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Giovanni Reggioli to Conduct Opening Night of the Washington National Opera 2006-2007 Season



September 14, 2006...Maestro Giovanni Reggioli, well-known to Washington audiences, has stepped in to replace Music Director Heinze Fricke to conduct the first production of the 2006-2007 WNO season which features Samuel Ramey in *Bluebeard's Castle* and *Gianni Schicchi*. Maestro Reggioli will also conduct the remaining performances on September 16, 20, 25, 28 and October 1, 3, 7. Maestro Fricke regrettably has returned to Germany to consult his doctor about diabetic complications.

Elegant phrasing, eloquent, intense, disciplined, incandescent are but a few of the words used to describe the conducting of young Italian Giovanni Reggioli. His impressive international career includes conducting performances of *Falstaff* in Sydney and Caracas, *Carmen*, *La Bohème*, *Don Giovanni*, *La Traviata*, *Samson et Dalila* and *I Vespri Siciliani* at the Washington Opera, *Aida* at the Baths of Caracalla, *Un Giorno di Regno* at the Caramoor International Music Festival of New York, *Un Ballo in Maschera*, *Turandot* and *Madama Butterfly* in Quebec City, as well as *I Pagliacci* and *Cavalleria Rusticana* for PortOpera. He has led the Metropolitan Opera, Washington Opera and Los Angeles Opera orchestras, the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, the Orchestra of Saint Luke's, the Orchestra Filarmonica Mediterranea, and the Orchestra Filarmonica di Sanremo.

His critically acclaimed conducting debut with Opera Australia of Verdi's *Falstaff* assured his return for subsequent years: "*The lion's share of the credit for that triumph simply must be awarded to the conductor, Giovanni Reggioli...*" (*Opera~Opera*, Feb. 2006). In 2006-2007 Maestro Reggioli conducts *La Traviata*, *Il Trovatore*, and *Nabucco* for Opera Australia, a concert performance of *Turandot* to celebrate Australia Day in the Park (January 21, 2007), and the major New Year's Eve Gala on December 31, 2006.

Future seasons will see Maestro Reggioli return to the Washington Opera and PortOpera.

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