

Canadian Bass Baritone Stephen Hegedus Named Recipient of Herbert Cohen Award at Lyndon Woodside Oratorio Solo Competition

MONTREAL, QC, April 14, 2008 – Canadian bass baritone Stephen Hegedus has been announced as the recipient of the Herbert Cohen award for second place at the 32nd annual Lyndon Woodside Oratorio Solo Competition hosted by the Oratorio Society of New York.

In 1975, the Oratorio Society of New York inaugurated an annual Solo Competition, designed to encourage the art of oratorio singing and to give talented young singers an opportunity to advance their careers. Now international in scope and highly-renown in the music world, the Competition has had more than 3,400 singers compete since its inception.

This year's Competition was held on April 12th at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in New York City. Mr. Hegedus sang *Thus saith the Lord / But who may abide from Handel's Messiah* and *Herr Gott Abrahams* from Mendelssohn's *Elias*. He was accompanied by Linda Hall, assistant conductor at the Metropolitan Opera.

The Lyndon Woodside Solo Competition is held in New York City every year during March and April and awards more than \$15,000 USD in cash prizes.

About Stephen Hegedus

An alumnus of St. Michael's Choir School in Toronto, Canada, bass baritone Stephen Hegedus is described as a "...charming actor and more to the point a singer of enormous promise" (*Opera Canada*).

Mr. Hegedus holds a Master of Music in Opera from the University of Toronto. He has also pursued further studies at the Banff Centre, the Britten-Pears Programme in Aldeburgh, England, and at the Centre for Opera in Sulmona, Italy. His concert and oratorio work include appearances with Les Violons du Roy, The Aldeburgh Connection, the Metropolitan United Church Choir and Orchestra (*Toronto*), and the MacMillan Singers. He appeared at the International Bach Festival in Toronto in 2005 and 2006 under the baton of Helmuth Rilling.

As a first-year member of *Atelier Lyrique de l'Opéra de Montréal* in the 2007/2008 season, he appeared in Opéra de Montréal productions as Silvano (*Un ballo in Maschera*), Grégorio (*Roméo et Juliette*), Fiorello (*Il barbiere di Siviglia*), Don Inigo Gomez (*L'Heure Espagnole*).

Future appearances in 2008 include *Il Commissario (Madama Butterfly)* with Opéra de Montréal; *Colline (La bohème)* at the Centre for Opera in Sulmona, Italy; guest artist with the Lamèque International Baroque Festival in New Brunswick; Larkens (*La fanciulla del West*) with Opéra de Montréal.

In April 2009, Mr. Hegedus will make his Carnegie Hall debut singing Bach's *Mass in B-minor* with the Oratorio Society of New York.

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