



In residence at Fairleigh Dickinson University

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Laura Phillips Ward | WardComm Public Relations, LLC  
860.573.4809 | [laura@wardcommpr.com](mailto:laura@wardcommpr.com)

**OPERA AT FLORHAM HONORS WARREN RESIDENTS SUSAN QUITTMAYER AND JAMES MORRIS**



*Pictured from left to right: Honorees James Morris and Susan Quittmeyer  
and Opera at Florham president Joan Del Giudice*

**October 20, 2017 | Madison, NJ** – On October 15, 2017, Opera at Florham honored Warren, New Jersey, residents Susan Quittmeyer and James Morris, recognizing them for their impressive careers and continued dedication to Opera.

**Legendary American Bass-Baritone James Morris** is world famous for his performances in opera, concert, recital, and recording. With a repertoire including works by Wagner, Verdi, Puccini, Offenbach, Stravinsky, Mussorgsky, Mozart, Gounod and Britten, Mr. Morris has performed in virtually every international opera house and has appeared with the major orchestras of Europe and the United States. Considered one of the greatest interpreters of the role of Wotan in Wagner's *Der Ring des Nibelungen*,

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Mr. Morris has appeared in this role at the Metropolitan Opera, Vienna State Opera, Bavarian State Opera, Munich, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Lyric Opera of Chicago, San Francisco Opera and many others. He is also considered the world's leading interpreter of the title role in Wagner's *Der fliegende Holländer* and has appeared as Hans Sachs in *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* in the major houses of the United States and Europe.

**American Mezzo-Soprano Susan Quittmeyer** has performed in America, Europe, Japan and more. She has performed in operas, with orchestras and at recitals, and she has appeared regularly with the Metropolitan Opera and San Francisco Opera companies. Quittmeyer also sang with the Los Angeles Opera, Los Angeles Opera Theater, Opera Company of Philadelphia, Canadian Opera Company, Opéra de Montréal, San Diego Opera, Portland Opera, Dallas Opera, Denver Opera, Cincinnati Opera, Miami Opera, and Santa Fe Opera. She has performed with numerous symphonies including the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the San Francisco Symphony, the Minnesota Orchestra, the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Arena di Verona Symphony, and the Oakland Symphony. Quittmeyer can be heard on recordings of Verdi's *Falstaff* with Sir Colin Davis conducting, on the BMG label, and Wagner's *Das Rheingold* with Bernard Haitink conducting, from EMI.

In celebration of its 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Opera at Florham held an all-star gala at Lenfell Hall, The Mansion at Fairleigh Dickinson University in Madison, New Jersey. Hosted by former PBS and WQXR broadcaster Midge Woolsey, the event began with an afternoon concert featuring operatic favorites performed by distinguished singers, soprano Maria Natale, tenor Fanyong Du, and baritone Ricardo Rivera, led by pianist Mary Pinto. The repertoire, carefully chosen for the occasion, consisted of arias and ensembles from *La Bohème*, *I Puritani*, *Faust*, *Eugene Onegin*, *Simon Boccanegra* and *Le Nozze di Figaro*, all Operas the two honorees have sung throughout their careers.

### **About Opera at Florham**

Founded in 1982 as an extension of the Fairleigh Dickinson University Music Department, Opera at Florham began by providing recitals in Lenfell Hall and two annual operas at the campus theatre, Dreyfuss. In 1995, Opera at Florham became a separate, incorporated 501(c)(3) non profit charitable organization. Since then, it has graced the community with world-class, affordable performances by professionally trained operatic vocalists in a variety of settings: Opera recitals, called "Musicales;" fully staged Operas with orchestra; semi-staged Operas in concert; an annual Vocal Competition; and outreach programs.

Opera at Florham presents professional vocalists in recital, concert, and competition from Opera to American Songbook. Its Musicales Series is the only long running Opera recital series in the state of New Jersey. Each Musicale features three accomplished vocalists from across the United States. Artists perform classics and rarities of Opera and American Songbook enhanced by stories, history, and facts about the music. In addition, Opera at Florham presents its [Annual Opera at Florham Vocal Competition](http://www.OperaAtFlorham.org), honoring founder Violetta DuPont, in which the best young talents in Opera compete for large cash prizes in front of a panel of renowned judges and a live audience. Competition winners regularly go on to achieve decorated international careers. The highlight of the organization are staged Operas, special events that showcase the best of what Opera has to offer: drama, passion, musical excellence, and story. To learn more about Opera at Florham, visit [www.OperaAtFlorham.org](http://www.OperaAtFlorham.org).



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**OPERA AT FLORHAM MARKS 35 YEARS WITH ALL-STAR GALA CELEBRATION AND CONCERT**



*Pictured from left to right: Accompanist and Opera at Florham vice president Mary Pinto, Opera at Florham president Joan Del Giudice, former PBS and WQXR broadcaster Midge Woolsey, baritone Ricardo Rivera, bass-baritone Met Opera star James Morris, mezzo-soprano and Rutgers Opera Institute faculty member Susan Quittmeyer, guest and tenor Fanyong Du, soprano Maria Natale, and Opera at Florham board member Stephen DeMaio.*

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Rivera, led by pianist Mary Pinto. Carefully chosen for the occasion, the repertoire consisted of arias and ensembles from *La Bohème*, *I Puritani*, *Faust*, *Eugene Onegin*, *Simon Boccanegra* and *Le Nozze di Figaro*, all Operas the two honorees have sung throughout their careers.

“At Opera at Florham, we believe Opera is for everyone,” says Joan Del Giudice, president of Opera at Florham. “Opera’s powerful music, characters, and acting engage the senses, emotions, and intellect, telling timeless stories of fantasy, life, love, tragedy, and hope. We must ensure it remains accessible – that’s why we provide low-cost, high-quality events for the community.”

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