



## NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

***FIRST FRIDAYS AT THE FRICK PRESENTS***  
**GRANDE ROMANZA**  
***Summer concert season begins on a romantic note***



**DATE/TIME:** Friday, June 4 at 7:00 p.m.

**ADMISSION:** A donation of \$5 per adult is suggested

PITTSBURGH, PA, May 7, 2010—The Frick Art & Historical Center opens the 2010 *First Fridays at the Frick* summer concert series with a performance by unforgettable musical duo **Grande Romanza**. Stefano and Nina Tanchietti, distinguished tenor and soprano, will perform musical scenes of passion from Broadway and operetta beginning at 7:00 p.m. on the Great Lawn at the Frick Art & Historical Center. They will be accompanied by pianist Maria de los Angeles Rivera. The media sponsor for this concert is WQED-FM 89.3.

Guests are invited to come early and create a gourmet picnic with selections from the award-winning Café at the Frick, which begins serving at 5:30 p.m. The Frick Art Museum, Car and Carriage Museum and Museum Shop will remain open until 10:00 p.m. Admission to museums is always free. Free parking is available in the Frick's off-street lot, or along adjacent neighborhood streets.

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## ***ABOUT THE PERFORMERS***

From their first joint venture as college sweethearts as Marco and Gianetta in Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Gondoliers*, to their first operatic pairing as Don Jose and Micaela in Bizet's *Carmen*, to their most recent performances as Otello and Desdemona in Verdi's *Otello*, Grande Romanza's audiences have marveled at the special chemistry they share onstage.

Grande Romanza's story began in Massachusetts where the Tanchiettis were born and raised. Stefano and Nina showed exceptional musical gifts at very early ages. Stefano's beautiful boy alto gradually developed into a young dramatic tenor with world-class potential. His formal musical studies began at age 17, and he won a full scholarship to Boston University School of Fine Arts.

Nina's musical development began with ballet lessons at age eight, piano lessons at age 10 and voice lessons at age 14. Dancing was initially her principal love and when she auditioned for the Boston Ballet at age 16, the director told her that she had the talent to become a great ballerina. The following year, she was awarded a scholarship to Boston University School of Fine Arts.

Over time, the Tanchiettis have built extensive repertoires in opera, light opera, Broadway classics, and musical comedy, and they are equally at home in all four mediums. Because of their tremendous versatility and their love for various types of musical expression, the couple decided to create a special show that would highlight their numerous gifts and engage audiences in the drama and romance of vocal music.

They also wanted to reach out to audiences that are not accustomed to experiencing the thrill of live voices coming directly at them without the aid of microphones and amplifiers. At the Frick, Grande Romanza may present selections from Broadway classics, which might include *Brigadoon*, *The Phantom of the Opera* and *West Side Story*. Operetta scenes may include songs from Lehar's *The Merry Widow*, *The Student Prince* by Romberg or songs by Victor Herbert—the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra's first conductor.

## ***ABOUT THE FRICK ART & HISTORICAL CENTER***

The Frick Art & Historical Center is the legacy of Helen Clay Frick, daughter of 19th-century industrialist and art collector Henry Clay Frick. Having established The Frick Art Museum in 1969, Miss Frick desired that her family home, Clayton, and the surrounding estate be preserved for, and opened to, the people of Pittsburgh after her death. Her vision was realized in 1990.

Today, the Frick Art & Historical Center houses a galaxy of collections—including fine arts, decorative arts, automobiles and carriages, and historic artifacts— in multiple galleries and venues, many of which are historic objects in and of themselves. These collections, and the programs that interpret them, illuminate the era during which Pittsburgh became one of the nation’s most important cities and also make meaningful connections to contemporary times. Although still a relatively young institution, the Frick ranks among Pittsburgh’s most important cultural and educational assets.

## ***GENERAL INFORMATION***

The Frick Art & Historical Center is located at 7227 Reynolds Street in Pittsburgh’s Point Breeze neighborhood. Free parking is available in the Frick’s off-street lot or along adjacent streets. The Frick is open 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Tuesday–Sunday and closed Mondays and major holidays. Admission to The Frick Art Museum, Car and Carriage Museum, Greenhouse, and Playhouse is free. The public should call 412-371-0600 for information, or visit the Frick online at [TheFrickPittsburgh.org](http://TheFrickPittsburgh.org).

**For additional information or images, please contact Greg Langel, Media and Marketing Manager, at 412-371-0600 ext. 524 or [GLangel@TheFrickPittsburgh.org](mailto:GLangel@TheFrickPittsburgh.org).**

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*The Frick Art & Historical Center, a museum, historic site and cultural center serves the public through preservation, presentation, and interpretation of the fine and decorative arts and historically significant artifacts for all residents of and visitors to Western Pennsylvania.*