

# Palm Beach Opera debuts 'Don Carlo' by Verdi, sets stage for 'Manon'

**WEST PALM BEACH** — For its second of four grand operas this thirty-sixth season, Palm Beach Opera presented five performances of "Don Carlo" at the Kravis Center.

A lavish grand opera written by Verdi in four acts and sung in Italian (with English surtitles at the Kravis), this "grandest of grand operas" about the Spanish Inquisition is rarely offered by opera companies in the United States and Canada because of the expense to mount the enormous three-hour production

with difficult score that demands quality singers and a keen orchestra. Palm Beach Opera's "Don Carlo" was a \$600,000 production, that included elaborate scenery and costumes and a full international cast supported by the Palm Beach Opera Chorus and the Palm Beach Orchestra conducted by Maestro Anton Guadagno.

"We are very privileged to have a board of directors that approved this magnificent project for South Florida opera lovers and patrons who support it," said Maestro Guadagno, Palm Beach Opera's artistic director. "All performances were artistic achievements that received great critical acclaim. "We met our mission — to produce quality grand opera in South Florida," said Herb Benn, general director of Palm Beach Opera.

Young Friends of the Palm Beach Opera enjoyed a pre-performance dinner at the Cohen Pavilion of the Kravis Center on opening night. Then the cast of "Don Carlo" joined Palm Beach Opera's board of governors for a post-performance opening night cast party.

The next opera of the season is "Manon," a romantic grand opera by Massenet in French (with English surtitles) presented by the Palm Beach Opera on March 12-16 at the Kravis Center. Tickets are \$10 to \$225, and can be purchased through the Palm Beach Opera Box Office, (561) 833-7888.

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Mac Schwebel (left) stops to chat with "Don Carlo" cast members, Alexander Anisimov (center), and Dean Peterson, who was Palm Beach Opera's 1983 Vocal Competition winner.



"Don Carlo" cast members Natalia Rom (left) and Jadranka Jovanovic (right) meet up with Juliette Efros at the opening night celebration at the Kravis Center for the Performing Arts in West Palm Beach.



Singer Julie Revely, and her husband, Bob, both Young Friends of Palm Beach Opera, were among those attending the opening night.