



## South Shore Opera Company of Chicago

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CONTACT:  
6501 S. Kimbark Ave. Unit 1N  
Chicago, IL 60637

Phone: (773) 241-6147  
Fax: (773) 241-6147

[www.southshoreopera.org](http://www.southshoreopera.org)  
marvin.lynn@gmail.com

August 28, 2009

Dear Potential Sponsor,

A sleeping giant has awakened on the lakefront at South Shore Drive: the South Shore Opera Company of Chicago. On February 28<sup>th</sup> of 2009 the South Shore Opera Company of Chicago broke ground with its inaugural concert in the landmark setting of the South Shore Cultural Center with an audience of over 700 in attendance. The company was formed in partnership with the Advisory Council of the South Shore Cultural Center and is an arts anchor partner with the center under the direction and stewardship of Ms. Andrea Adams, Center Director and the Chicago Park District. The South Shore Opera Company is a new not-for-profit civic and educational organization designed to bring high quality opera and musical theater to the community, provide opportunities for diverse emerging and professional artists to perform and offer free musical instruction to neighborhood youth.

Chicago is rich with cultural resources, and some communities have greater access to those resources than others. Our goal is to bring that access to the south lakefront by offering free concerts and musical theatre in South Shore and its surrounding communities. To date, South Shore Opera Company of Chicago has produced two incredibly successful free concerts. Our first concert featured renowned Lyric Coloratura Soprano Elizabeth Norman Sojourner, Baritone Martin Woods, the Kenwood Academy Concert Choir and the Apostolic Church of God Youth Orchestra. Our second concert which took place on June 20<sup>th</sup> of 2009 was even more successful. It was attended by nearly one thousand enthusiastic and excited patrons of the arts that overflowed the South Shore Cultural Center Robeson Theatre into the corridor. Local operatic artists such as Sopranos Anisha McFarland, Kimberly Jones, & Joelle Lamarre as well as Tenor Cornelius Johnson and Baritone Kirk Walker performed. A feature article about the company and its inaugural concert was published in the *Chicago Tribune*. The company and its artists were also featured on Harry Porterfield's "Someone You Should Know" segment on June 12<sup>th</sup> of 2009 on ABC7 Chicago.

By all accounts, the success of the South Shore Opera Company has exceeded all expectations. But there is more to do. I envision productions in full costume of operas such as *Porgy and Bess*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Treemonisha* and *Carmen*

with orchestra and a full chorus. If we are going to do productions at this level and offer free music instruction to area youth, we will need to raise at least \$50,000 for our 2010 season.

As part of our fundraising effort, South Shore Opera Company of Chicago will hold its first Benefit Concert on Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> of 2009 at the historic South Shore Cultural Center. The event features a formal reception at 5:30 p.m. hosted by the Parrot Cage Restaurant and continues with a Broadway review beginning at 7 p.m. that will feature recording artist Roberta Thomas, Isaiah Robinson and many others. You will be treated to a dessert reception at the conclusion of the show.

Would you considering supporting South Shore Opera Company of Chicago with a by sponsoring our upcoming benefit concert? For your convenience, we have outlined four levels of sponsorship, as detailed on the enclosed commitment form. You can select the level of participation that best meets your needs. Please return your sponsorship commitment form in the enclosed stamped envelope at the mailing address listed. If it is more convenient, you may also fax the form to 773-667-9497. South Shore Opera Company of Chicago is a fully registered 501(c) (3) corporation in good standing with the State of Illinois and Illinois Charities Bureau.

Thank you in advance for your willingness to support South Shore Opera Company of Chicago so that we may continue our community building efforts through the performing arts. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have by contacting me at 312-607-7027. We're counting on your support and look forward to hearing from you. See enclosures that provide important information about South Shore Opera.

Sincerely,

Dr. Marvin Lynn

Enclosures