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**PASA PRESENTS ELIZABETH FUTRAL**  
**OPERA'S WORLD-RENOWNED COLORATURA SOPRANO**

**Tickets Now Available**

Lafayette (La) – Elizabeth Futral, who has established herself as one of the major coloratura sopranos in the world today, will sing a wide-ranging program of recital and chamber music at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, January 20, 2012, when she makes her debut appearance presented by the Performing Arts Society of Acadiana (PASA) at the Heymann Performing Arts Center. Accompaniment will be provided by Geraldine Hubbell, pianist, and Acadiana Symphony Orchestra musicians.

The program includes Schubert's *Shepherd on the Rock*, with piano and clarinet, *Sempre libera* from *La Traviata*, Händel's *Let the Bright Seraphim* (Samson) with quartet and trumpet, *How Beautiful Are the Feet* (Messiah) with quartet and Bach's *Sei Lob/Alleluia* (Cantata 51) for quartet and trumpet. Included French compositions are: *N'est-ce pas* (Faure), *Le colibri* (Chausson), *Le plus doux chemin* (Faure), and *Après un reve* (Faure),

Selections of some of Elizabeth's most important roles are packed into the second half of the program, featuring Carlisle Floyd's *Susannah*, Ricky Ian Gordon's *Orpheus and Euridice*, André Previn's *A Street Car Named Desire* and Gaetano Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor*.

"Our program was carefully developed in discussions with Elizabeth, Geraldine Hubbell, Acadiana Symphony Orchestra concert master—Lauren Baker—and others who know and love vocal music," says PASA Executive Director Shanna Higginbotham. "We also wanted to showcase some of our area's talented musicians who will perform on the program's ensemble pieces."

Pianist, Geraldine Hubbell, who has a long-established and wide-reaching reputation as a great teacher, performer and accompanist, will perform, along with a string quartet which includes Lauren Baker and Joel Martinez, violins; Emil Ivanov, viola; and Emma Guidry, cello. Also to perform select works are Andrea Loewy, flute; Brian Shaw, trumpet and Antonio Tanase, clarinet.

Elizabeth Futral enjoys a world-wide reputation as an extraordinary singer and actress, and is a favorite of opera-goers around the globe. North Carolina-born and Louisiana-reared, she has

embraced a diverse repertoire that includes Vivaldi, Schubert, Händel, Mozart, Bellini, Donizetti, Rossini, Verdi, Glass and Previn.

She scored major triumphs when she performed at the San Francisco Opera, creating the role of Stella in the world premiere of Previn's *A Streetcar Named Desire* (along-side Renee Fleming), and with her debut at the Los Angeles Opera as Cleopatra in Händel's *Giulio Cesare*. She has appeared at the world's great opera houses in roles such as Gilda in Verdi's *Rigoletto*, Juliette in Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette*, the title role in Delibes's *Lakmé*, Nanetta in Verdi's *Falstaff*, Mélisande in Debussy's *Pelléas et Mélisande*, Violetta in Verdi's *La traviata* and the title role in Moore's *The Ballad of Baby Doe*. She has a long and close association with the Lyric Opera of Chicago, where she has performed both Gianetta and Adina in Donizetti's *L'Elisir d'Amore*, and both Barbarina and Susanna in Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro*.

In concert, Ms. Futral has sung Brahms's *Ein deutsches Requiem* and Krenek's *Die Nachtigall* with the San Francisco Symphony under the direction of Michael Tilson Thomas, and Berlioz's *Benvenuto Cellini* with the London Symphony, under the direction of Sir Colin Davis. She worked with Sir Colin again when she sang Konstanze in Mozart's *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* with the New York Philharmonic. She made her New York Philharmonic debut in February 2000 in Mahler's *Symphony No. 2* under the direction of Zubin Mehta.

Ms. Futral's extensive discography includes Rossini's *Otello* and Pacini's *Carlo di Borgogna* for Opera Rara, *Lucia di Lammermoor* for Chandos as part of their "Opera in English" series, and Ravel's *L'Enfant et les Sortilèges* conducted by Previn for Deutsche Grammophon.

Revisiting the role of Nedda in *I Pagliacci*, Elizabeth made her debut with New Zealand Opera in August and September of 2011. In November, 2011, she returned to the role of Violetta in *La Traviata* for Lyric Opera Baltimore's first season with her husband Steven White conducting.

Elizabeth was heard at Carnegie Hall November 30 and December 1, 2011 where she performed music of Kaija Saariaho with the Avanti Chamber Group. After her recital for PASA in January, she will sing her first Fiordiligi in *Così fan tutte* for Washington National Opera.

