

## Addendum

Soprano Donna Brown was scheduled to be one of the three jury members. Regrettably, she took sick on the day of the competition and was forced to withdraw. The National Capital Opera Society is very grateful to Cavaliere Maria Pellegrini, who on extremely short notice agreed to replace her. Here is Ms. Pellegrini's biography:

### **Cavaliere Maria Pellegrini, Soprano**

As a Metropolitan Opera Auditions winner, soprano Maria Pellegrini embarked on a brilliant career, which took her to the leading opera houses and concert halls of Europe, Canada, United States, Asia and the Caribbean.

Her debut as Gilda (*Rigoletto*) with the Canadian Opera Company was followed by eleven seasons at The Royal Opera House Covent Garden, under the baton of Sir Georg Solti, where she sang Mimi (*La Bohème*) opposite Luciano Pavarotti. She also performed at Royal Albert Hall, Welsh National Opera, English National Opera, Canadian Opera Company, Vancouver Opera Company, L'Opéra de Montréal, Opera Lyra Ottawa, Teatro dell'Opera di Santo Domingo, the Taipei Opera Festival as well as many opera houses in Italy and the United States.

Audiences and critics have praised Ms. Pellegrini above all in her signature role of Madama Butterfly. Other roles included Violetta (*Traviata*), Fiordiligi (*Così Fan Tutte*), Amelia (*Simon Boccanegra*) Alice Ford (*Falstaff*), Elvira (*I Puritani*), Liu (*Turandot*), Lucia (*Lucia di Lammermoor*), Manon Lescaut (*Manon Lescaut*), Desdemona (*Otello*), Nedda (*I Pagliacci*), Tosca (*Tosca*), Micaela (*Carmen*), and Aida (*Aida*). She worked with conductors Sir Georg Solti, Sir Charles Mackerras, Sir Colin Davis, Sir Edward Downes, and Giuseppe Sinopoli.

Maria Pellegrini was awarded "Best Italian Soprano" in 1991. In 2007, she was honoured with the award of Cavaliere dell' Ordine al Merito Della Repubblica Italiana. In Ottawa in 2004, she founded Pellegrini Opera and continues as its Artistic Director. Besides private voice coaching she gives master classes at McGill University and the University of Ottawa.