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## **Longwood Gardens is the Venue for an Elegant Evening with the Opera Stars of the Future**

**The Academy of Vocal Arts' annual gala will feature performances by notable alumni  
Angela Meade and Bryan Hymel**

**Philadelphia:** The Academy of Vocal Arts' 2012 gala, *Viva la Voce!* will be held in the magnificent conservatory at Longwood Gardens, in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania on Saturday, March 31st, 2012. The evening begins with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres in the Patio of Oranges. Guests will have the opportunity to bid on a diverse offering of silent auction items and view the floral displays, including the renowned orchid festival.

A gala concert will follow, featuring two of AVA's most exciting rising stars, soprano **Angela Meade**, who opened the Metropolitan Opera's season as *Anna Bolena*, and will have just been featured in the Met's *Ernani*, which will be streamed live in HD to theatres on February 25th. Ms. Meade will be joined by tenor **Bryan Hymel**, who sang the role of Don José in the first ever internationally released *Carmen* in 3D from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. These outstanding performers will be joined by the talented AVA resident artists.

Guests will then enjoy a sumptuous dinner with wine in the Fern Floor and Alcoves, and an exciting live auction with **Antiques Roadshow** celebrity auctioneer, **Alasdair Nichol**. Among the items to be auctioned are a vacation villa in Tuscany, and a gourmet wine dinner.

Complimentary round-trip bus transportation will be offered from Center City and the Main Line, with pickups at the Rittenhouse Hotel and the Radnor Hotel, as well as onsite valet parking. All proceeds from *Viva la Voce!* benefit the AVA Scholarship Fund.

An exclusive **Angels and Benefactors party** will be held at the **Delaware Art Museum** on Sunday, March 11, 2012.

This event will feature cocktails and hors d'oeuvres and entertainment by AVA's extraordinary resident artists.

Tickets to **Viva la Voce!** Are available at the following levels:

**ANGEL \$800** (\$600 tax-deductible) Includes thank you party at the Delaware Art Museum and seating with a performing artist at the Gala on March 31 at Longwood Gardens.

**ANGEL TABLE SPONSOR \$6,000** (\$4,000 tax-deductible) All Angel level benefits for ten people, plus prime listing in the program book and on AVA's website.

**BENEFACTOR \$600** (\$400 tax-deductible) Includes thank you party at the Delaware Art Museum and the Gala on March 31 at Longwood Gardens.

**BENEFACTOR TABLE SPONSOR \$6,000** (\$4,000 tax-deductible) All Benefactor level benefits for ten people, plus prime listing in the program book and on AVA's website.

**PATRON \$400** (\$250 tax-deductible) the Gala on March 31 at Longwood Gardens.

**PATRON TABLE SPONSOR \$4,000** (\$2,500 tax deductible) Includes all patron level benefits for ten people, plus listing in the gala program as a patron Table Sponsor.

## **VIVA LA VOCE ! Committee**

Gala Co-Chairs, **Kristin Davidson** and **Joseph D. Blair**

Dinner chairs, **Ilyce** and **David Benton**

Auction chairs, **Joanne** and **Albert DiSanto**

Corporate Sponsors Chair, **Joseph D. Blair** and **Marty Janowiecki**

Décor Chair, **Kay Bossone**

Invitations Chair, **Barbara M. Donnelly** and **Susan E. Kane**

Patrons and Benefactors Co-Chairs, **Emmeline Abella** and **Ann R. Stephenson**

Bucks County Region, **Kathleen Mahanes**

Center City Region, **R. Randolph Apgar**, **Dr. Claire Boasi**, **Martha R. Hurt**, **Lucinda S. Landreth**

Delaware Region, **Mary Ann Blair**

Main Line Region, **Kathy and Rick Warden**, and **Harriet Margolis**

Montgomery County Region, **Leah and Herb Riband**

South Jersey Region, **Lyn Batastini Vizzi**

## **The Academy of Vocal Arts**

**B.A. (Mackie) MacLean, Jr.**, *Chairman of the Board*

**K. James McDowell**, *President and Artistic Director*

**Christofer Macatsoris**, *Music Director*

**Robert W. Lyon**, *Director of Institutional Advancement*

**Susan L. Mock**, *Chief Financial Officer*

**Denise Stuart**, *Director of Marketing and Public Relations*

## **FACT SHEET**

**VIVA LA VOCE!**  
**Saturday, March 31 at Longwood Gardens**  
**1001 Longwood Road**  
**Kennett Square, Pennsylvania**

<b>6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.</b>	Cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and silent auction
<b>8:00 p.m.</b>	Gala concert
<b>9:00 p.m.</b>	Dinner and live auction

**BLACK TIE INVITED**  
**COMPLIMENTARY VALET PARKING AND OPTIONAL ROUND-TRIP BUS**  
**FROM CENTER CENTY AND RADNOR**

Since its founding in 1934, The Academy of Vocal Arts has earned an international reputation for its world-class, tuition-free training and performance program. VIVA LA VOCE! proudly celebrates AVA's seventy-seven years of providing the highest quality training to the world's finest young singers in preparation for careers in opera. All proceeds from VIVA LA VOCE! Benefit the AVA Scholarship Fund.

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### **THE ACADEMY OF VOCAL ARTS**

The mission of The Academy of Vocal Arts, founded in 1934 by Helen Corning Warden, is to provide tuition-free vocal and opera training of the highest quality, and financial support during training, to exceptionally talented and committed young singers who have the potential for international stature, and to present them in professional performances that are accessible to a wide community.

Gifted singers come from throughout the world to seek the exceptional guidance and training that The Academy of Vocal Arts offers. AVA's four-year program is unique, not only because it is a fully tuition-free institution that focuses solely on operatic training, but also because it has established a niche as an organization that produces opera. Admission is determined by competitive annual auditions, with an average of 8 to 10 singers admitted each year. The total roster of resident artists is purposely kept low and averages 25-30 in total. Those who are accepted receive training equivalent to more than \$70,000 per year. A faculty of individuals who are among the finest in their fields provides intensive training in voice, acting, stage combat, repertoire, languages, and other related subjects necessary for an operatic career.

Over the past seven decades, outstanding singers of international stature have attended AVA, including David Adams, Lando Bartolini, Gwendolyn Bradley, Thomas Carson, Elizabeth Carter, Richard Clark, Dominic Cossa, John Darrenkamp, Joyce DiDonato, Harry Dworchak, Ryan Edwards, Wilhelminia Fernandez, Allan Glassman, Vernon

Hartman, Nancy Fabiola Herrera, Luis Ledesma, James Morris, Stuart Neill, John Packard, James Pease, David Poleri, Julien Robbins, Jane Shaulis, Hugh Smith, Ruth Ann Swenson, Indra Thomas, Richard Troxell, Victoria Vergara, Stephen West, Beverly Wolff, and currently making their mark in the opera world, recent graduates Burak Bilgili, Jan Cornelius, Stephen Costello, Ellie Dehn, Manon Strauss Evrard, Michael Fabiano, Jesus Garcia, Othalie Graham, Eglise Gutiérrez, Bryan Hymel, Takesha Meshé Kizart, Angela Meade, Keith Miller, Latonia Moore, Ailyn Pérez, Dongwon Shin, Taylor Stayton, and James Valenti.

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