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International Opera Star Vladimir Chernov Joins the Dream Orchestra To Present 'Russian Dreams' Concert in Santa Monica on May 20 *Tchaikovsky's 'Symphony No. 5,' selections from 'Eugene Onegin' featured*

SANTA MONICA (April 21, 2016) – World-renowned opera baritone Vladimir Chernov joins the Dream Orchestra for its "Russian Dreams" concert featuring Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No. 5* and music from the opera *Eugene Onegin* on May 20.

"We are extremely fortunate to have Maestro Chernov perform the role of Eugene Onegin, one he has performed for the top opera companies in the world!" said Daniel Suk, Dream Orchestra Artistic Director and Conductor. "What better way to present the best of Tchaikovsky than to have one of Russia's top opera ambassadors to perform the role as only he can."

Chernov will be joined by Vladimir Dmitruk, tenor, as Onegin's best friend Lensky, and award-winning teen soprano Golda Berkman, as Tatiana, in singing selections from the opera.

The concert takes place at 8 p.m. on Friday, May 20, at St. Monica Catholic Church, 725 California Ave., Santa Monica, CA 90403. A free Dessert Reception will be presented by Urth Caffé following the concert for all attendees.

Tickets are \$40 general admission and \$30 for students and senior citizens. Tickets are available at St. Monica Catholic Church, all Urth Caffé locations and by visiting <u>www.brownpapertickets.com</u> or <u>www.dreamorchestra.org</u>.

Symphony No. 5 offers the magnificent scoring and gorgeous melody for which Tchaikovsky is known, and is one of his most popular works. The second movement, in particular, is considered to be classic Tchaikovsky: well crafted, colorfully orchestrated, and with a memorable melody for solo horn.

The lead character of *Eugene Onegin* (pronounced Yev-GEH-nii ah-NYEH-gin – and inspired by Alexander Pushkin's novel) could be considered one of literature's original "bad boys" – the type who breaks a young girl's heart and later realizes she would have been the best thing in his life. Though Onegin straightforwardly tells Tatiana he is unsuited for a married life and unworthy of her love, he lives to regret that decision.

Born in a small village in southern Russia, Chernov has performed in *Eugene Onegin* with the Metropolitan Opera, Opera National du Paris, Teatro Villamarte, Jerez; Seattle Opera, and the Paris Opera.

He has sung more than 40 leading roles and has appeared at nearly every major international theater including the Metropolitan Opera, Covent Garden, La Scala, Teatro Colon, Paris Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, San Francisco Opera and Vienna State Opera, under many of today's great conductors such as Claudio Abbado, Valery Gergiev, James Levine and Seiji Ozawa. He is a professor of vocal studies at UCLA. Tenor Vladimir Dmitruk joined LA Opera in the 2013/14 season as a member of the Domingo-Colburn-Stein Young Artist Program. He made his Company debut as the First Armored Man in *The Magic Flute*, going on to perform Maintop in *Billy Budd* and Arturo in *Lucia di Lammermoor*. He won the CulturArte Prize at Placido Domingo's Operalia 2013 in Verona, Italy. A native of Minsk, Belarus, he won first place in the prestigious Irina Bogacheva International Voice Competition in St. Petersburg in 2011. Dmitruk sang with the Dream Orchestra in March of 2014 as a tenor soloist in Mozart's *Requiem*.

Soprano Golda Berkman, 17, of Beverly Hills continues to earn accolades, including first place in the international competition Golden Voices of the American Fine Arts Festival in 2015 and performed for a second time in one year at Carnegie Hall last December. Much in demand as a concert soloist, she made her debut with Maestro Suk and the Dream Orchestra at the Irvine Barclay Theatre in 2014. She became the youngest grand prize finalist in classical voice of The Los Angeles Music Center's Spotlight Awards in March 2015, and made her Carnegie Hall debut the same month.

The non-profit Dream Orchestra's mission is to promote and present exciting, passionate classical music, enrich the lives of community members and most importantly, inspire the next generation of young people to love classical music and become artists.

A select group of music students from Southern California, some as young as 14, have the unique opportunity to perform alongside professional musicians through the Dream Orchestra's Young Artists program. Not only are the students mentored by those professionals, they get to perform challenging classical music repertoire.

The Dream Orchestra's season continues on Friday, July 15, with the magical "Dream Concert under the Stars."

For more information, visit www.dreamorchestra.org.