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**OPERA AMERICA INVITES ENTIRE FIELD
TO A 50TH ANNIVERSARY TOAST
AS PART OF OPERA CONFERENCE ONLINE**

INTRODUCES NEW *LIGHT SHALL LIFT US* VIDEO

May 15, 2020 (New York) — **OPERA America** is pleased to invite artists, administrators, trustees, and audiences to “A Toast to 50 Years,” a celebration of opera’s progress and of OPERA America’s 50th Anniversary, taking place today, Friday, May 15, from 4:30 to 5:00 p.m. EDT. The event can be live streamed at youtube.com/operaamerica. It is part of Opera Conference 2020, which was moved online in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to provide the support and perspectives necessary to inform the field’s path forward.

OPERA America’s president and CEO, **Marc A. Scorca**, will be joined by three of OPERA America’s 50th Anniversary Ambassadors: sopranos **Angel Blue** and **Christine Goerke**, and bass **Morris Robinson**. The event will also include special announcements, a trivia game about the origins of opera in America, and the formal introduction of a new video creation, *Light Shall Lift Us: Opera Singers Unite in Song*.

The video features more than 100 opera singers, including Ambassadors Morris Robinson, **Zachary James**, **Daniela Mack**, **Ailyn Pérez**, **David Portillo**, and **Brenda Rae**, in a virtual performance of *Light Shall Lift Us*, a large ensemble work created by the Pulitzer Prize-winning team of composer **Paul Moravec** and librettist/lyricist **Mark Campbell**. The video — with music direction by **Andrew Whitfield**, video editing by **Cara Consilvio**, and orchestra simulation by **Peter Lurye** — is demonstrative of the dedication of artists to the art form and of their artistry.

“It is moving, though not at all surprising, to see artists from all across America, at all levels of their careers, come together as a community. It’s indicative of the spirit of collaboration in opera and the resilience that artists and opera companies are exhibiting in the face of the current crisis,” declared Marc A. Scorca, president/CEO of OPERA America. “We are deeply grateful to all the participating artists, and thrilled to share this important work with the opera community and audiences around the country.”

The 107 artists who lent their voices to this project are:

Javier Abreu	Jasmine Habersham	Stephen Powell
Danielle Beckvermit	Sam Handley	Katherine Pracht
Daniel Belcher	Roger Honeywell	Gabriel Preisser
Andrew Bidlack	Soloman Howard	Emily Pulley
Matt Boehler	Briana Elyse Hunter	Elise Quagliata
Amanda Lynn Bottoms	Craig Irvin	Brenda Rae
Liz Bouk	Zachary James	Zoie Reams
Marnie Breckenridge	Keith Jameson	Morris Robinson
Erica Brookhyser	Jessica E. Jones	Lisa Marie Rogali
Raehann Bryce-Davis	Michael Kelly	Adrian Rosas
William Burden	Maya Kherani	Annie Rosen
Jennifer Johnson Cano	Michael Kuhn	Jordan Rutter
Leonardo Capalbo	Claire Kuttler	Christian Sanders
Joyce Castle	Tesia Kwarteng	Lucy Schauer
Lisa Chavez	Sarah Larsen	Laurel Semerdjian
Hailey Clark	Anna Laurenzo	Alek Shrader
Sarah Coit	Victoria Livengood	Benjamin Sieverding
Troy Cook	Cecilia Violetta López	Jake Stamatis
Sasha Cooke	Zulimar López-Hernández	Dane Suarez
Olivia Cosío	Alexandra Loutsion	Jack Swanson
Tara Curtis	Daniela Mack	Talise Trevigne
Adrienne Danrich	Amanda Majeski	Richard Troxell
Joseph Dennis	Alex Mansoori	Maria Valdes
Mary Dunleavy	Trevor Martin	Jamie Van Eyck
Jason Ferrante	Robert Wesley Mason	Miguel Angel Vasquez
Jessica Fishenfeld	Aundi Marie Moore	Craig Verm
Emily Fons	John Moore	Yunpeng Wang
Daryl Freedman	Dylan Morrongiello	Andrew Wilkowske
Blake Friedman	Brian James Myer	William Ferguson
Joseph Gaines	Miles Mykkanen	Karin Wolverton
Blythe Gaissert	Luis Alejandro Orozco	Caroline Worra
Priti Gandhi	Edward Parks	Matthew Worth
Sara Gartland	Ailyn Pérez	Wei Wu
Eve Gigliotti	Dimitri Pittas	Adriana Zabala
Nathan Granner	Matthew Polenzani	Jennifer Zetlan
Devon Guthrie	David Portillo	

For more information about *Light Shall Lift Us: Opera Singers Unite in Song*, go to operaamerica.org/LSLU.

For more information about Opera Conference Online, go to conference.operaamerica.org.



About OPERA America

OPERA America (operaamerica.org) leads and serves the entire opera community, supporting the creation, presentation, and enjoyment of opera. The organization is committed to:

- Delivering professional development to artists, administrators, and trustees.
- Increasing appreciation of opera through educational and audience development resources.
- Offering technical support and informational services that foster the creation and presentation of new works.
- Fostering equity, diversity, and inclusion across all aspects of the opera industry.
- Undertaking national research and representing the field to policymakers and the media.
- Managing the National Opera Center, a custom-built facility that provides a centralized space for collaboration, rehearsal, and performance.

Founded in 1970, OPERA America fulfills its mission through public programs, an annual conference, regional workshops, consultations, granting programs, publications, and online resources. It is the only organization serving all constituents of opera: artists, administrators, trustees, educators, and audience members. Membership includes 150 professional opera companies; 350 associate, business, and education members; and 1,700 individuals. OPERA America extends its reach to 80,000 annual visitors to its National Opera Center and over 40,000 subscribers and followers on e-communications and social media. Representing over 90 percent of eligible professional companies, OPERA America is empowered to lead field-wide change.