

August 16, 2016 - For Immediate Release

Chris Cox, Director of Marketing and Communications
Office: 412.281.0912 ext. 217
Mobile: 412.427.7088 or
Email: ccox@pittsburghopera.org

**Christian Capocaccia to conduct La traviata for Pittsburgh Opera;
Nmon Ford to sing the role of Jochanaan in Salome**

Pittsburgh, PA...

Pittsburgh Opera is pleased to announce that Maestro [Christian Capocaccia](#) will conduct the Giuseppe Verdi favorite [La traviata](#), which opens its 78th season at the Benedum Center October 8th -16th.

Pittsburgh Opera Music Director Antony Walker, who was scheduled to conduct **La traviata**, has been invited to conduct Rossini's **Semiramide** at the Maggio Musicale Florence.

"I had been looking for an opportunity to work with Christian," said Pittsburgh Opera General Director Christopher Hahn. "When Antony Walker was offered a chance to make his debut with Maggio Musicale and Christian was available to conduct **La traviata**, I gladly let Antony out of his engagement with us. We are pleased that the audience in Florence will enjoy the same world-class conducting which Pittsburgh Opera audiences will get to experience at the rest of our Benedum Center productions this season."

Capocaccia will be a familiar face to many Pittsburgh classical music enthusiasts. He has conducted the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra in, among other things, an acclaimed program starring pianist Xiayin Wang.

Walker will conduct the remainder of Pittsburgh Opera's mainstage productions in the 2016-17 season: Richard Strauss's [Salome](#) (Nov. 5-13), Puccini's [Turandot](#) (March 25-April 2), and the world premiere of Daniel Sonenberg's [The Summer King](#) – the Josh Gibson Story (April 29 – May 7.)

In addition, Pittsburgh Opera is pleased to announce that two-time Grammy-award winning baritone [Nmon Ford](#) will make his Pittsburgh Opera debut in the role of Jochanaan (John the Baptist) in Richard Strauss's [Salome](#), Nov. 5-13 at the Benedum Center for Performing Arts.

Ford is "matinee-idol handsome, with a rich and supple baritone capable of both power and subtlety. He radiates star quality" testifies the Hollywood Reporter.

"We are thrilled that an artist of Nmon's caliber will be singing the role of Jochanaan," says Pittsburgh Opera General Director Christopher Hahn, "and it will be especially exciting to

see the electricity onstage between the Salome of Patricia Racette and Nmon's John the Baptist."

Ford has performed throughout the country, as well as in France and Italy. He was a featured soloist on the Grammy Award winning [Transmigrations](#) (Telarc) and [Songs of Innocence and of Experience](#) (Naxos).



Nmon Ford. Photo via Musicaglotz Artist Management website.

Pittsburgh Opera celebrates its 78th season in 2016-17. Established by five intrepid women in 1939, Pittsburgh Opera is viewed as one of the most vibrant opera organizations in the U.S., with a rich artistic tradition, outstanding educational programs, an acclaimed artist training program, and a progressive outlook toward the future. Its green initiative culminated in LEED® Silver certification for its Strip District headquarters, and its capacity as a true community partner has increased significantly under General Director Christopher Hahn's leadership.

####