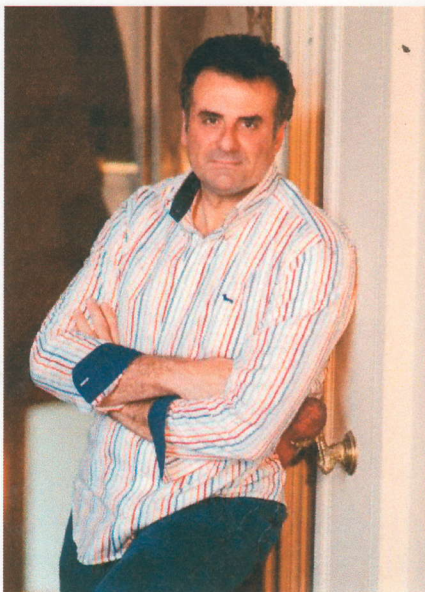


THE OPERA ORCHESTRA OF NEW YORK

For Immediate Release

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The Opera Orchestra of New York Presents Puccini's *Edgar*



Marcello Giordani



Jennifer Larmore

Carnegie Hall April 13th at 8 p.m.

- Who:** The Opera Orchestra of New York with Music Director Eve Queler
New York Choral Society with Music Director John Daly Goodwin
La Scuola d'Italia Guglielmo Marconi Children's Chorus
- When:** 8 p.m., April 13, 2008
- Where:** Carnegie Hall
- Program:** Puccini's *Edgar*
- Tickets:** Call The Opera Orchestra of New York at 212.799.1982; visit www.oony.org; Call Carnegie Charge, 212.247.7800; visit Carnegie Hall box office (Monday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-6p.m.; Sunday, 12-6 p.m.)

Press Tickets: Laura Malick, 917.339.7183, lmalick@cohndutcher.com

New York, NY—The Opera Orchestra of New York, led by Music Director Eve Queler, concludes its 2007-2008 Season on Sunday, April 13, 2008 at 8 p.m. at Carnegie Hall with Puccini's *Edgar*, featuring tenor Marcello Giordani, mezzo-soprano Jennifer Larmore, soprano Latonia Moore and baritones Stephen Gaertner and Giovanni Guagliardo. The New York Choral Society, led by music director John Daly Goodwin, and the La Scuola d'Italia Guglielmo Marconi Children's Chorus, will join the ensemble for this performance. *Edgar*, whose funeral chorus Arturo Toscanini conducted at Puccini's 1924 funeral, will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the composer's birth. The performance comes exactly 31 years after The Opera Orchestra's last presentation of the work—a rendition that featured world-renowned soprano Renata Scotto.

Edgar

The Opera Orchestra of New York's legendary 1977 performance and Sony BMG Masterworks recording of Puccini's early *Edgar* (1889), with Carlo Bergonzi and Renata Scotto, put this exciting work on the international map. Music Director Eve Queler returns to the medieval tale of a knight, Edgar (Marcello Giordani), who is torn between his sacred love Fidelia (Latonia Moore) and the seductress Tigrana (Jennifer Larmore). After living undercover as a monk due to hostile circumstances within his community, Edgar soon finds his true love when Fidelia stands by his side when the rest of his community, including Tigrana, tries to kill him.

Eve Queler, Music Director

As Music Director of The Opera Orchestra of New York, Eve Queler has conducted 100 operas in concert at Carnegie Hall. Standing out among her many successes are Wagner's *Rienzi* and *Tristan und Isolde*, Berlioz's *Benvenuto Cellini*, Smetana's *Dalibor*, and Richard Strauss's *Die Liebe der Danae*. She received one of the highest awards presented by the French government when she was named a Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French minister of culture for her commitment to French operas. Maestro Queler also received the prestigious Touchstone Award from Women In Music, Inc., in recognition of her visionary spirit as one of the "Women Who Make a Difference."

Eve Queler has championed many neglected Russian and Czech operas that are staples in central Europe but virtually unknown in America. She was the first conductor in America to perform Mussorgsky's unfinished *Khovanshchina*, with orchestration by Shostakovich,

as well as the first Czech-language performance of Janacek's *Katya Kabanova* (1979), *Jenůfa* (1988), and Dvořák's *Rusalka* (1987).

Marcello Giordani, tenor

Marcello Giordani opened The Met's 2007-2008 Season as Edgardo in Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor*. Mr. Giordani will join the Boston Symphony Orchestra for his debut in the role of Enée in Berlioz's *Les Troyens*, under the direction of James Levine. He will also perform the role of Des Grieux in *Manon Lescaut* at the Teatro Massimo Bellini of Catania.

Jennifer Larmore, mezzo-soprano

Jennifer Larmore is an outstanding American mezzo-soprano who has parlayed operatic success in Europe into international stardom. Known for excelling in the coloratura roles of the Baroque and bel canto, she has also moved into the Romantic and Contemporary repertoire. Since the beginning of her career, Ms. Larmore has recorded widely for the Teldec, RCA, Harmonia Mundi, Deutsche Grammophon, Arabesque, Opera Rara, Bayer, Naive, Chandos, VAI and Cedille labels in over 70CDs to date, earning her the distinction of being the most recorded mezzo of all time.

Latonia Moore, soprano

Known to audiences of The Opera Orchestra of New York for her outstanding performance in Cilea's *L'Arlesiana*, American soprano Latonia Moore recently sang the title role in Dresden's *Madama Butterfly*, and made her New York recital debut at Carnegie Hall. She returned to Dresden in *Liù* and debuted with Palm Beach Opera in the title role of *Madama Butterfly*. She made her New York City Opera debut at Lincoln Center in its revival of *Carmen*. She performed in Verdi's *Ernani* in Vienna and also sang *Nedda* in a gala concert for La Monnaie, Brussels.

Stephen Gaertner, baritone

Stephen Gaertner made his Metropolitan Opera debut as Enrico in the new production of *Lucia di Lammermoor* in the 2007-09 season where he was also heard in *Carmen* and as Melot in *Tristan und Isolde*. He previously made his Met in the Parks debut as Marullo in *Rigoletto* in 2006. Additional engagements this season included a return to Baltimore Opera for *Maria Stuarda* and with Eve Queler's Opera Orchestra of New York as Frank in Puccini's *Edgar* in Carnegie Hall. He will return to the Metropolitan in the 08-09 season again for *Lucia* and *Tristan*.