



The College of New Jersey

For Immediate Release

Contact: Deanna Biase

The College of New Jersey School of the Arts & Communication
609.771.2065 or biased1@tcnj.edu

[EWING, NJ] The College of New Jersey Center for the Arts, Department of Music and the Interactive Multimedia Program are pleased to announce Lyric Theatre's production of C.W. Gluck's *Orfeo ed Euridice*, running November 1-4, 2012. This production is a fresh and unique take on a historic opera, following Ricordi's "Milano Edition" of 1889, sung in Italian. Featuring some of the composer's most significant music, *Orfeo ed Euridice* is Gluck's treatment of the classical Greek myth of Orpheus and Eurydice. In order to retrieve his beloved wife Eurydice, the poet, musician, and prophet, Orpheus, descends into Hades and must confront the underworld's most harrowing challenges.

The TCNJ production is a collaboration between the Department of Music and the Interactive Multimedia Program at the College. This exciting partnership marks the first time Lyric Theatre has pursued an interdisciplinary approach to opera. The set will be mostly a virtual one, projected behind, and interactive with, the action on stage. Principle roles and chorus members will be TCNJ students, while the principle string players will be professional musicians contracted from Symphony in C. The remainder of the orchestra will be composed of TCNJ students.

Many of the past members of Lyric Theatre productions will be returning. The production staff is as follows:

- Producer and Musical Director: John P. Leonard
- Technical Director: Dale Simon
- Stage Director: John Smitherman
- Stage Manager: Tracy Witko (TCNJ Alum)
- Lighting Designer: Joe Masciangelo (TCNJ Alum)
- Interactive Multimedia Designers: Chris Ault and John Kuiphoff

Producing and conducting this particular production is a wonderful opportunity for Assistant Professor John Leonard, as it is a continuation of the work he did on this opera for his dissertation at Indiana University. He has received a "Support of Scholarly Activities" award from the College to work on editing and publishing his recent edition of *Orfeo ed Euridice* this coming spring and fall 2013. Dr. Leonard is currently in negotiations with a major music publisher to produce this new edition in 2014.

For more information, or to purchase tickets, please visit www.tcnj.edu/boxoffice or call 609.771.2775

###