In the 2010-11 season Elizabeth sang Thaïs for Teatro Municipal in Santiago, Chile. She toured as recitalist in New York, Birmingham, AL, and Washington, DC. For Florida Grand Opera she debuted as all the heroines in Offenbach's *Tales of Hoffmann* after which she was Violetta for Minnesota Opera.

North Carolina-born and Louisiana-reared Futral is a graduate of Lyric's Ryan Opera Center, where strong emphasis is placed on acting, and her dramatic ability was on display on opening night. Undoubtedly helped by the fact that she is young enough, beautiful enough and slender enough to look the part of Violetta, Futral created a believable illusion of the dying consumptive courtesan — right down to the sudden bursts of febrile energy typical of TB.

In the fall of 2005 Ms. Futral performed Ricky Ian Gordon's *Orpheus and Euridice* as part of Great Performers at Lincoln Center. That season also included Adina in *L'elisir d'amore* for Washington National Opera and Violetta in *La Traviata* for Los Angeles Opera. Other highlights

of past seasons include *La traviata* with Berlin State Opera; *Rigoletto* at the Gran Teatre del Liceu in Barcelona; Elvira in *I Puritani* with the Baltimore Opera; the title role in Daphne with the New York City Opera; Sophie in *Der Rosenkavalier* with Los Angeles Opera; touring to Japan with the Bayerische Staatsoper as Susanna in *Le Nozze di Figaro* conducted by Zubin Mehta; the Brahms *Requiem* and Krenek's *Die Nachtigall* with the San Francisco Symphony under the direction of Michael Tilson Thomas; *Lucia di Lammermoor* with Dallas Opera conducted by Richard Bonyngue, and with Teatro Municipal in Santiago; and Curley's Wife in *Of Mice and Men* with Houston Grand Opera. Recitals have included visits to Chicago, Washington, DC, Atlanta, Los Alamos, NM, and Philadelphia.

Ms. Futral's extensive discography includes Meyerbeer's *L'Etoile du nord* for Marco Polo, Previn's *A Streetcar Named Desire*, and Ravel's *L'Enfant et les sortilèges* conducted by Maestro Previn for Deutsche Grammophon, and Philip Glass' *Hydrogen Jukebox* for Euphorbia Records. She has recorded Rossini's *Otello* and Zelmira and Pacini's *Carlo di Borgogna* for Opera Rara as well as Mozart, The Supreme Decorator for that label, *Lucia di Lammermoor* and a solo aria recital for Chandos as part of their "Opera in English" series. Ms. Futral can also be heard on Sweethearts, a collection of operetta favorites on Newport Classics. She can be seen as Stella in the video of *A Streetcar Named Desire* on the Kultur label, and has been featured on *Live From Lincoln Center and A&E's Breakfast With the Arts*.

In addition to the concert on January 20, Elizabeth will lead a master class at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, January 17, in the Ducrest Auditorium of Angelle Hall on the campus of the University Louisiana Lafayette. The master class will include performances by university students, who will receive coaching from Ms. Futral.. The master class is open to the public.

"A master class is an excellent way for artists to perfect their craft and is also a valuable learning opportunity for those who simply love music," says Higginbotham. "We hope to see high school choral students, people who sing in church choirs, community choruses and people who just love to sing at this event."

Patrons are invited to attend a *Creative Conversation* with Shawn Roy, a professor of vocal music at UL Lafayette, at 6:30 pm, within the Heymann Center's mezzanine, before the 7:30 p.m. curtain call on January 20.

This performance is sponsored by Wingate by Wyndham, offering visiting patrons a special rate of \$69.99/ night, Café Vermilionville, also offering patrons a unique tasting menu featuring three appetizers and two glasses of wine for \$50 prior to each performance for the remainder of the 2011-2012 series. Additional support provided by Cox and a grant from the Louisiana State Arts Council through the Louisiana Division of the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. Tickets to this performance are available through the Heymann Center Box Office or [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com). UL students and faculty receive 50% off, with a valid UL ID, while additional discounts are available for those attending in groups of ten or more.

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Founded in 1988, the Performing Arts Society of Acadiana is a non-profit organization that presents live entertainment at the Heymann Performing Arts Center and other local venues, creates in-school arts activities, and offers daytime performances for students and initiates outreach programs such as PASA PLUS and Play It Again, Lafayette. PASA presents annual performances of opera, dance, drama and a variety of musical acts.