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NEW YORK UNIVERSITY’S
AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR VERDI STUDIES PRESENTS
THE SECOND ANNUAL “VERDI IN LOVE” BENEFIT CONCERT
FEATURING SOPRANO APRILE MILLO,
TENOR FRANCISCO CASANOVA,
AND OTHER VOCALISTS, WITH MAESTRO EVE QUELER
AT WEILL RECITAL HALL IN CARNEGIE HALL
ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2004, AT 8PM

All-Verdi program includes arias from the composer’s most-beloved operas.

The Second Annual “Verdi in Love” benefit concert presents an evening of all Verdi arias featuring soprano Aprile Millo, Metropolitan Opera tenor Francisco Casanova, a bevy of other vocalists, and Music Director of the Opera Orchestra of New York conductor and pianist Eve Queler on Tuesday, February 10, 2004, at 8 PM, in Weill Recital Hall in Carnegie Hall.

Tickets are required. For more information about benefit ticket purchases please call (212) 998-2587, or visit www.nyu.edu/projects/verdi.

Founded in 1976, the American Institute for Verdi Studies at New York University (AIVS) has sponsored numerous concerts of Verdi’s songs, arias, and the string quartet, as well as concert performances of the original Macbeth and the first performance in the United States of Il corsaro. The Institute has also offered a series of combined lectures and videotaped performances. To date, these have included the original version of La forza del destino, La traviata, Otello, and Un ballo in maschera.

The first “Verdi in Love” soirée was presented to great critical acclaim at Weill Recital Hall at Weill Recital Hall in Carnegie Hall in January 2003, featuring Maestro Eve Queler, soprano Aprile Millo, and tenor Francisco Casanova. This year’s event follows in the wake of that success.

The AIVS holds the largest archival collection of Verdi materials in the world. The collection includes microfilms of thousands of the composer’s letters, over two hundred manuscripts of complete orchestral scores of the operas, more than twenty-two hundred printed librettos, as well as manuscript and printed production books and other materials. Housed in New York University’s Bobst Library, the AIVS serves as the premiere archive for Verdi scholars and nineteenth-century Italian opera studies. It is the publisher of the Verdi Forum – a scholarly journal devoted to works by Verdi. The Institute has also been involved with Verdi conferences – including the joint congress “Verdi 2001” with the Italian Verdi Institute in Parma and Yale University that celebrated the centenary of the composer’s death. Furthermore, it has sponsored lectures, concerts, and exhibitions that feature world-renown Verdi scholars and
performers, premieres of original editions of the operas, as well as original documents from the Institute.

The Institute is dedicated to pursuing the highest level of academic research and providing the most comprehensive database of Verdi materials for world-wide access. Funds from the concert will benefit a Postdoctoral Fellowship in Italian Opera Studies, an International Verdi and Friends Conference in 2006, and database projects that will allow unique archival information to be made available on-line.

**Soprano Aprile Millo** made her Metropolitan Opera debut in 1984, as Amelia in *Simon Boccanegra*. She has subsequently performed many other major Verdi roles at the Met, including Elvira in *Ernani*, Elisabetta in *Don Carlo*, Aida, Desdemona in *Otello*, Leonora in *Il trovatore*, Luisa Miller and Amelia in *Un ballo in maschera*. Other roles at the theater have included Tosca, Maddalena in Giordano’s *Andrea Chénier*, Liù in Puccini’s *Turandot* and Margarita/Elena in Boito’s *Mefistofele*. Miss Millo’s art is not limited to the Verdi repertory, and she is also at home with the different demands made by Bellini, Rossini, Donizetti, Catalani, and other composers. Miss Millo has also built an impressive reputation in Italy, where she made her La Scala debut at age 24 in *Ernani*, under Riccardo Muti. Since then she has sung throughout Italy. She has also appeared in all the major cities of Western Europe including Munich (Bavarian States Opera), Vienna (Staatsoper), Lisbon, and Barcelona. In the United States, Miss Millo has appeared with the Connecticut Grand Opera and Orchestra, Palm Beach Opera, Opera Orchestra of New York, Baltimore Opera, and with the Metropolitan Opera. Miss Millo is a native of New York and the daughter of two opera singers.

**Tenor Francisco Casanova** made his Metropolitan Opera stage debut as Manrico in *Il trovatore* in January 2001, followed by Riccardo in *Un ballo in maschera* and Cavaradossi in *Tosca* (Met Opera in the Parks, Central Park). Since, Mr. Casanova has appeared with numerous operas and orchestras including the Vienna Staatsoper, the Opera Orchestra of New York, the New Israeli Opera, Opera Hamilton, Spoleto Festival USA, and Semper Oper at the Dresden Festival. Mr. Casanova has toured extensively throughout the United States, Italy, Germany, France, Spain, Yugoslavia and the Dominican Republic. Some notable engagements have included Oronte in *I lombardi* at the Metropolitan Opera and at the Teatro Comunale di Bologna, Alvaro in *La forza del destino* in Avignon and Riccardo in *Un ballo in maschera* in Klagenfurt, Austria. He has also appeared with Opera Ontario and the Stadttheater Wiesbaden. A native of the Dominican Republic, Francisco Casanova won the First Grand Prize for Male Voices in the XXVIII International Singing Competition Francisco Viñas of Barcelona, Spain (1990), as well as numerous other awards.

The American conductor **Eve Queler** is the Founder and Music Director of the Opera Orchestra of New York, an organization dedicated to performing rarely heard operas, including Massenet’s *Le Cid* with Placido Domingo, Donizetti’s *Gemma di Vergy*, Verdi’s *Aroldo* withMontserrat Caballé, Puccini’s *Edgar* with Renata Scotto and Carlo Bergonzi, Janacek’s *Jenufa* with Gabriela Benaackova and Leonie Rysanek, as well as *Guntram* by Richard Strauss and *Nerone* by Arrigo Boito. As a guest conductor, Ms. Queler has worked with the Philadelphia Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra, Montreal Orchestra, San Antonio Orchestra, the Rome Opera, the Edmonton Orchestra and many other orchestras. She has guest conducted at the Opera of Nice, Teatro Liceu in Barcelona, Australian National Opera in Sydney, New York City Opera, Kirov Opera in St. Petersburg, the National Theater Brno, the Hamburg Staatsoper, among others. Ms. Queler has many distinctions including two honorary doctorates. In 1995 she was honored by New York University as a Leading Woman in the Arts. In 2003 she was the recipient of the first “Verdi America” Prize, awarded by the AIVS in recognition of her outstanding achievements as a performer of Verdi’s music. A native of New York City, Ms. Queler studied at the Mannes College in New York and followed master classes with famous conductors like Igor Merkevich and Walter Suskind. She has made a name for herself also with various publications on rare operas and made critical editions of three of Donizetti operas.