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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WFCR announces a new series of operas to air between Met Seasons

May 11th, 2007 - Amherst, MA -- 88.5 FM WFCR, NPR News and Music for Western New England, announces that it will broadcast 30 weeks of full length operas, Saturday afternoons at 1:30 (or check the schedule for those which begin earlier), beginning May 12th. These performances, which have been recorded in some of the great opera houses in the United States, feature internationally known opera stars and conductors.

"This is the perfect series to air between Metropolitan Opera seasons," says WFCR Program Director, Helen Barrington. "It's so exciting to be able to bring operas of this quality, starring opera greats like Susan Graham, Deborah Voigt and others, from all over the country, to WFCR listeners. We're delighted we can continue to broadcast full length operas through the summer and fall."

Among these performances are Turandot from Lyric Opera of Chicago, Porgy & Bess from Los Angeles Opera, Houston Grand Opera's performance of Aida and San Francisco Opera's, Tristan und Isolde. This series comprises 30 operas, broadcast each Saturday through December 1st, when the Met broadcasts resume

Below is the complete listing of operas to be broadcast through the end of this year. For more information about all of the operas being broadcast throughout this season, see wfcrr.org.

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LYRIC OPERA OF CHICAGO - May 12th - June 30th

Turandot
Iphigenie en Tauride
Salome
Il Trovatore
Romeo et Juliette
Die Fledermaus
Cosi Fan Tutte
Dialogues of the Carmelites

LOS ANGELES OPERA - July 7th - August 11th

Traviata
Don Carlo
Luisa Fernanda
Manon
L'Incoronazione di Poppea
Porgy and Bess
The Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny
Tannhauser

HOUSTON GRAND OPERA - August 18th - September 22nd

Simon Boccanegra
Faust

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La Cenerentola
Aida
The Cunning Little Vixen
SAN FRANCISCO OPERA - September 29th - December 1st
Un Ballo in Maschera
Rigoletto
Joan of Arc
Tristan und Isolde
Barber of Seville
Manon Lescaut
Carmen
Don Giovanni
Der Rosenkavalier

88.5FM WFCR, NPR News and Music for Western New England, is an affiliate of National Public Radio, American Public Media, and Public Radio International serving over 170,000 listeners in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont, and New Hampshire with regional news and information, and locally produced classical, jazz, and world music programming at 88.5FM, 101.1FM (Adams, MA), 96.3 (Williamstown, MA), 98.7FM (Great Barrington), 98.3FM (Lee), 93.9FM (Pittsfield/Lennox) on the FM band via HD Radio (TM) on 88.5FM WFCR HD2, and on 640AM WNNZ. The University of Massachusetts is the license holder for 88.5FM WFCR, which operates with the advice and support of Amherst, Hampshire, Mount Holyoke, and Smith Colleges, and the University of Massachusetts Amherst. For more information about 88.5FM WFCR's programs and services, call 413-545-0100 or visit our website at www.wfcr.org.

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