

Press Contact: Rose Rossello, Media Specialist, (484) 706-9061

Feeney Funeral Home Presents An Italian Holiday Traditional Italian Christmas Carols and Classic Italian Opera

Reading, PA—November 14, 2016. John P. Feeney Funeral Home is sponsoring two opportunities to experience “An Italian Holiday: Traditional Italian Christmas Carols and Classic Italian Opera” with vocal performances by husband and wife duo, Luciana Piovan and Maximiliano Marques. Trained in Argentina, the pair brings a blend of cultures to their performances as they sing classic Italian holiday songs as well as favorite Italian opera arias. The pair will perform on Saturday, December 17 from 7-9pm at Salute Restaurant in Sinking Spring. For dinner reservations, please call the restaurant at 484-577-4833. A free concert with live piano accompaniment provided by Iris Blanco-Urgelles will also be performed on Sunday, December 18 from 1-3pm with prelude music by Berks Opera from 12-1pm at the Historic Feeney Mansion, 625 N. 4th St. in Reading. A \$10 donation to Berks Opera is suggested. Seating is limited and reservations are required. Call the reservation line only to reserve seats at 484-706-9061.



About the Performers

Born in Boston, Mass., Luciana Piovan studied music at the Conservatory of Music in Bahia Blanca, Argentina and worked in the Professional Permanent Choir of Bahia Blanca. She performed the role of Melia from *Apollo et Hyacinthus* at the Municipal Theatre of Bahía Blanca in 2012, and was the First Genie in Mozart’s *The Magic Flute* with the prestigious Argentinean opera company, Juventus Lyrica in 2013. That same year, Luciana was awarded third place in the XV National Contest for Young Music Students—Lyrical Singing held in Buenos Aires. She was also part of a group of opera singers directed by master Armando Livani that performed at the Municipal Theater of Bahia Blanca and other theaters and venues in Buenos Aires. In 2015, Luciana performed the role of the First Flower in Catán’s *La hija de Rappaccini* with Vulcan Lyric company in Philadelphia.

Maximiliano Marques attended the Conservatory of Music in Bahia Blanca, Buenos Aires, Argentina, where he studied guitar, piano, and musical composition, graduating with a teaching degree. He worked as a singer with the Permanent Choir of Bahia Blanca and the Permanent Choir of Teatro Argentina of La Plata. He also worked as assistant

director in several choirs in Bahia Blanca. Maxmiliano has performed Orphée in Gluck's *Orphée et Eurydice*, Ferrando in Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, Conte D'Almaviva in Rossini's *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, Oebalus in Mozart's *Apollo et Hyacinthus*, and Ramiro in Rossini's *La Cenerentola*. In 2015 Maximiliano worked with Vulcan Lyric in Philadelphia and performed the role of Professor Baglioni from D. Catan's *La Hija de Rappaccini* at the Prince Theater. He has also sung in Curtis Opera Studio choir performing Massenet's *Manon* at the Prince Theater (2015) and R. Strauss' *Capriccio* at the Kimmel Center (2016).

The pair perform regularly at The Victor Cafe in Philadelphia.

Iris Blanco-Urgelles was born and raised in the eastern city of Holguin, Cuba. She began studying piano at an early age, getting into a professional music school and continuing her musical education at the University of the Arts in Havana, Cuba. She graduated cum laude from Temple University with a Bachelor's Degree in Piano Performance and Piano Pedagogy. She also holds Masters Degrees in Piano Performance, and Piano Accompaniment and Chamber Music from Temple University. She recently completed a Master Degree in Piano Pedagogy from West Chester University, where she was awarded the Connie Murray Pedagogy Award and was featured in the "Fig" Magazine as a Master Student from West Chester University. Iris was recently one of two pianists involved in the production of *Carmina Burana* with the Reading Choral Society. Iris is certified in Suzuki Piano, has a private piano studio, and is the Music Director, Pianist, and Organist of St. John's Presbyterian Church in Devon, Pa.

About the Feeney Mansion

Built in 1902, the turn-of-the-20th-century Feeney mansion is one of the finest examples of a bygone era in Reading. Originally the childhood home of Mary Nolan, the eldest daughter of James Nolan, a railroad tycoon, she married Edward Dives, of the Dives, Pomeroy & Stewart store. Mary lived in the home until her death in 1969, when the mansion was acquired by John P. Feeney. In 1987, the mansion was used as a location for the movie *Time of Tears*.

Above ground there are 28 rooms and six bathrooms on three floors and more than 9,200 square feet of floor space. The basement has an additional 2,200 square feet of space. The mansion contains more than 80 doors and 419 "pains" of glass.

The two-story carriage house sits at the rear of the property and can accommodate up to six overnight guests. Additional features include a queen-size bed; two full-size air mattresses; full linen service, eat-in kitchen with stove, oven, refrigerator, microwave, toaster, and coffee maker; cable TV; wireless Internet; full-size washer and dryer; full bathroom; central air/heat; smoke and carbon monoxide detectors; and off-street parking. Like the historic mansion, the carriage house is nearly 100 years old. Over the years, it has been renovated several times and served other purposes, including housing an ambulance service.

The property also has nine garden areas, which can be toured any time during the spring and summer months.

About John P. Feeney Funeral Home

John P. Feeney Funeral Home has been helping Berks County families since 1941. Located in a historic mansion, Feeney Funeral Home offers traditional and cremation services for all faiths. The funeral home is owned and supervised by Michael F. Feeney. The mansion also hosts several free art and music events throughout the year. Feeney Funeral Home supports many local organizations including Berks Opera Company, St. Francis Home, Reading Pops Orchestra, and Berks Animal Rescue League. For a complete list of services and upcoming events, visit www.johnfeeneyfuneralhome.com or call 610-372-4160.

*****END*****