

# The New Crossroads of American Music

Press Release



Eastern Music Festival

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EMF AND GREENSBORO OPERA MERGE  
IN ONE ENCHANTING EVENING – BOTH PERFORMANCES ARE  
SOLD OUT!

*Greensboro, NC*- The collaborative **Eastern Music Festival** and **Greensboro Opera** production of “*One Enchanting Evening: Songs of Rodgers and Hammerstein*” will pack two full houses on **Tuesday, July 21** and **Wednesday, July 22, 2009**. These concerts, part of EMF’s **Friends & Great Performers Series**, are casual events offering hors d’oeuvres, dessert and the option to bring your own wine or beer. The concerts begin at **8pm** at **Temple Emanuel** (1129 Jefferson Road, Greensboro, NC).

These cabaret-style performances will feature compositions by the legendary duo from musicals such as: *Oklahoma*, *South Pacific*, *Carousel* and *The Sound of Music*. The evenings will showcase outstanding vocalists: *soprano Elena DeAngelis*, *mezzo-soprano Janine Hawley*, *tenor John Wesley Wright* and *baritone Jeffrey Carlson*.

**Tickets:** Triad Stage Box Office 336.272.0160 or 866.579.TIXX or [www.EasternMusicFestival.org](http://www.EasternMusicFestival.org).

\*a service fee will apply

Discounts are available for full-time students with a valid ID, seniors aged 65 or older, and groups of 10 or more for most performances. Young Artists and EMF*kids* concerts offer family-friendly packages. Please call the box office about packages. This season most discounts will be available at the door. Discounts and gift certificates will not be accepted for concerts designated as special events.

*\*Dates, programs, venues, and artists are subject to change.*

**More About the Vocalists**

**Jeffrey Carlson, baritone**

**Jeffrey Carlson** possesses a rich baritone voice and engaging stage presence that have delighted audiences in this country and abroad. Jeffrey returns this summer after singing last season's Eastern Music Festival and Greensboro Opera cabaret *Night & Day*. Previous engagements with Greensboro Opera include Count Ceprano in *Rigoletto* and Tom/John in *The Face on the Barroom Floor*. Other local credits include Captial Opera Raleigh's *Hansel & Gretel* (Peter), American Singer Opera Project productions of *Così fan tutte* (*Guglielmo*) and *Le Nozze di Figaro* (Figaro) and UNCG Opera Theatre productions of *Susannah*, *Così fan tutte*, *Little Women*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. A native of Fremont, Nebraska, Jeffrey has received degrees from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota and the University of North Carolina – Greensboro. He was a recipient of the 2006-2007 North Carolina United Arts Council Resident Artist grant. Jeffrey currently maintains a private studio in Greensboro, NC and is on faculty at St. Mary's Music Academy in High Point, NC.

**Elena DeAngelis, soprano**

**Elena DeAngelis** is a soprano known for her lively and captivating embodiment of characters and lustrous tone. Praised as cute as the dickens on stage, Elena has charmed audiences at home and overseas in opera, musical theatre, oratorio and recital. Highlights of regional credits include last season's *Night & Day* with EMF and Greensboro Opera, *L'Elisir d'Amore* (Giannetta) and *The Face on the Barroom Floor* (Madeline/Isabelle) with Greensboro Opera, *Hansel and Gretel* (Gretel) with Greensboro Opera and Capitol Opera Raleigh and *The Medium* (Monica) with Greensboro Ballet. Elena earned degrees from UNC-Greensboro and the D'Angelo School of Music at Mercyhurst College and trained at the Wesley-Balk Music-Theatre Institute and the American Institute of Musical Studies in Austria. Originally from Buffalo, NY, Elena spent a season as Artist-in-Residence with Greensboro Opera and was a North Carolina United Arts Council Resident Artist grant recipient. Upcoming engagements include Despina (cover) in *Così fan tutte* with the American Singer's Opera Project and the title role in the world premiere of *Esperanza Rising* with Long Leaf Opera.

