



WRR Classical 101.1 FM
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News Release

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WRR to air The Met's Gala Concert honoring Joseph Volpe live May 20 at 8 p.m.



The 2005-06 Season of The Metropolitan Opera ends with a grand finale - a special gala honoring Joseph Volpe as he retires from his position as The Met's general manager. **WRR Classical 101.1 FM will air The Met's Gala Concert live beginning at 8 p.m. on Saturday, May 20.**

Many of the greatest singers from the world of opera will gather on The Met stage for this once-in-a-lifetime concert to celebrate Volpe and his years at The Metropolitan Opera, a truly memorable career spanning more than four decades since he joined the Company in 1964.

The Gala Concert will include performances by nearly 30 of today's most beloved singers: sopranos Natalie Dessay, Renée Fleming, Mirella Freni, Karita Mattila, Ruth Ann Swenson, Kiri Te Kanawa, and Deborah Voigt; mezzo-sopranos Stephanie Blythe, Olga Borodina, Susan Graham, Denyce Graves, Waltraud Meier, Frederica von Stade, and Dolora Zajick; tenors Roberto Alagna, Plácido Domingo, Juan Diego Flórez, Marcello Giordani, Ben Heppner, Salvatore Licitra, and Ramón Vargas; baritones Dwayne Croft, Thomas Hampson, and Dmitri Hvorostovsky; bass-baritone Ildar Abdrazakov; and basses James Morris, René Pape, and Samuel Ramey.

"WRR is pleased to present this historic evening of opera to all of North Texas," Greg Davis, WRR general manager said. "The gala concert promises to be one of the most memorable events we've ever had the privilege to broadcast."

The company's principal guest conductor, Valery Gergiev, and Maestros Marco Armiliato, James Conlon, Peter Schneider, and Patrick Summers will conduct the artists, orchestra and chorus of the Metropolitan Opera in a program of arias, duets, and ensembles. The announcer for the broadcast will be Margaret

Juntwait who will introduce the artists and their music. She'll be joined in the broadcast booth by WQXR's Elliott Forrest who will be her co-host for the Gala.

The concert will include excerpts from operas by Alfano, Berlioz, Donizetti, Gershwin, Gounod, Korngold, Mozart, Offenbach, Puccini, Rossini, Tchaikovsky, Verdi, and Wagner and operettas by Offenbach and Johann Strauss, Jr., as well as well-known songs from American musical comedies, and Neapolitan and Spanish songs. In addition, two songs written especially for the occasion by American composer Ben Moore will receive their premiere.

The Gala marks the final broadcast of the Met's 75th season of live opera broadcasts—more than 1,500 since December 25, 1931—the longest running classical music series in American broadcast history. These broadcasts have brought opera into millions of American homes and have enriched the lives of generations of our citizens and have contributed to the development and appreciation of opera throughout the nation.

The Metropolitan Opera continues to seek to secure the broadcasts' long-term future through the "Save the Met Broadcasts Campaign," a major international funding effort launched in March 2004. Listeners wishing to learn more may telephone "Save the Met Broadcasts Campaign" at 1-800-METOPERA, or visit the Met's web site www.metopera.org.

WRR is the first radio station in Texas and the second licensed station in the United States. WRR has maintained a classical format since 1948. The station broadcasts 24 hours a day from historic Fair Park in Dallas at 100,000 watts and is heard throughout North Texas. WRR also streams live audio on the Internet at www.wrr101.com.