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**Opera Boston presents First Boston Production in 25 Years of
Weber's *Der Freischütz*:**

Sam Helfrich (*Mahagonny*, *Semele*) returns to direct

(BOSTON) – Opera Boston opens its 2008-09 season with three performances of Carl Maria von Weber's *Der Freischütz*, Oct. 17—21, 2008. Considered the first important German Romantic opera, and a profound influence on Wagner, *Der Freischütz* is based on a German folk legend, and tells the story of a marksman who makes a pact with the dark side to win a contest and the hand of his beloved. Sung in German with English titles. Individual tickets are on sale now through Telecharge (telecharge.com, 800-233-3123) and the Cutler Majestic Theatre box office. For more information, please see www.operaboston.org.

Tenor **Daniel Snyder** makes his second Opera Boston appearance (Jimmy McIntyre, *Mahagonny*, 2007) as Max, a young ranger who enters a Faustian bargain (in the famous Wolf's Glen scene) with Samiel, the Black Marksman, to cast unerring bullets that will allow him to win a shooting contest and win the hand of Agathe (**Emily Pulley**, debut). Ms. Pulley is a regular at the Metropolitan Opera in such roles as Marguerite in *Faust*, Nedda in *I Pagliacci*, Blanche in *Dialogues of the Carmelites*, Gretel in *Hänsel und Gretel*, Anne Trulove in *The Rake's Progress*, and Valencienne in *The Merry Widow*. She made her debut at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden as Mimì in *La Bohème*. Bass-baritone **Herbert Perry** makes his Opera Boston debut in the dual role of The Hermit and Samiel. Mr. Perry has extensive credits that span the repertory, from Mozart to Glass and Adams, at major houses around the United States and Europe; he made one of many joint appearances with his twin brother, the baritone Eugene Perry, in Glass' *The Sound of a Voice* at the ART in 2003. Soprano **Heather Buck** returns to Opera Boston in the role of Ännchen; Ms. Buck's previous credits with Opera Boston include as Princess Laoula in *L'étoile* (2006) and as the Maid in 2003's *Powder Her Face*. Bass **Andrew Funk** makes his Opera Boston debut as Kaspar; Mr. Funk has made many appearances with the Lyric Opera of Chicago, most recently in *Falstaff*, *Eugene Onegin*, and *Die Frau ohne Schatten* in the past season.

Director **Sam Helfrich** returns to direct. Mr. Helfrich was widely acclaimed for his staging of Kurt Weill's *Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny* in 2007, and for his present-day re-imagining of Handel's *Semele* in February 2008. Scenic Designer **Andrew Holland** makes his Opera Boston debut. Mr. Holland's previous opera credits include *The Threepenny Opera* for Long Beach Opera and the 2004 Eos Orchestra chamber-opera presentation of *The Valkyrie*. Lighting Designer **Aaron Black** makes his Opera Boston debut. Mr. Black has extensive opera credits, having worked on *Don Giovanni* with Diane Paulus at the Chicago Opera Theater and has previously worked with Sam Helfrich on Philip Glass' *Orphée* at Glimmerglass Opera in 2007. He has also been the production designer and art director for the MTV Video Music Awards, among other special events and theme park attractions. Costume Designer **Nancy Leary** returns to Opera Boston, having designed for the company at least once in each of the last five seasons.

Der Freischütz

("The Marksman")

Carl Maria von Weber; 1821

Libretto by Friedrich Kind
October 17 and 21, 2008 at 7:30 pm
October 19, 2008 at 3:00 pm

Conducted by Gil Rose
Directed by Sam Helfrich

Daniel Snyder as Max
Emily Pulley as Agathe
Andrew Funk as Kaspar
Heather Buck as Ännchen
Herbert Perry as The Hermit / Samiel
David Kravitz as Prince Ottokar
Tom O'Toole as Kuno
Aaron Engebretth as Kilian

Andrew Holland, Scenic Designer
Aaron Black, Lighting Designer
Nancy Leary Costume Designer

Sung in German with projected English titles.
Free pre-performance talk one hour before curtain.

About Opera Boston

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's schools. For more information, visit www.operaboston.org.

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