

For Immediate Release

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NATSAA Winner Courtney Huffman Carnegie Hall Debut

June 18, 2009

2008 NATS Artist Award winner, soprano Courtney Huffman, will be making her **Carnegie Hall Solo Recital Debut** with pianist **Tali Tadmor** on **Thursday, June 18 at 8:00 PM**. The program, a veritable celebration of American music, includes works by Dominick Argento, Irving Berlin, Tom Cipullo, George Gershwin, Ricky Ian Gordon, Lee Hoiby, Charles Ives, Lori Laitman, Libby Larsen and more!

The soprano was recently hailed for her stellar performance as Motezuma's daughter, **Teutile**, in the Long Beach Opera production of Vivaldi's 'Motezuma'.
"Teutile...brilliantly sung by a young soprano, Courtney Huffman, just entering the professional arena, is treated as a supercilious young starlet...She sings and steals the stage...I hope opera talent scouts were on hand..." (Mark Swed, The LA Times).

Huffman made her professional operatic debut to critical acclaim in June, 2008 with the Intimate Opera Company of Pasadena, California, portraying **Violetta** in Verdi's La Traviata. She reprised the role with the Bakersfield Symphony Orchestra in February

2009. In March and April of 2009 the soprano assumed the role of **Teutile** in Vivaldi's Motezuma in the Long Beach Opera premiere to rave reviews. Huffman has appeared in over two dozen additional operas and opera scenes with the Aspen Opera Theater Center, USC Thornton School of Music Opera, and the Illinois Opera Theatre. Her stage credits include **Betty** in Lowell Liebermann's Miss Lonelyhearts, **Frasquita** in Carmen, **Belinda** in Dido and Aeneas, **Drusilla** in L'Incoronazione di Poppea, **Zerlina** in Don Giovanni and **Johanna** in Sweeney Todd.

Soon after her operatic debut, **Courtney Huffman** made her professional concert appearance singing a program of opera selections accompanied by the Sunriver Music Festival Orchestra in Sunriver, Oregon, under the baton of Maestro Lawrence Smith.

Ms. Huffman's international debut in Shanghai and Hong Kong in 2006 was followed by appearances at the Aspen Music Festival where she performed Dalbavie's *Sextine Cyclus* with the Aspen Contemporary Ensemble. She was invited by National Public Radio to record the piece at the Harris Concert Hall for a nationwide broadcast. **Ms. Huffman** returned to Aspen in 2007, where she performed the U.S. Premiere of *Oder Soll Es Tod Bedeuten?*, a song cycle for soprano and strings by contemporary composer Aribert Reimann.

A native of Redmond, Oregon, Ms. Huffman holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC), and a Master of Music degree from the University of Southern California (USC) Thornton School of Music.

Her accolades include the AEIOU Opera Scholarship (awarded by the American Educators of Italian Origin United), third place in the La Jolla Symphony & Chorus Young Artist Competition, the New Horizon Fellowship (Aspen Music Festival and School); and the Vocal Arts Department Award (University of Southern California).

Courtney Huffman is scheduled to perform a winner's recital at the NATS National Convention in July, 2010.

Source:

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