

## **Opera Atelier's *Don Giovanni* travels to Opera Columbus**

### **- Announcing an unprecedented donation and the company's Columbus debut -**

July 12, 2011, Toronto – Opera Atelier is pleased to announce that its new production of *Don Giovanni* will open **Opera Columbus's** 2011-2012 subscription season. Following its Toronto run at the Elgin Theatre (**October 29, 30, November 1, 2, 4 and 5, 2011**), the production will travel to Columbus, Ohio for performances on **November 25 and 27, 2011**, marking Opera Atelier's Columbus debut. The full Toronto cast and the Artists of Atelier Ballet will travel to Columbus, where they will perform with the Columbus Symphony and local singers in the chorus. As previously announced, Opera Atelier will also be taking its production of *Armide* to the prestigious Glimmerglass Festival in Cooperstown, New York in 2012.

"We are thrilled to be invited to take part in Opera Columbus's season with our glorious new production of *Don Giovanni*. It is always a pleasure to bring our work to new cities, and we are very much looking forward to working with the talent in Columbus," says Opera Atelier co-artistic director **Marshall Pynkoski**.

This production is supported by an unprecedented individual donation by **Michael A. Wekerle**, also announced today. Wekerle will be underwriting the production of *Don Giovanni* with his gift of \$200,000, which is the largest one-time contribution in the company's 25-year history. "Leadership philanthropy like this has a huge impact on Opera Atelier," says **Alberta G. Cefis**, Chair of Opera Atelier's Board of Directors. "Mike is an incredible example of a new arts donor: he was first exposed to the company this past spring and was immediately enthralled with the work we do. He has made that support clear ever since and we couldn't be more grateful."

*Don Giovanni* will be a glittering new period production featuring Canadian baritone **Phillip Addis** (who created a sensation as the Count in OA's *The Marriage of Figaro*, 2010) as the incorrigible Don Giovanni, soprano **Carla Huhtanen** (Zerlina), baritone **Vasil Garvanliev** (Leporello), soprano **Peggy Kriha Dye** (Donna Elvira), soprano **Meghan Lindsay** (Donna Anna), baritone **Curtis Sullivan** (Masetto/Commendatore), tenor **Lawrence Wiliford** (Don Ottavio) and the full corps of the **Artists of Atelier Ballet**. Italian conductor **Stefano Montanari** makes his Opera Atelier debut. *Don Giovanni* will be directed and choreographed by OA's founding artistic directors **Marshall Pynkoski** and **Jeannette Lajeunesse Zingg** respectively, and designed by OA's acclaimed design team of **Gerard Gauci** and **Martha Mann**. Sung in Italian with English SURTITLES™.

Tickets for *Don Giovanni's* Toronto run can be purchased by calling 416-703-3767 x222. Subscriptions range from \$90-\$280 per person. Single tickets go on sale August 22, 2011.

**2011-2012 Season Sponsor:** Sun Life Financial

**Don Giovanni underwriter:** Michael A. Wekerle

**Don Giovanni Production Sponsor:** Scotiabank

Opera Atelier also gratefully acknowledges the ongoing support of The Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council, the City of Toronto through the Toronto Arts Council, and the Creative Trust.

*Opera Atelier is Canada's premier baroque opera/ballet company, producing opera, ballet and drama from the 17th and 18th centuries. While drawing upon the aesthetics and ideals of the period, Opera Atelier goes beyond "reconstruction" and infuses each production with an inventive theatricality that resonates with modern audiences. Over the past twenty-five years, lead by founding artistic directors Marshall Pynkoski and Jeannette Lajeunesse Zingg, Opera Atelier has garnered acclaim for its performances at home as well as in the United States, Europe and Asia.*