



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Virginia Opera brings *Opera in the Park* concerts to both Norfolk and Richmond this summer

**NORFOLK & RICHMOND, Va. (June 19, 2013)** – Virginia Opera, *The Official Opera Company of the Commonwealth of Virginia*, and presenting sponsor Wells Fargo Private Bank, announce that the Opera will present its annual *Opera in the Park* concert in two of its homes this year. As in previous years, *Opera in the Park* will take place at Norfolk's Town Point Park on Saturday, Sep. 7 in conjunction with Festevents 2013 Season. For the first time, the concert will also be presented in Richmond, Va., at the Dogwood Dell Amphitheatre as part of the City's 57<sup>th</sup> Festival of Arts, on Saturday, Aug. 31.

*Opera in the Park* is now entering its 5<sup>th</sup> year in Hampton Roads and has attracted upwards of 5,000 attendees each year. Both events will be free and open to the public of all ages and feature a casual, picnic-style atmosphere. Gates will open at 6 p.m. and the concert begins at 7:30 p.m. Rain dates are scheduled for the following Sunday evenings at the same time.

Virginia Opera's Resident Conductor Adam Turner will lead the cast and chorus of the Opera's season opening production of Giuseppe Verdi's *Falstaff* in a program featuring many of opera's most well-known and loved melodies. The Virginia Symphony Orchestra returns to provide musical accompaniment for the program at Town Point Park, while the Richmond Symphony will join the Opera at Dogwood Dell.

Virginia Opera is proud to once again partner with Wells Fargo Private Bank, sponsor of this year's *Opera in the Park*, at both venues. Additional operational support for the events is provided by Festevents in Norfolk, and by the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Community Facilities in Richmond.

Attendees will be able to pre-register for the concerts this year through Virginia Opera's website. Each registrant will receive electronic updates on activities surrounding the event as they are added and will also be entered to win prizes like reserved seating, picnic baskets, and admission for four to the Wells Fargo Private Bank VIP Tent. Those interested may register online at [www.vaopera.org/park](http://www.vaopera.org/park) or call the Virginia Opera Box Office at 1.866.OPERA.VA (1.866.673.7282), Monday through Friday between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. to register by phone.

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Details regarding the concert program, vendors, raffle prizes, and additional activities will be made available throughout the summer at the Opera's website at [www.vaopera.org/park](http://www.vaopera.org/park). Additional venue information, including parking and park rules, is available by visiting [www.richmondgov.com/parks](http://www.richmondgov.com/parks) or [www.festevents.org](http://www.festevents.org).

For more information or for inquiries about media coverage or sponsorship of *Opera in the Park*, please call Anna Russell at 757.627.9545, ext. 3316, or e-mail [anna.russell@vaopera.org](mailto:anna.russell@vaopera.org).

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### **About Virginia Opera**

*Virginia Opera is entering its 39th year of operation. The Company has a working budget of \$5.5 million with over 40 mainstage performances in three markets, reaching nearly 60,000 attendees. In March of 1994 Virginia Opera was named The Official Opera Company of the Commonwealth of Virginia in recognition of the organization's contribution to the Commonwealth and to the world of opera.*

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### **About Wells Fargo Private Bank**

*Wells Fargo Private Bank, the fourth largest wealth management provider in the United States (Barron's 2012), offers a full range of financial services and products to help individuals and families build, manage, preserve and transfer their wealth. The Private Bank services clients across North America and internationally, and oversees more than \$169 billion in assets under management.*