

# Piedmont Opera comes to town

Piedmont Opera Theatre concludes its fourteenth season with *The Daughter of The Regiment* by Gaetano Donizetti, to be sung in English at the Stevens Center in Winston-Salem. Performances are Friday, April 3 at 8 p.m.; Sunday, April 5, at 3 p.m. (daylight savings day!), and Tuesday, April 7, at 7:30 p.m.

Donizetti's joyful, light-hearted comedy has been a favorite vehicle for such super-stars as Joan Sutherland and Luciano Pavarotti. Marie, found on the battlefield as a child and adopted by the men of the Twenty-First Regiment, falls desperately in love with the handsome Tonio, who promptly enlists. Boy-meets-girl, boy-loses-girl, boy-gets-girl in the best musical comedy fashion, with help from the kindly tenuous frolic.

Starring in the title role will be

soprano Christine Donahue, well-remembered by Piedmont Opera audiences for her spectacular singing of Constanze in *The Abduction From The Seraglio* several seasons ago. As her lover Tonio, Glenn Siebert returns after his impressive Piedmont Opera debut last season in *Cinderella*. Also returning after his enthusiastic reception in *Cinderella* will be bass-baritone Gregory Rahming as the good hearted Sergeant Sulpice.

Mezzo-soprano Clarity James makes her Piedmont debut as The Marquise of Berkenfield. James has sung with many of the nation's major opera companies and symphony orchestras. Her recordings include Leonard Bernstein's *A Quiet Place* with the composer conducting.

Baritone C. Ronald Campbell, well-known to Piedmont Opera

audiences from several previous productions, will sing the role of Hortensius. Others in the singing cast include baritone John Mark Swink as the Corporal and tenor Robert Workmon as a peasant.

Making their Piedmont Opera debuts in speaking roles will be Lesley Hunt of the North Carolina School of the Arts drama faculty as the Duchess of Krackenthorp and Donald Wolfe of the Wake Forest University theatre facility as a Notary.

Piedmont Opera's general director, Norman Johnson, will conduct members of the Winston-Salem/Piedmont Triad Symphony. David Gately, who has staged many of Piedmont Opera's most successful productions will be the stage director. The sets, by designer Peter Dean Beck, are from Opera Carolina in Charlotte, the costumes from



Bass-baritone Gregory Rahming plays Sgt. Sulpice in Piedmont Opera Theatre's production of *The Daughter of the Regiment*.

Malabar Ltd. in Toronto. Call 919-725-2022 for tickets and further information.

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# Angelou, Lacy featured in *Kindred Spirits*

Contemporary African-American art and the artists who create it are the subjects of *Kindred Spirits: Contemporary African-American Artists*, a half-hour special featuring poet Maya Angelou that will premiere Wednesday, March 25, at 10 p.m. ET on PBS (check local listings). Produced by KERA-TV, Dallas/Fort Worth, and funded by Philip Morris Companies Inc., *Kindred Spirits* is a fascinating exploration of one of the most vibrant artistic scenes of the late 20th century.

The special was inspired by "Black Art — Ancestral Legacy: The African Impulse in African-American Art," an acclaimed art exhibition that originated at the Dallas Museum of Art in 1989 and visited three other major American museums. The exhibition included recent works by 48 artists from the United States and the Caribbean.

*Kindred Spirits* focuses on several of the artists featured in the exhibition — including John Biggers, Bessie Harvey, Louis Mailou Jones, Jean Lacy, Charles Searles, Ed Love and Renee Stout — who offer their insights into their work and the unbreakable spiritual bond that stretches back through time to their African ancestors. Appearing as a special guest on the program, Angelou shares her own feelings about creativity and her links to Africa and to all of humanity.

"What one really is brought to see," says Angelou, "is this statement: I am a human being; nothing human can be alien to me. That is love. That is what is in great art."

The works and artists highlighted in *Kindred Spirits* reflect the wide range of visions and styles that

characterize modern African-American art. Bessie Harvey, who was raised in Tennessee and has never visited Africa, creates an amazing array of sculptures from tree stumps and limbs that she finds, all of which incorporate African motifs.

John Biggers, long a major figure in American art, draws heavily on his African visits for inspiration, but often includes images of urban American life in his monumental paintings.

Renee Stout's sculptures, including her powerful self-portrait, *Fetish #2*, reach directly into the African interior for their inspiration and combine classical African forms with mystical elements ranging from folk medicine to tribal religions. Jones, who has been painting since the 1930s, blends Haitian and African symbolism with other ancient and modern images; in one striking work, *The Ascent of Ethiopia*, she daringly, and successfully, unites pharaonic Egypt with the Harlem jazz scene.

