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For Immediate Release

Experience Italy through its Opera, Food and Wine at GSU

(University Park, IL) – August 31, 2015: Travel to Italy, the birthplace of opera, to celebrate a wide array of Italian operatic music in **Viva Italia!** on **Sunday, September 20 at 4 p.m.** at GSU's Center for Performing Arts. The program features five singers performing Act 3 of La Boheme, Puccini's timeless love story, as well as Neopolitan songs, arias, duets and ensembles from operas by Verdi, Donizetti and Rossini.

Not an opera fan? You will be surprised and entertained by a full sensory experience complete with a sample of Italian favorites, like pasta and wine, to enjoy along with the songs.

Meet the Cast

Desiree Hassler, soprano
Carla, Janzen, soprano
Pamela Williams, mezzo soprano
John Concepcion, tenor
Michael Cavalieri, baritone
Paul Hamilton, Pianist

For Tickets and Information

Tickets are \$53 per person including an Italian wine and food sampling

Seating is limited so it is recommended to reserve your ticket in advance.

Online: CenterTickets.net

By Phone: 708.235.2222

In Person at the Box Office: 1 University Parkway, University Park, IL

Box Office Hours: Monday- Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (open to 6p.m. on Thursdays) & 2 hours prior to all performances

About the Opera Up Close Experience

Viva Italia! is part of the Center's Opera Up Close series, produced by Lyric Opera tenor John Concepcion. From the unique vantage point of your table on the stage, you'll watch the stories unfold in the midst of the show! You'll be up close to the singers as they perform classic opera and explain along the way, making the genre accessible to first time opera goers.

The next Opera Up Close performance takes place on January 24, 2016 at 4 p.m.; Seasons of Song.

A portion of The Center's programming is supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency. If you would like to donate to the Center for Performing Arts please visit CenterTickets.net for details.

Governors State University is located at 1 University Parkway, University Park, IL 60484. Conveniently located off of I57 (Sauk Trail exit), the Center for Performing Arts is easily accessible from all neighboring south suburban communities. Parking is free. For best GPS directions always use the location search term "Governors State University" only.