FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 1, 2004

WHAT: Stanislavsky Opera Company to perform La Traviata
WHEN: Wednesday, October 27 at 7:30pm
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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Back by Popular Demand; Stanislavsky Opera Company to Perform Verdi’s La Traviata

Direct from Moscow, the Stanislavsky Opera Company performs the tragic opera “La Traviata” at the UMass Fine Arts Center Concert Hall on Wednesday, October 27 at 7:30pm. Based on the Alexander Dumas classic, The Lady of the Camellias, this tragic story of doomed love is set to one of Verdi’s finest scores. Frivolity in 19th century Paris gives way to passion, forced separation, and reconciliation that comes too late in the heroine’s dying moments. This large company, one of Russia’s best, performs with a live orchestra in Italian with English supertitles projected above the stage. The Stanislavsky Opera Company performed an outstanding production of La Boheme at the Concert Hall two years ago.

The Stanislavsky Opera Company was established in 1918 as an opera studio of the famed Bolshoi Opera. Since that time the company has had a long and distinguished history having debuted many of the great masterpieces of Russian composers such as Prokofiev and Shostakovich as well as mounting new productions of the great classics by Puccini, Verdi, Bizet, Strauss and Massenet, among others. The Stanislavsky Opera Company has received excellent critical acclaim throughout Europe and the Far East and is considered one of the top Russian opera companies performing today.

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In April 2003, the Stanislavsky Opera Company was honored with four Golden Mask Awards at the Golden Mask Festival in St. Petersburg. For their production of Puccini’s *Madama Butterfly*, the company won Best Opera, Best Opera Director (Lyudmila Nalyotova), Best Opera Designer (Yelena Stepanova) and Best Female Role (Olga Guryakova for her portrayal of “Cio-Cio-San”).

Constantin Stanislavsky (1863-1938), the great Russian theatrical director, teacher and actor, developed the principles of teaching now known worldwide as “method acting.” He had a vast influence on modern schools of acting, including the world renowned Actors' Studio in New York City. “Singer-actors” stress the importance of the actor's inner identification with the character and the actor's natural use of body and voice and are charged with being able to portray the most complex characters, seeking psychological truth and insight which will translate to every audience.

The legacy of Stanislavsky has passed in a direct line from student to teacher throughout the past 75 years. Over the past seven plus decades, the Stanislavsky Opera Company has presented numerous world premieres. The company was the first to present *Katerina Izmailova* by Dmitri Shostakovich and, in 1957, staged the first *War and Peace* by Sergei Prokofiev. Productions of Tchaikovsky’s *The Queen of Spades*, Leoncavallo’s *I Pagliacci*, Prokofiev’s *Betrothal at the Monastery* and *Love for Three Oranges*, are in the company’s repertory today. Also included in the company’s standard repertoire are Glinka’s *Russlan und Ludmila*, Verdi’s *Ernani*, Puccini’s *La Bohème*, Mozart’s *The Marriage of Figaro* and Bizet’s *Carmen*. Presently, Artistic Director Alexander Titel is developing a new production of *Die Fledermaus* by Johann Strauss.

The Stanislavsky Opera Company will perform at UMass Fine Arts Center Concert Hall, Wednesday, October 27 at 7:30pm. Tickets are $40, $30, and $15; 17 and under are $10 and Five College student tickets 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/centerseries](http://www.fineartscenter.com/centerseries). This event is sponsored by TIAA-CREF and WGBY TV 57.

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