



valley youth theatre

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Valley Youth Theatre Talent to Appear with Phoenix Metropolitan Opera

10 Youth featured in Inaugural Performance *La Boheme* at Orpheum December 21 and 23, 2007

PHOENIX, Ariz. – The premiere production of the new Phoenix Metropolitan Opera (PMO) will include 10 Valley Youth Theatre participants. *La Boheme* will run for two performances at the Orpheum Theatre in downtown Phoenix on December 21 & 23. John Massaro, Founder and Artistic Director of PMO is thrilled to be collaborating with VYT on this historical performance. “The children of VYT are already seasoned actors and singers. We couldn't have imagined a better children's chorus for our first show.”

Home to rising stars Jordin Sparks (2007 *American Idol*); Max Crumm (Broadway's *GREASE*); Emma Stone (*SUPERBAD*) and Chelsea Staub (*THE BRATZ MOVIE*) VYT continues to be a springboard for young talent in the Valley. Featured in *La Boheme* as youth ensemble members will be:

Bebe Blanco (Chandler 85248)
Molly Boca (Fountain Hills 85268)
Jessica Chisholm (Glendale 85308)
Carly Christensen (85083)
Haley Cohn Paradise Valley (85253)
Talia Kahn (Phoenix 85018)
Alex Keene-(Glendale 85310)
Chloe Nicholas (Glendale 85310)
Amanda Petersen (Tempe 85284)
Taylor Wetnight (Glendale 85310)

“It is always exciting to see young people who have gotten their start with Valley Youth Theatre go on to be successful in other areas.” says Bobb Cooper, Producing Artistic Director. “We are very proud that our young people can participate with the Phoenix Metropolitan Opera at this stage in their development.” Performances are Friday, December 21 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2:00 p.m. and are available through Ticketmaster at <http://www.ticketmaster.com/artist/1148805>.

The Orpheum Theatre is located at 203 W. Adams Street in Downtown Phoenix. For more information about Valley Youth Theatre and its programs, visit www.VYT.com.

About Valley Youth Theatre

Named by the Arizona Republic as one of the “Top Ten Places to Become a Future Star”, Valley Youth Theatre is a nationally recognized non-profit organization that targets young people age 7 – 19 for participation in and attendance at quality live theatre productions. VYT's mission is to inspire young people to be the best that they can be by providing them with lifelong lessons through a wide range of performing arts opportunities. VYT is an award-winning theatre company whose Alum include American Idol, Jordin Sparks and Broadway Star, Max Crumm. Valley Youth Theatre is supported in part by the Arizona Commission on the Arts with funding from the State of Arizona and the National Endowment for the Arts. Partial funding also is provided by the Phoenix Arts Commission through appropriations from the Phoenix City Council.

About Phoenix Metropolitan Opera

*Phoenix Metropolitan Opera (PMO) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to perpetuating professional opera in the greater Phoenix metropolitan area, through the performance of classic operatic works, an uncompromising commitment to staging quality productions in voice, costume and set design; and the cultivation of new audiences through education and community outreach. PMO will state for debut performance of *La Boheme* at the Orpheum Theatre on December 21 and 23, 2007. Tickets are currently available at all Ticketmaster outlets. For more information about PMO, please call 1-866-OPERA4U (673-7248) or visit www.phoenixmetropolitanopera.org ###*