**Janine Hawley, mezzo-soprano**

American mezzo-soprano **Janine Hawley** has achieved accolades for her critically acclaimed performances in opera houses throughout the United States. She has worked with the New York City Opera, Washington Opera, Opera Company of Philadelphia, Florida Grand Opera, and Boston Lyric Opera, to name a few, receiving great critiques that praise her lush quality, dark timbre, technical facility and charming stage presence. Concert performances are an equally important aspect of Ms. Hawley's art and conductors are drawn to her impressive musicianship, mastery of styles and sensitive interpretations. She has worked with major symphonies throughout the country and in such concert venues as Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall, Carnegie Hall, and Weill Recital Hall. As an educator, Ms. Hawley is in demand as a master clinician for young artists' programs and university venues throughout the country. Janine was born in Nebraska, is a graduate of Indiana and Columbia Universities and is an adjunct faculty member at both the University of North Carolina School of the Arts and Greensboro College.

**John Wesley Wright, tenor**

Tenor **John Wesley Wright** is known for his artistic and soulful interpretations of music from baroque to Broadway. A member of the acclaimed American Spiritual Ensemble, he was

highlighted in the recent PBS documentary “The Spirituals: Featuring the American Spiritual Ensemble”. A distinguished competitor, Mr. Wright was top prizewinner of the Savannah Music Festival American Traditions Vocal Competition in 2000 and has claimed top prizes from the National Federation of Music Clubs, Metropolitan Opera National Council, Bel Canto Regional Artists, Ohio’s Vocal Resource Network Art Song Competition and the International Schubert Competition in Vienna, Austria. John is an active clinician, vocal consultant and leader of workshops on "Singing in the African American Tradition". A native of Rome, Georgia, John joined the music faculty at Salisbury University in the fall of 2006. In addition, John was Artist-in-Residence at the University of Dayton for eight years and has spent summers as a guest artist/teacher at the NC School of the Arts, Kentucky Governor’s School, and the Maryland Summer Center for the Arts at the Salisbury University.

### **More about Greensboro Opera**

Since its first curtain call on October 16, 1981, the **Greensboro Opera Company** has established itself as an organization committed to both educating the community and presenting operatic productions of the highest possible professional standards. Though the opera company has grown steadily and carefully throughout its 25 year existence, the backbone of the Company still remains, as it always has, fully staged productions of major operas each year. The Greensboro Opera Company continues to fulfill the educational aspect of its two-fold mission through outreach programs that partner with Guilford County Schools, as well as the introduction of educational programs for adults, such as operalogues before performances and programs for clubs, community colleges, and retirement homes.

### **More About Eastern Music Festival**

Now in its 48th year, the Eastern Music Festival & School is recognized for its prodigious contributions to the field of American music and its commitment to nurturing talented American and international youth through a collaborative learning process. The program brings together a cross-section of America’s most sought-after artists with pre-professional students in a five-week schedule of 100 concerts and music-related events. **Music Director Gerard Schwarz** heads a distinguished list of participating artists scheduled for 2009, including **Peter Serkin, Sarah Chang, Horacio Gutiérrez, Nadja Salerno Sonnenberg, Xavier Phillips**, plus many others.

The Festival also produces a popular EMF*fringe* series of alternative programming, featuring everything from Americana to alt country, blues, jazz and gospel with artists such as **Mike Cross, The John Cowan Band, Laurelyn Dosett, Steep Canyon Rangers, Waybacks, The Chris Hicks Band**, blues artist **Larry McCray** and more. EMF*kids* offers camps and concerts with each uniquely designed to foster a love and knowledge for classical and non-classical music. This year’s concerts are **Shana Banana** and **Dan Zanes**. EMF*jazz&blues* runs each spring and EMF Fringe on the Fall each autumn. Single tickets and FlexPasses are on sale now. [www.EasternMusicFestival.org](http://www.EasternMusicFestival.org); Box Office 336.272.0160 or 866.579-TIXX.

The 2009 Eastern Music Festival season is sponsored in part by the United Arts Council of Greater Greensboro, the North Carolina Arts Council, Lincoln Financial Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Southern Arts Federation, WFDD Triad Arts Station, Greensboro’s

News and Record, Continental Airways, Yes! Weekly, and Piedmont Music Center (Steinway Pianos).

For more information about EMF or its programs, please visit [www.EasternMusicFestival.org](http://www.EasternMusicFestival.org), or call toll free: 1.877.833.6753

*The Eastern Music Festival's mission is to promote musical enrichment, excellence, professional collaboration, innovation and diversity through a nationally-recognized teaching program, music festival, concerts and other programs which will enhance the quality of life, health and vitality of our region.*

EMF is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

All contributions are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

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