



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 7, 2005

DUELING DIVAS: SOPRANOS NATALIE LERCH AND HOLLY SWARTZENDRUBER
Featuring the music of Monteverdi, Mozart, Poulenc, Larsen and Herbolsheimer

SEATTLE, WA – Cornish College of the Arts is pleased to present two sopranos Natalie Lerch and Holly Swartzendruber in concert on January 21, 2005. *Dueling Divas* will feature the music of Monteverdi, Mozart, Poulenc, Larsen and Herbolsheimer. The two sopranos reunite after many years (they studied music together in graduate school) and will revisit their musical past with works from *Così fan tutte*.

Dueling Divas: Sopranos Natalie Lerch and Holly Swartzendruber

with Peter Mack and Roger Nelson, piano

Friday, January 21, 8 pm

Featuring the music of Monteverdi, Mozart, Poulenc, Larsen and Herbolsheimer.

PONCHO Concert Hall, 710 East Roy Street, Seattle

Tickets: \$15; \$7.50 for students and seniors.

Tickets can be purchased through Ticket Window at 206.325.6500, www.ticketwindowonline.com

or in person at Ticket Window's box offices located in the Pike Place Market, Harvard Market, and Bellevue's Meydenbauer Center.

Soprano Natalie Lerch has performed many roles, including Lady Ella in *Patience*, Miss Pinkerton in *The Old Maid and the Thief*, Fiordiligi in *Così fan tutte*, Casilda in *The Gondoliers*, Peep Bo in *The Mikado*, and Mrs. Grose in *The Turn of the Screw*. Natalie won the Concerto/Aria Competition and performed *Knoxville: Summer of 1915* by Samuel Barber with the Ohio University Orchestra. She has also performed a jazz version of *Un bel di vedremo* from *Madama Butterfly*, with the Jazz Ensemble from the Federal University of Rio in Rio de Janeiro, Brasil and with The Jazz Police at the Tacoma Jazz Festival. Natalie participated in a workshop production of Monteverdi's *Orfeo* in Orvieto, Italy. As a national member of National Association of Teachers and of Singing (NATS) Natalie has sung in master classes for Renée Fleming, Julianne Baird and Dale Moore. Natalie has performed across the nation, as well as in Italy, Canada and Brazil.

She received her Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the Eastman School of Music, a Master of Music from Ohio University, and a Bachelor of Music degree from the UAA in Alaska. Natalie is Associate Professor of Voice at Cornish College of the Arts, where she teaches Musical Theater Workshop; Italian, French and German Diction for Singers. Currently, Natalie sings with Divalicious, a girl-group made up of four sopranos.

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Among the operatic roles **Holly Swartzendruber** has performed are Lucia from *The Rape of Lucretia*, Despina and Dorabella from *Così fan tutte* and Susanna from *The Marriage of Figaro*. She also performed the soprano solos in various other works, including: *Messiah*, *A New Creation*, *Ceremony of Carols*, and Schubert's *Mass in G*.

Holly is Assistant Professor of Voice at Tabor College in Hillsboro, Kansas. She holds a Doctor of Musical Arts Degree from the University of Kansas, a Master of Music in vocal performance and vocal pedagogy from Ohio University, and a BA in Music from Goshen College. At Tabor College, Holly teaches voice lessons, Introduction to Fine Arts, Vocal Pedagogy and Diction, and Music Theory. She is a member of Phi Kappa Lambda and the National Association of Teachers and of Singing. In addition to performing regionally, she has done regional vocal adjudication as well.

ABOUT CORNISH COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

Cornish College of the Arts is the premier, accredited arts college in the Northwest, inspiring the highest standards of artistic and academic excellence. Founded in 1914 by Nellie Cornish, Cornish College is the only private, accredited college in the region offering baccalaureate degrees in visual and performing arts. Cornish College offers a Bachelor of Music and a Bachelor of Fine Arts in art, dance, design, theater and performance production. Uniquely, Cornish College provides a rigorous educational environment for the cultivation of technical mastery, artistic integrity and practical knowledge. The faculty at Cornish is comprised of practicing master artists and professional educators, renowned in their respective fields. The college maintains a low student to faculty ratio, allowing for individualized teaching and mentoring. Cornish College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges and the National Association of Schools of Art and Design.

Over the years, Cornish has hosted a parade of important artists in the roles of students, teachers or as visiting artists-in-residence, including John Cage, Merce Cunningham, Martha Graham, Ping Chong, Kenny Werner, Obo Addy, Mark Morris, Meredith Monk, Rinde Eckert, Bebe Miller, Ruth St. Denis, Ted Shawn, Robin Holcomb, Chet Huntley, Syvilla Fort, Ralph Towner, Thornton Wilder, Lou Harrison, Bill Frisell, Morris Graves, Jane Ira Bloom, Kraig Patterson, Musicians Accord, Bun Ching Lam, Brendan Fraser, Myra Melford, Sharon Isbin, Joanne Brackeen, Oliver Lake, California Ear Unit, Colorado Quartet, and Gary Peacock, among others.

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