

For Immediate Release

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Opera Baltimore presents Benjamin Britten's *The Turn of the Screw* on Nov. 18 & 20

Baltimore, MD - November 8, 2022 – Opera Baltimore presents Benjamin Britten's opera adaptation of Henry James's mid-19th century horror novella *The Turn of the Screw* in semi-staged concert. A governess arrives at an English country house to care for two children, but quickly learns everything is not as it seems. Can she keep the children safe from whatever lurks in the dark corners of the grounds?

Opera Baltimore favorite soprano Colleen Daly leads the cast as the Governess. Hailed for her "mezzo-tinted lower register rising to a wonderful warm top" (Washington Post), Ms. Daly has most recently sung with Annapolis Opera, and OperaDelaware. Tenor Norman Shankle returns to the Opera Baltimore stage in the roles of Quint and the Prologue. His recent engagements have included roles with Washington National Opera, the Netherlands Opera, and Komische Oper Berlin. Singing the role of Mrs. Grose is mezzo-soprano Annie Chester in her Opera Baltimore mainstage debut. Mrs. Chester is a recent winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions for the Idaho/Montana and North Dakota/Manitoba districts. Singing the role of Miles in her operatic debut is seventh-grader Brynn Blair, while Opera Baltimore veteran Robin Steitz performs the role of Flora. Passionate for contemporary works, Robin Steitz has most recently debuted the role of Mariana in Joe Illick's "Frida Kahlo and the Bravest Girl in the World" with Fort Worth Opera. Soprano Amanda Sheriff also returns to the Opera Baltimore stage as Mrs. Jessel after her successful performance as Monica in our production of Menotti's *The Medium* last season. Earlier this year, Ms. Sheriff took first prize in the Lotte Lenya Competition. The cast is rounded out by conductor Michael Sakir, pianist Joy Schreier, and director Catrin Davies.

A free four-part online lecture series given by Scholar-in-Residence Dr. Aaron Ziegel will precede the shows. Opera Baltimore will present two performances: Friday, November 18th, at 7:30 pm and Sunday, November 20th, at 3:00 pm, in the Grand Ballroom of the Engineers Club, 11 W. Mount Vernon Place, Baltimore, Maryland. Tickets (\$29.50-\$73.50) and more information are available at www.OperaBaltimore.org/turnofthescrew. *The Turn of the Screw* will be sung in English with projected English supertitles.

Opera Baltimore was originally founded in 2009 as Baltimore Concert Opera. Our commitment to strong organizational structure and artistic excellence set the stage for both continued success and smart growth. Opera Baltimore is an Artist-in-Residence at the stunning Garrett-Jacobs Mansion in Baltimore's arts district of Mount Vernon. We strive to invigorate both our audiences and artists through a balance of classic and innovative programming. In a typical season we produce one fully-staged opera with orchestra, two concert operas, two audience-building highlights concerts paired with wine, beer or cocktail tastings, as well as a full complement of education offerings and free outreach events.

For more information about Opera Baltimore, to make a tax-deductible donation, or to volunteer, please visit www.OperaBaltimore.org. Opera Baltimore is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. We are deeply grateful for the support of the William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund, the Maryland State Arts Council, the Citizens of Baltimore County, the Middendorf Foundation, OPERA America, the Baltimore National Heritage Area, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the John J. Leidy Foundation, the T. Rowe Price

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