"*Kindred Spirits*" is a vivid celebration of the creative spark. For viewers already familiar with the works of America's black artists, the program is a long-awaited confirmation. For the uninitiated, *Kindred Spirits* is an easily accessible window on a broad, deep and vital creative stream that has flowed since the dawn of humankind.

KERA's *Kindred Spirits: Contemporary African-American Artists* is produced by Clayton Corrie and directed by Christine McConnell. Supervising director is Ginny Martin, and executive producer is Sylvia Komatsu.

Philip Morris Companies Inc. began its support of the arts in



Artist Jean Lacy is among those featured in *Kindred Spirits: Contemporary African-American Artists*, a new PBS special airing Wednesday, March 25, at 10:30 p.m. ET (check local listings.).

1958. Since then, the company has developed one of the nation's most comprehensive corporate cultural programs.

Through its broad spectrum of sponsorship, Philip Morris promotes contemporary and minority visual and performing arts programs, as well as major international exhibitions and tours.

Philip Morris distributes films free of charge, based on Philip Morris-sponsored exhibitions, to universities, museums, libraries and other nonprofit organizations to wide the reach of its cultural events. Video projects funded by Philip Morris include "The Artist and the Quilt," "The Precious Legacy" and "Bearden Plays Bearden."

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# MS Society to present educational program

On Saturday, March 28, the Central Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society will present Moving Forward, a day-long educational program for people diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis within the past year.

Professionals experienced with MS will lead four informational sessions.

Travis Jackson, M.D., of the Triad Neurological Association, will present a medical overview of Multiple Sclerosis encompassing diagnosis, treatments, and research. The psychological and social pressures of "Living with MS" will be

addressed by Linda Levoy Jackson, MA Ed., of the Carolina Piedmont Psychological Associates. Anne L. Murray, Ph.D., of the Whitaker Rehabilitation Center, will discuss sexuality and esteem issues.

The final session, emphasizing the significant between maintenance of physical activity and MS, will be presented by Joan Gand, LPT, of the Martinat Out Patient Rehab Center.

Multiple Sclerosis is a chronic, sometimes disabling disease of the central nervous system, which often strikes young adults in their twenties to thirties.

An estimated 350,000 Americans have Multiple Sclerosis, with over 10,000 cases diagnosed every week.

In the fifteen-county area of the Central North Carolina Chapter, there are in excess of 800 people who have MS.

This program is open to anyone who has been diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis within the last year.

For more information, or to register for the program, contact the Central North Carolina Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis society at 1-800-229-9776.

### Week of March 15, 1992

**ARIES (3/21 - 4/19):** Sense of direction and purpose becomes more clearly defined. Work responsibilities are increased and life at home reaches harmonious plateau.

**Taurus (4/20 - 5/20):** Voice your opinions even when unsolicited. Praise will come your way for your wisdom and insight. Romance reaches boiling point. Either take a cold shower or make commitment.

**GEMINI (5/21 - 6/20):** Come to rescue of friend in need. Cries for help may be both real and uncontained this time. Just you being there will be a comfort. Aries plays role.

**CANCER (6/21 - 7/22):** Don't fish for compliments. Be yourself, not who others want you to be. Realize your true potential and that of co-workers.

**LEO (7/23 - 8/22):** Wandering eyes could get you in trouble. Mate feeling threatened, questions trust and commitment. Possible change in marital status.

**VIRGO (8/23 - 9/22):** Be brave in face of difficult situation. Your attitude will effect that of others around you. Revealed secret could snowball in your favor.

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**LIBRA (9/23 - 10/22):** Don't let the pressures of work guide your attitude at home. Spend quality time with loved ones. Expect the unexpected. Copricorn and other Libra play roles.

**SCORPIO (10/23 - 11/21):** What was anticipated to be imminent may be delayed. Exercise patience. Be frugal to take full advantage of future opportunity.

**SAGITTARIUS (11/22 - 12/21):** Look toward community activities, volunteer work. Become involved in civic affairs, join committees. Good time to make your mark on society.

**CAPRICORN (12/22 - 1/19):** Romantic status in trouble, code blue. Give it your immediate attention. Look into eyes and confess true feelings, admit mistakes if you want to salvage damage done.

**AQUARIUS (1/20 - 2/18):** Weather may interfere with plans. Have alternate plan of action. Focus on family harmony, togetherness, group activities and projects. Spend time outdoors.

**PISCES (2/19 - 3/20):** Formerly closed doors will open. Don't blow perfect opportunity to be noticed, recognized and respected. Scorpio involved.

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