

## **Press Release – Pine Mountain Music Festival**

### **For Immediate Release**

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#### Pine Mountain Music Festival Announces Opera Singers

Hancock – Pine Mountain Music Festival’s 2010 opera is Verdi’s masterpiece about thwarted love, “La Traviata.” It is one of the most popular operas ever written, and will be performed in Houghton, Marquette and Norway, MI.

The leading lady role, Violetta, will be sung by Jessica Rose Cambio, a highly accomplished soprano who in 2009 was a National Semi-Finalist in the Metropolitan Opera Council auditions. She has sung professionally in Italy and St. Petersburg, Russia.

The role of Germont will be sung by Eric Greene, an experienced baritone who has appeared with San Francisco Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Washington National Opera and other regional and international companies.

Other singers include seven Resident Opera Artists, one of whom is Bernard Holcomb, who was with the Festival last year in “The Secret Marriage.” Recently he has appeared with Sarasota Opera. Cathleen Candia, a mezzo-soprano, is from southern California and has experience with Sarasota Opera and Opera New Jersey. Soprano Leah Edmondson Dyer resides in Pennsylvania, studied in Ohio and Texas, and has won awards in various voice competitions. Baritone Branden Hood, from Ypsilanti, MI, studied at University of Michigan and was an apprentice at Dayton Opera.

Brian Pettey, another baritone, is a graduate of Peabody Conservatory and is now studying for his master’s degree in voice at University of Texas, Austin. Alexander Scopino, bass, has a master’s degree in voice from Binghamton University and has been through apprentice programs at Chautauqua Opera and Opera Colorado. Jeffrey Taveras, tenor, is from Long Island, New York, and is currently working on his master’s degree in vocal performance at Boston University.

These singers were selected from over 450 applicants, of whom over 200 were auditioned in Ann Arbor and New York by Festival artistic staff. PMMF artistic director Joshua Major says, “This is probably the best group of singers we have had in recent years, and I think audiences will be thrilled.”

“La Traviata” will be presented at the Rozsa Center on the campus of Michigan Tech on Sunday July 18 at 3:00 pm. It will also be presented in Marquette on July 13 and in Norway MI on July 15, at 7:30 pm.

The Resident Opera Artists will also present an evening of popular music called “Jerome Kern and Irving Berlin in Revue.” This will be at the Calumet Theatre on June 24, 7:30 pm, and in other towns on other dates.

They will also give a recital of art songs at Grace United Methodist Church in Houghton on July 9, and will be the featured attraction at two season-opening events. The first will be a benefit event on June 16 in a private home in the Keweenaw, and the second the next day at the Chippewa Club in Iron Mountain.

Pine Mountain Music Festival presents a season of opera, classical and popular music each June-July in the Dickinson County area, the Marquette area, the Keweenaw Peninsula, and other smaller towns in the Upper Peninsula. Headquartered in Hancock, Michigan, it is supported by donations, ticket sales and grants. Visit the web at [pmmf.org](http://pmmf.org), or call 1-877-746-3999 for tickets (after April 12) or 888-309-7861 for more information.