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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### DICAPPO OPERA THEATRE ANNOUNCES 2012-13 SEASON: SIX MAIN-STAGE

#### PRODUCTIONS—TWO WORLD PREMIERES AND A NEW YORK PREMIERE:

#### THE MARTYRS BY THOMAS PASATIERI & LIBRETTO AND DIRECTION BY DAPHNE

#### MALFITANO STARRING CATHERINE MALFITANO (**World Premiere**); MARRYING MOZART,

#### MUSIC BY MOZART, LIBRETTO BY MICHAEL CAPASSO & BILL VAN HORN (**World Premiere**);

#### THE LETTER, BASED ON MAUGHAM, MUSIC BY PAUL MORAVEC & LIBRETTO BY

#### TERRY TEACHOUT (**New York Premiere**) & KISMET

Dicapo's popular Opera for Kids continues with one-hour weekend renditions of Rossini's La Cenerentola,

Gianni Schicchi and others (TBA)

March 2, 2012, New York City--Dicapo Opera Theatre has announced that it will present six main-stage productions for 2012-13. Dicapo launches its 31<sup>st</sup> season with a gala opening night performance of a perennial opera favorite—Ruggiero Leoncavallo's *I Pagliacci*—the story of a jealous husband in a commedia dell'arte troupe, whose actions on stage make theatre collapse into tragic reality. The production, directed by General Director Michael Capasso and conducted by Music Director Pacien Mazzagatti, opens Thursday evening, October 11<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 p.m., with performances to follow on Saturday evening, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 8 p.m.; Friday evening, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 8 p.m., and Sunday afternoon, October 21<sup>st</sup>, at 4 p.m. Dicapo takes its production of *I Pagliacci* to the Tilles Center for the Performing Arts on Long Island for a performance on Friday, November 2, 2012.

The season's second offering is the **world premiere** of Thomas Pasatieri's *The Martyrs*, with a libretto and direction by Daphne Malfitano, starring the world-renowned Catherine Malfitano as **Marianne** and Zeffin Quinn Hollis as **Percy**. The opera explores the stories of two quintessentially American antiheroes. They each seek justice, but are vilified by their rural societies, forcing them to live—or die—as modern-day martyrs. Performances take place on Thursday evening November 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday evening, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 8 p.m., and Sunday afternoon, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 4 p.m., followed by performances on Thursday evening November 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m.; Friday evening, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 8 p.m., and Sunday afternoon, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012, at 4 p.m.

*The Martyrs* will be followed by yet another Dicapo **world premiere**, *Marrying Mozart*, a play with music by Mozart and libretto by Michael Capasso and the noted writer Bill Van Horn. Based on a best-selling novel by Stephanie Cowells, *Marrying Mozart* offers a believably appealing portrait of the young Mozart in Vienna struggling to find work as a composer and encountering the delightful Weber sisters, four young women who engage his passion, his music, and his heart. Mr. Capasso directs. Performances are scheduled for Thursday evening, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m., Friday evening, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 8 p.m.; Saturday evening, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 8 p.m., and Sunday afternoon, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012, at 4 p.m.

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The **New York premiere** of *The Letter*, an *opera noir* by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Paul Moravec and libretto by noted critic-playwright-biographer Terry Teachout is next. *The Letter* is based on the classic Somerset Maugham play and short story filmed by Hollywood in 1940. Set in Malaya, *The Letter* tells the dramatic story of the adulterous wife of a British plantation manager who shoots her faithless lover dead, then tries to escape hanging by lying about her crime—a story with a surprising outcome. Michael Capasso will direct, with performances scheduled for February 2013 on Thursday evening, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m., Saturday evening, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 8 p.m., Friday evening, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 8 p.m., and Sunday afternoon, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 4 p.m.

Dicapo Opera Theatre's season continues with a classic of the 19<sup>th</sup> century operatic repertoire, Gaetano Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor*. Based on Sir Walter Scott's novel *The Bride of Lammermoor*, Donizetti's opera tells the story of Lucia, who is forced into an unwanted marriage by her brother Enrico – with tragic results. Performances are on Thursday evening April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday evening, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 8 p.m., Friday evening, April 12<sup>th</sup>, 8 p.m., and Sunday afternoon, April 14<sup>th</sup>, at 4 p.m. Dicapo takes this production to the Tilles Center on Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

In keeping with its tradition of presenting musicals from time to time, and on the heels of its wildly successful production of Frank Loesser's *The Most Happy Fella*, Dicapo will present *Kismet* with lyrics and musical adaptation (as well as some original music) by Robert Wright and George Forrest, adapted from the music of Alexander Borodin and a book by Charles Lederer and Luther Davis, based on an 1911 play by Edward Knoblock. Performances are scheduled for Thursday evening, May 16<sup>th</sup> 7:30 p.m., Friday evening, May 17<sup>th</sup> 8 p.m., Saturday evening, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 8 p.m., and Sunday afternoon, May 19<sup>th</sup>, at 4 p.m.

Dicapo Opera Theatre will continue its popular “Opera for Kids” series of Saturday and Sunday morning family presentations throughout the 2012-2013 season. Mr. Capasso introduces children to the fundamentals of opera and each of the selected scenes is sung by Dicapo's Resident Artists in costume and with sets to the accompaniment of a piano. Either before the performance or between key events Mr. Capasso elucidates the plot, hints at the complexities of the theatre's stagecraft, and fires children's imagination with a taste of grit and magic. The secret to the success of these presentations lays in the fact that Mr. Capasso and his performers never resort to over-simplification. After each performance the children participate in a lively exchange with the singers and crew and are able to ask questions about what they've just seen and how things get done. The company's highly popular one-hour “Opera for Kids” presentations, led with great flair by Mr. Capasso, are aimed at children four years old and up.

