



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**BUCK HILL-SKYTOP MUSIC FESTIVAL
TO PRESENT FIRST INAUGURAL SEASON
AUGUST 6 - 14, 2010**

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Mountainhome, PA (April 2, 2010) - Nestled in the lush heart of the Poconos, equidistant from Philadelphia and New York, the Buck Hill-Skytop Music Festival presents its inaugural season from Friday, August 6 - Saturday, August 14, 2010. The Festival will bring together a cornucopia of high caliber opera, chamber music, and jazz - all in the intimacy and great natural beauty of Buck Hill Falls and Skytop, Pennsylvania. The mission of the Buck Hill-Skytop Festival is to present annual musical and educational programming as a unique resource for the benefit of the region.

The Board of Directors of the festival is pleased to announce the appointment of Artistic Director Peter Mark, who has served as the Artistic Director for the Virginia Opera for 35 years and is the Founder of the International Opera Alliance. As a conductor, he has brought the artistic achievements of the Virginia Opera and the International Opera Alliance to the international stage on five continents, conducted the company's productions and presented the company's singers in South America, London, Mexico, New York, and China. In China, he conducted Shanghai's first Italian-language production of Puccini's "Tosca." This performance opened the brand new Opera House of the Oriental Arts Center, and was featured on the cover of the China's national Opera News. In Southern Africa, Mr. Mark presented and conducted singers in the 5th Maputo International Music Festival in Mozambique, and held masterclasses in Cape Town, South Africa.

The festival is pleased to announce the program for its 2010 season, which will include an Opening Gala, featuring a World Premiere composition by internationally renowned composer Thea Musgrave; an intimate 75th Anniversary "Jewel Box Production" version of the American classic "Porgy and Bess;" the official opening of the new path to the Falls at Buck Hill; chamber music brunches and workshops; and special cabaret performances by Jimmy Roberts (composer of Broadway's smash hit "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change!") and his Ensemble. A star-studded Opera Gala featuring some of the brightest rising stars in the opera world today will close the festival. The week also offers a behind-the-scenes series of masterclasses, open rehearsals, lecture-demonstrations, jam sessions, and twilight music concerts in each of the disciplines - opera singing, chamber music, and jazz- as well as the chance to meet the resident professional guest artists.

The festival will also have a strong educational component, which will be a great opportunity to introduce and train students from the greater Pocono region, and create opportunities for students to hear various genres of music and learn about expressing themselves in the arts. The festival is offering scholarships to participate and audit the masterclasses to talented students between eighth and twelfth grade, to learn from some of these great visiting artists.

The Festival's Piano Quartet will feature violinist Tai Murray, violist William Frampton, cellist Wendy Law, and pianist Dina Vainshtein. The festival's Jewel Box production of "Porgy and Bess" will feature baritone Michael Redding and soprano Aundi Marie Moore. The festival will also feature Broadway/Jazz Artist in Residence Jimmy Roberts and his Ensemble. In addition to these artists, the masterclasses will attract singers of the highest caliber, who will be featured throughout the week and will also perform in the Closing Night Gala.

For more information about the festival, including the full festival schedule, or to reserve press tickets, please contact Phil Chan, General Manager, at phil@buckhillskytopfest.org.