



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**WORLD RENOWNED OPERA PERFORMERS MAKE BIG IMPRESSION IN
THE GREEN MOUNTAINS
Vermont's Green Mountain Opera Festival**

Waitsfield, VT - The **Green Mountain Opera Festival** deemed a huge success in Vermont's Mad River Valley June 12th – 26th. World renowned performers gathered in the Green Mountains performing a series of gala performances at the Inn at the Round Barn in Waitsfield, Vermont. A final production of Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*, accompanied by a 26-piece orchestra, was staged at the nearby Barre Opera House. The festival was sponsored by the **Green Mountain Cultural Center**, a non-profit organization focused on promoting visual and performing arts in the Mad River Valley. The Green Mountain Cultural Center is located at the Inn at the Round Barn's historic Joslyn Round Barn built in 1910 and refurbished in 1988.

Artistic Director, Taras Kulish, lead his team through the entirety of performances. "Opening night of the *Barber of Seville* was electric," stated Kulish. The Barre Opera House's European-style theater was at 98% capacity on June 24th for the complete production of the opera. "One could feel the audience craving to hear professional singers with orchestral accompaniment which is what I plan on continuing to give them in future years," added Kulish.

Due to the overwhelming success of this year's event, the Green Mountain Opera Festival plans to expand to three weeks next summer and is tentatively scheduled for June 3rd – 24th. A young artist program will also be added to the festival, allowing four young singers, under the age of 30, to receive three weeks of training and play small secondary roles in the production. Puccini's *Madame Butterfly* will be featured at next year's festival.

The 2006 Green Mountain Opera Festival was sponsored by Sheila C. Johnson, co-founder of Black Entertainment Television. The Festival's Artistic Director, Taras Kulish, is a Montreal native and will be performing in both the Calgary Opera and Opera Lyra Ottawa between now and next year's Green Mountain Opera Festival. The 2006 cast includes past performers from both the Calgary Opera and Opera Lyra Ottawa as well as performers from the New York City Opera and the Metropolitan Opera. This year's conductor, Giovanni Reggioli, hails from the Washington (DC) Opera.

The Inn at the Round Barn and the Green Mountain Cultural Center have been dedicated to promoting and sponsoring the arts in Vermont for over 15 years. Future goals for the organization include expanding the festival to four weeks and creating more learning experiences for young opera talent. For more information on the Green Mountain Opera Festival visit, www.greenmountainoperafestival.com

*Located on 245 acres of Vermont mountains, meadows, and ponds in the beautiful Mad River Valley, lies the historic Round Barn Farm, a four season vacation retreat for lovers of the arts, history, the outdoors, and Vermont bed & breakfast escapes. The historic Round Barn, built in 1910 and renovated in 1988, is a magnificent venue playing host to community events, weddings, concerts, art exhibits, and conferences. It is also home to renowned catering company, **Cooking from the Heart**. The Inn at the Round Barn is a proud member of the **Professional Association of Innkeepers International**, the **Select Registry**, and is recognized for its environmental commitments as a **Green Hotel in the Green Mountain State**. The Inn at the Round Barn was a founding member of both the Vermont Association of Wedding Professionals and The Vermont Fresh Network. For more information, visit www.theroundbarn.com.*

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PHOTO NOTE: Open rehearsal photos available upon request.