The complete schedule for this series follows:

*La Cenerentola* (Rossini)  
November 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012

*Beauty and the Beast* (Vittorio Giannini)  
TBA

*Gianni Schicchi* (Puccini)  
January 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013

**For tickets to all events please contact Smarttix at 212-868-4444 or visit [www.dicapo.com](http://www.dicapo.com). The Dicapo Opera Theatre is located at 184 East 76<sup>th</sup> Street (at Lexington Avenue) on the lower level of the St. Jean Baptiste Church.**

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Dicapo Opera Theatre celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> year during the 2011-12 season with five main-stage productions: Puccini's *Tosca*, Tchaikovsky's *Iolanta*, Menotti's *The Consul*, Frank Loesser's *The Most Happy Fella*, and Verdi's *La Traviata*. Launching a return of opera to the Tilles Center for the Performing Arts, located at the C.W. Post Campus of Long Island University, the Tilles Center invited Dicapo Opera to present both productions of *Tosca* and *La Traviata*.

Critical commentary on the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary season was extremely positive with particular praise for Dicapo's season opener production of Puccini's *Tosca*: "In this new production by Dicapo general director Michael Capasso, Cavaradossi (played by tenor Peter Furlong) actually mixed paint and blackened the eyes of the Mary Magdalene, succumbing to Tosca's demands. It was just one of many small details that made this modest version of Puccini's opera a success. Kristin Sampson is an experienced singer in this house. She struck the right balance between fiery passion and loopy rage as Floria Tosca. She was tender in the first act, growling and determined in the second...and positively loopy in the third. Although the sound of Puccini-sized voices in a small theater can result in balance problems, this *Tosca* was blessed with a good supporting cast. This extended to the smallest roles...The choral work was solid." *Super.Conductor.com* (October 16, 2011)

Dicapo's subsequent production of Tchaikovsky's final opera, *Iolanta* was lauded by *Opera News*: "Dicapo Opera Theatre deserves acclaim, both for tackling this neglected gem (seen opening night, Dec. 8) and for pulling it off so successfully. In the title role, soprano Corinne Winters displayed a pliable and heartfelt tone that projected naturally without losing sweetness...Bass-baritone Seth Mease Carico, possessed of a natural authority and commanding vocal strength, was terrific...Dicapo's general director Michael Capasso staged the production with taste and economy." *Opera News* (Dec 8, 2011).

Dicapo's production of *Iolanta* received additional praise from *Concertonet.com* (December 8, 2011) "The Dicapo Opera, now in its thirtieth anniversary season, has long described itself as New York's third opera company. Now, with the almost certain demise of the New York City Opera, this small and feisty company has come up one notch to second...Throughout the performance, there was stunning and often deeply moving mirroring of the voices by the orchestra...,the singers were splendid. Corinne Winters, a graduate of the Academy of Vocal Arts, sang *Iolanta* with a lovely and vulnerable stage-presence. The radically simple set was imaginatively designed and beautifully lit. (December 8, 2011). Called "the closest thing New York has to a mini-Met" by Justin Davidson of *New York Magazine*, Dicapo has also been praised by Martin Bernheimer in the March 1, 2011 edition of *The Financial Times*:

The Dicapo Opera Theatre, brainchild of the dauntless Michael Capasso, occupies a beautifully appointed 200-seat hall in the basement of the St. Jean Baptiste Church, on the corner of 76<sup>th</sup> Street and Lexington Avenue. The company currently musters a five-piece season devoted to old favorites as well as relative novelties and it employs luxurious forces both on stage and in the pit. Dicapo dares to think big in a small way.

**Dicapo Opera Theatre** is the only opera company in New York, after the Metropolitan Opera and the City Opera, to present an entire season of opera productions, musical theatre, concerts, family fare, and other events.

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Co-founded in 1981 by General Director Michael Capasso and Diane Martindale, Dicapo Opera Theatre has annually offered repertoire ranging from the operatic classics by such masters as Mozart, Bellini, Donizetti, Verdi, and Tchaikovsky to the 20th century works of Menotti, Barber, Britten, and many others. It has also had the distinction of performing all of Puccini's operas and instrumental music.

Radically transformed into an elegant, effective, and modern theatre by a renovation in 1995, Dicapo Opera Theatre features 204 burgundy velvet seats, luxurious carpeting, ebonized oak walls, brass railings, ample wing space, a stage with sprung wood floor, and 38-foot adjustable proscenium, private dressing rooms, box office, bar, commodious lobby areas, quiet air conditioning, computerized lighting, and a state-of-the-art supertitle system. It offers a degree of intimacy not possible in larger venues.

The **Dicapo Childrens' Chorus**, created by Ms. Martindale in 1982, offers children who love to sing the opportunity to perform in several Dicapo productions. In 1997, Dicapo Opera Theatre established its **Resident Artist Program** to assist aspiring singers to bridge the gap between their music studies and their professional careers. Resident Artists, who are in residence from September to June, perform all secondary roles, provide covers for leading roles and provide the ensemble for the main stage productions. They have performed leading and supporting roles with the Metropolitan Opera, New York City Opera, La Scala in Milan, Teatro La Fenice in Venice, the Los Angeles Opera, Washington Opera, and elsewhere.

In 2008, expanding its horizons internationally, Dicapo Opera Theatre participated in the first annual "Opera Competition and Festival with Mezzo," held in cooperation with Hungary's Mezzo Television in Szeged, Hungary, and won the competition with its production of Robert Ward's *The Crucible*. Dicapo returned to the competition in November 2009 with Tobias Picker's *Emmeline* and participated in 2010 with Thomas Pasatieri's *The Seagull*. These performances were broadcast to millions of viewers and 42 countries throughout Europe.

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