Underpants* and *A Little Night Music* for Lyric Stage, and *The Marriage of Figaro* for Granite State Opera.

Costume Designer **Howard Tsvi Kaplan** makes his company debut with *Ernani*. Mr. Kaplan has been the resident costume designer for the Sarasota Opera since 1998. He has designed extensively for theater and opera companies, including Kentucky Opera, Virginia Stage, Lake George Opera and Tennessee Repertory.

Lighting Designer **Christopher Ostrom** returns for *Ernani*. Mr. Ostrom has designed over 30 productions for Opera Boston, most recently *Semele* in 2008 and *The Pearl Fishers* in 2007.

Opera Boston is Boston's most innovative opera company. Founded in 1980, the company has presented more than 70 operas, including 34 regional and two world premieres. In addition to its critically acclaimed, award-winning mainstage productions, Opera Boston offers a range of programs, including an occasional chamber opera festival, a popular informal cabaret series and an extensive educational program in Boston-area schools.

### ***Ernani***

#### **Giuseppe Verdi**

Libretto by Francesco Maria Piave, after *Hernani* by Victor Hugo

Premiere: March 9, 1844, La Fenice, Venice

May 2, & 6 at 7:30

May 4 at 3:00

Cutler Majestic Theatre at Emerson College, 219 Tremont Street  
Boston, Massachusetts  
Sung in Italian with surtitles

Elvira: Barbara Quintiliani, soprano

Ernani: Eduardo Villa\*, tenor

Don Carlo: Jason Stearns\*, baritone

Silva: Young-Bok Kim\*, bass

Conductor: Gil Rose

Stage Director: Stephanie Sundine\*

Scenic Designer: Cristina Todesco\*

Costume Designer: Howard Tsvi Kaplan\*

Lighting Designer: Christopher Ostrom

\* Opera Boston Debut

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