

UrbanArias' Second Festival at Artisphere

April 13-22, 2012

UrbanArias is a new opera company dedicated to producing short, contemporary opera. Our mission is to expose DC-area audiences to engaging, accessible and entertaining operas, and to provide a venue at which both established and emerging composers can present their shorter works.

At UrbanArias, everything we present is **90 minutes or shorter, and written within the last 40 years.**



Our first UrbanArias Festival last April was a huge success, and featured nationally-known singers Elizabeth Futral, Michael Chioldi, Ian Greenlaw and Caroline Worra, and works by Ricky Ian Gordon and Tom Cipullo.

Colleen Daly and Kevin Vortmann in Tom Cipullo's *Glory Denied*. Photo: Clint Brandhagen

POSITIONS 1956: an Instructional Opera

by Conrad Cummings and Michael Korie

Tony Award-nominated librettist Michael Korie and prolific New York composer Conrad Cummings have teamed up to write **UrbanArias' first commission**, an opera in three parts, each one based on self-help material from the 1950s: a sex manual, a manliness manual, and a ballroom dancing manual. The result is both hilarious and heartfelt – and UrbanArias' first World Premiere!

BEFORE BREAKFAST *by Thomas Pasatieri and Frank Corsaro*

A lonely alcoholic addresses her off-stage husband while she prepares breakfast, and in so doing we learn of the dreams she envisioned for her life, and the disappointments that ultimately filled it. Premiered by Marilyn Zschau at New York City Opera, *Before Breakfast* was revised in 2007 in a production starring Lauren Flanigan.

THE FILTHY HABIT *by Peter Hilliard and Matt Boresi*

Based on a Wolf-Ferrari opera, *The Filthy Habit* tells the story of a newlywed couple's struggle with Mayor Bloomberg's smoking ban. Susan's secret is that she smokes - and she's married to an intolerant fitness nut. This hilarious update shows us both how much things have changed in 100 years – smoking was only scandalous then, in 2003 New York City, it's illegal!



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