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For Immediate Release

**THE OPERA ORCHESTRA OF NEW YORK TO PRESENT DONIZETTI'S *ROBERTO DEVEREUX*
ON THURSDAY, JUNE 5TH AT CARNEGIE HALL
STARRING SOPRANO MARIELLA DEVIA**

Italy's leading "Belcantista" returns to the US after 15 years

New York, NY (April 4, 2014) – The Opera Orchestra of New York will present an opera-in-concert performance of Gaetano Donizetti's *Roberto Devereux* conducted by the company's Founder & Music Director Laureate Eve Queler on Thursday, June 5, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. at Carnegie Hall. The concert marks the long-awaited return of Italian soprano Mariella Devia to the United States after a 15-year absence. Ms. Devia, considered the foremost exponent of the bel canto repertoire, last appeared with OONY in the 1999 presentation of Donizetti's *Adelia*. *Roberto Devereux* also stars an internationally renowned cast that includes young American tenor Stephen Costello in the title role; French mezzo-soprano Geraldine Chauvet in the role of "Sara, Duchess of Nottingham", and American baritone David Pershall in the role of "The Duke Of Nottingham", all three in their second appearances with OONY.

The concert is made possible in part by the Agnes Varis Trust and is dedicated to celebrating the lives of Agnes Varis and her husband, Karl Leichtman.

Single tickets priced from \$35 to \$165 go on sale on April 10th, and can be purchased online by visiting www.CarnegieHall.org or by calling CarnegieCharge (212-247-7800).

The opera is loosely based on the lives of Queen Elizabeth I (Devia) and her lover, Roberto Devereux (Costello), who is half her age, and accused of treason. Her attempts to save him are frustrated when she discovers that he loves Sara (Chauvet) who is married to the Duke of Nottingham (Pershall). Devereux must meet his inevitable end and the Queen must face old age and death alone. All of this court intrigue inspired some very beautiful music from Donizetti in a score of sweeping melodies, fiery scales, brilliant high notes and exquisite love duets.

The Opera Orchestra of New York was established by Eve Queler in 1971 to present rarely-heard operas and provide the public with an opportunity to hear them performed in major concert venues. Among Opera Orchestra's numerous U.S. premieres are Puccini's *Edgar* with Carlo Bergonzi and Renata Scotto; Boito's *Nerone* with James Morris and Pablo Elvira; and Smetana's *Libuse* with Gabriela Benacková and Paul Plishka. The company also performed the New York premiere of Tchaikovsky's *The Maid of Orleans*, with Dolora Zajick and Jorma Hynninen, which was also the American premiere of the Russian language version. The ensemble has also presented works long neglected in New York, such as Wagner's *Rienzi*, Verdi's *I Lombardi*, Bizet's *Les pêcheurs de perles*, and Catalani's *La Wally*. Those pioneering efforts have led national opera companies such as the Metropolitan Opera, Chicago Lyric and Houston Grand Opera to add to their permanent repertoires works that

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received their first major modern hearing by The Opera Orchestra of New York, including *I Lombardi*, Donizetti's *La Favorita*, Zandonai's *Francesca da Rimini*, Dvořák's *Rusalka* and Mussorgsky's *Khovanshchina*.

Since 1978 Opera Orchestra's Young Artists Program has identified and fostered young operatic talent. The program has nurtured the talents of Renée Fleming, Aprile Millo, Vivica Genaux, Deborah Voigt, Latonia Moore, Stephen Costello, Michael Fabiano, Bryan Hymel and Eglise Gutiérrez. Other singers who have worked with Opera Orchestra very early in their careers include José Carreras, Barbara Hendricks, Dwayne Croft, Samuel Ramey and James Morris. Singers who made their U.S. or New York debuts with Opera Orchestra include Gabriela Benacková, Stephanie Blythe, Olga Borodina, Ghena Dimitrova, Jane Eaglen, Carlo Guelfi, Dmitri Hvorostovsky, Vesselina Kasarova, Paul Plishka, Rosalind Plowright and Krassimira Stoyanova and Dolora Zajick.

Eve Queler is internationally recognized for her ground-breaking work with the Opera Orchestra and as a guest conductor of symphonic and opera repertoire at venues that span the international musical world. She has conducted more than 100 operas in concert at Carnegie Hall, many of which are rarely performed, bringing them to the attention of the American public and introducing them to the standard repertoire. Ms. Queler has championed many Russian and Czech operas unknown in the U.S. and was the first conductor in America to perform Mussorgsky's unfinished *Khovanshchina* with orchestration by Shostakovich, as well as the first Czech-language performance of Janacek's *Katya Kabanova* in 1979, *Jenufa* in 1988 and Dvorak's *Rusalka* in 1987.

In September 2009 Ms. Queler conducted the opening of the Bellini Festival at the Teatro Massimo Bellini in Catania and in July 2010 made her debut at the Puccini Festival, Torre del Lago conducting a new production of *Madama Butterfly*. Awards include *Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres*, one of the highest awards presented by the French government, for her commitment to French operas; the Sanford Medal, Yale University's highest musical honor; an honor by Opera Index and the National Endowment Lifetime Achievement Award in Opera for her dedication to emerging singers.

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Thursday, June 5, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.

Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage - Carnegie Hall, New York, NY

Roberto Devereux

Music by Gaetano Donizetti

Libretto by Salvatore Cammarano, after François Ancelot's tragedy *Elisabeth d'Angleterre*

Cast:

Elisabetta, Queen of England: Mariella Devia

The Duke of Nottingham: David Pershall

Sara, Duchess of Nottingham: Geraldine Chauvet

Roberto Devereux, Earl of Essex: Stephen Costello

The Opera Orchestra of New York

Eve Queler, conductor

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