

February 25, 2010

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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*Worcester Opera Works, Inc.*

**"DIE FLEDERMAUS LIGHTS UP THE WARNER THEATRE"  
Strauss's sparkling operetta a perennial favorite**

(Worcester, MA)- Composed non-stop in forty-two 'nights of veritable rapture', *Die Fledermaus* (or, *The Revenge of the Bat*) is Johann Strauss's most celebrated and popular operetta, intoxicatingly melodious and exuberant. The sparkling tunes and timeless wit and charm of this operatic jewel continue to delight audiences more than a century after the work's first performance. Gracing the historic Warner Theatre at Worcester Academy (a venue in itself worth the price of admission) will be Worcester Opera Works' presentation of their fully-staged production of this work on June 11 (8:00 PM), June 12 (8:00 PM) and June 13 (2:00 PM). Performing in a new English translation, this production will feature local professionally trained singers and musicians from Worcester, Grafton, West Boylston, Shrewsbury, Rutland, and Northborough as well as artists from the Pioneer Valley and beyond. Directors are Jacque Eileen Wilson (stage) and John Leslie (music).

The story begins as Dr. Falke recounts the tale of his humiliation at the hand of his old friend Eisenstein, for which the disgruntled victim has long been planning revenge. Retribution comes in the setting of a grand party, to which Falke invites a multitude of players (all disguised as someone else) and thereby sets a trap from which his friend cannot possibly escape gracefully. A maid, a wife, the wife's former flame, a jailer, a doddering attorney and a host of other characters deceive and cavort as the twisted charade unfolds, while Strauss' timeless melodies float through the air, weaving their magical spell. Special musical guests include local opera diva Jane Shivick, and dancers from Cornerstone Performing Arts.

Tickets are \$20 general admission, \$10 grades 12 and under. Tickets are available online ([www.worcesteroperaworks.com](http://www.worcesteroperaworks.com)) or by mail (P.O. Box 33, Rutland, MA 01543.) For more information email [tickets@worcesteroperaworks.com](mailto:tickets@worcesteroperaworks.com) or call 508-930-7062.

Of WOW's production of *The Marriage of Figaro*, John Zeugner of the Worcester Telegram & Gazette raved that, "This splendid production by Worcester Opera Works demonstrates the depth of the talent in the area," and went on to say that, "Such home-grown magical music-making deserves celebration, support and, most of all, profound gratitude." Of *Amahl and the Night Visitors* the T&G's Dan Sweeney asserted that "Great cities are blessed with great cultural institutions. Worcester Opera Works can now be added to that group," and called the production "...as tight and beautifully sung a presentation (as) could have been found at the Met."

Worcester Opera Works, a non-profit corporation, has been pursuing its two-fold mission of opera performance and education in Central Massachusetts and beyond since 2003. The group performs concerts, recitals, opera scenes programs and full-length operas as well as bringing opera to schools, including a new original opera for children entitled *Diamonds and Toads* featuring the music of Mozart. The company continually strives to "bring local singers and local audiences together" and utilizes the talents of Central Massachusetts' local singers, musicians and artists.

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This program is supported in part by a grant from the Worcester Cultural Commission, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.