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**NEW JERSEY STATE OPERA PRESENTS AN EVENING WITH
SAMUEL RAMEY, PAUL PLISHKA AND FRIENDS**

Including Metropolitan Opera artists Julianna DiGiacomo and Keri Alkema

Honoring Bernard J. D'Avella, Jr. for 25 years of unmatched inspiration and leadership

MORRISTOWN, NJ: On Friday, December 3, 2010, at the Delbarton School Fine Arts Center, internationally renowned opera luminaries Samuel Ramey and Paul Plishka join New Jersey State Opera conductor and Artistic Director Jason Tramm in a concert of Italian Opera masterworks with fellow artists of the Metropolitan Opera stage, sopranos Julianna DiGiacomo and Keri Alkema.

The concert will honor Bernard J. D'Avella, Jr., long time Chairman of the Board of Governors, for 25 years of unmatched inspiration and leadership. Mr. D'Avella's passion and appreciation for grand opera and dedication to the mission of the company have been instrumental in both inspiring and delivering great successes during his tenure. "We are pleased to honor Bud's legacy with this fitting and memorable tribute, which features some of the world's greatest operatic talent," said Robert Scrabis, President of the New Jersey State Opera.

The opera company's upcoming show includes a not to be missed roster of world-class talent. Samuel Ramey, who returns to the New Jersey State Opera helped launch his career many years ago, continues to reign as the foremost interpreter of bass and bass-baritone operatic and concert repertoire. A leading member of the Metropolitan Opera roster since 1967, Paul Plishka also appears regularly with major opera companies in North American and in Europe, including Geneva, Munich, La Scala and Barcelona.

Ramey and Plishka will be joined by Soprano Julianna Di Giacomo, who returned to the Metropolitan Opera this season as Leonora in Verdi's *Il Trovatore*, and lirico-spinto soprano Keri Alkema, who this season sang Freia in Wagner's *Das Rheingold* at Teatro de la Maestranza in Seville, Spain, and will debut at Atlanta Opera as Fiordiligi in Mozart's *Così fan tutte*. Also performing are the young, up and coming Mezzo Soprano Janara Kellerman and Tenor Franco Tenelli, who are both wonderful additions to this impressive line-up. Musical accompaniment will be provided by accomplished American pianist Craig Ketter.

Founded in 1964, the New Jersey State Opera is dedicated to bringing full-scale grand opera to the citizens of New Jersey. Its grand operas use full orchestra, full chorus, original language performances with subtitles, singers of international stature, promising young American artists, and performances whose production values will stand up to comparison with those of any leading regional opera company in the nation.

“We have been a vital part of the cultural landscape in New Jersey for generations. With more than 45 years of success, our opera company has earned the respect of internationally recognized talent and a broad-based community of supporters,” explains Artistic Director, Jason Tramm.

To purchase tickets please visit www.njstateopera.org or call 973-998-6888 between 9:30 am and 5 pm, Monday through Friday.

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