

NEWS RELEASE



UMass Amherst Fine Arts Center

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WHAT: UMass FINE ARTS CENTER Center Series
Teatro Lirico D'Europa in the opera *Tosca*

WHEN: Sunday, November 4 at 3pm

WHERE: Fine Arts Center Concert Hall
University of Massachusetts Amherst
Call 1-800-999-UMAS or 545-2511 for tickets or
go online to www.fineartscenter.com/tickets

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(Teatro Lirico D'Europa brings Puccini's Beloved Opera *Tosca* to UMass FAC Concert Hall)

Teatro Lirico D'Europa with its roster of distinguished singers, choir, and orchestra comes to the UMass Fine Arts Center on Sunday, November 4 at 3pm with an opulent production of Puccini's masterpiece of doomed love, *Tosca*. *Tosca* is cherished not only for its heart-wrenching melodies, but regarded as an unforgettable dramatic masterpiece. The Boston Phoenix hails "What makes this company so worth seeing year after year is that its priorities are always right. Opera exists to melt our hearts - and Teatro Lirico does just that." Performed in Italian with English supertitles, it is a powerful and moving production. There will be a free gallery tour at 2:30 of the exhibition currently on view at University Gallery.

One of the most dramatic of operas, Puccini's now beloved "shabby little shocker" is set in Rome in 1800 as Napoleon's troops are fighting the Austrians at Marengo. All of Rome awaits the outcome. This is not an opera whose characters struggle with illness, legends or curses. The issues in "Tosca" are the all too human motivations of its central characters, some of whom are capable of great love and others of even greater cruelty. Baron Scarpia's obsession with the singer Floria Tosca and her lover's protection of an escaped political prisoner collide in a spectacular psychological drama. This production is fully set, costumed and staged. The well-deserved international stature of this company is demonstrated by the magnificent reviews from throughout the world.

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Teatro Lirico D'Europa, the European opera touring company formed in 1988 by Giorgio Lalov, a former Bulgarian opera singer, has completed over 3,000 performances worldwide and 7 seasons of major opera tours in the U.S. covering over 400 performances. The popular company embarks on its 8th consecutive season of American tours in fall 2007/winter/spring 2008 with over 80 performances of several different full-scale operas, including a brand new, traditional version of Puccini's unforgettable opera TOSCA. The operas will travel to the most outstanding venues across the U.S. Soloists for the productions were chosen from the rosters of major opera houses around the world including those in Moscow, Sofia, New York, St. Petersburg, Bratislava, Prague, Vilnius, and Kiev. The principal artists are seasoned professionals in the midst of major operatic careers.

Tickets for *Tosca* are \$35, \$25, and \$15, Youth 17 and under are \$12 and Five College Students are \$15, \$10, and \$7. For tickets and information, call the Fine Arts Center Box office at 413-545-2511 or 1-800-999-UMAS, or go online to www.fineartscenter.com. There will be a Global Gourmet, prix fixe menu at the University Club, available immediately following this performance. Call the box office for menu and reservations. The performance is sponsored by Lathrop Communities.

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