



Time to Celebrate the 350th Anniversary of the Paris Opera

New York, NY – April 11, 2018 –For immediate release | On May 2nd, 2018 –and as part of the celebration of the 350th Anniversary of the Paris Opera– the French **mezzo-soprano Karine Deshayes** and the American **tenor Bryan Hymel** will give a special performance at the French Consulate in New York City.

The exclusive evening is hosted by and benefitting the **American Friends of the Paris Opera & Ballet** under the patronage of **Anne-Claire Legendre, General Consul of France in New York**.

“This is one of the many events we will organize in the United States to celebrate a very modern Paris Opera, which the King Louis XIV, a ballet dancer and music patron himself, created when he established the Académie Royale de Musique in 1669,” says **Olivia Flatto, Chairman of the American Friends of the Paris Opera & Ballet**.

The **director of the Opéra National de Paris, Stéphane Lissner**, will introduce the two soloists Karine Deshayes and Bryan Hymel who both are performing in *Roméo et Juliette*, Gounod’s adaptation conducted by **Plácido Domingo** at the Met Opera in April and May.

Karine Deshayes and Bryan Hymel will also share the stage of the Paris Opera in the Fall in –a new production– *Les Huguenots*, which will premiere at the Opéra Bastille on September 28th, 2018.

Les Huguenots is part of the anniversary 2018-2019 anniversary season, a tribute to the composers, directors, singers and choreographers who have marked the history of the Paris Opera, -: 19 operas; 11 ballets; and two guest dance companies, including seven new opera productions, four ballet creations and four new works in the repertoire.

In parallel with its programming, the Paris Opera will also be moving beyond its walls with exhibitions, lectures, masterclasses and encounters organized with the Musée d’Orsay, the Centre Pompidou in Paris and Metz, the National Library of France, the Collège de France and numerous theatres throughout France.

Among the chairs of Celebrating the Paris Opera in New York are: **Samantha and Nabil Chartouni, Marina Couloucoundis, Cyril Karaoglan, Julia Koch and Sana Sabbagh**.

- What: Celebrating the Paris Opera in New York
- When: Wednesday May 2nd, 2018
- Where: Consulate General of France
- Tickets: from \$1,500 (\$1,000 tax deductible) to \$2,500 (\$2,000 tax-deductible) | laure.vienot@afpob.org | 212-4301426 | www.afpob.org

Full program of The Anniversary season and biographies of **Olivia Flatto** and **Stéphane Lissner** upon request. For interviews with Olivia Flatto and Stéphane Lissner and all other media inquiries, please contact JC AGID - +1917-349-8361 | jcagid@gmail.com

About the American Friends of the Paris Opera and Ballet: Based in New York, the organization was incorporated in 1984 in response to a request by Rudolf Nureyev, then the director of the Paris Opera Ballet, to tour the company the in the United States. The American Friends of the Paris Opera and Ballet has helped underwrite numerous U.S. tours of the Paris Opera, Paris Opera Ballet and Paris Opera Ballet School, traveling exhibitions from the Paris Opera Museum and appearances of guest artists from the Paris Opera Ballet, as well as many productions at the Paris Opera that prominently feature the participation of American artists, such as Jerome Robbins, Trisha Brown, William Christie, Peter Sellars and Robert Wilson. www.afpob.org