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IWU Alumnus to Debut at The Met

November 17, 2010

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. - On Friday, Dec. 31, alumnus Kyle Pfortmiller '92 will make his debut performance at The Metropolitan Opera in New York. Pfortmiller will sing the role of Marquis d'Obigny in Verdi's *La Traviata* with world-renowned soprano Maria Poplavskaya and tenor Matthew Polenzani. The show will run from Friday, Dec. 31 to Saturday, Jan. 29. A live radio broadcast will take place on Saturday, Jan. 15 from 12:00-2:50 p.m. central standard time.

Pfortmiller will also perform the role of the servant in Strauss' *Capriccio* alongside Grammy award-winning soprano Renee Fleming, who will play the role of the Countess. The performance will debut on March 28, 2011 at The Met and will run until April 23, 2011. A live radio broadcast of the show will take place on Saturday, April 23 from 12:00-2:45 p.m. central standard time.

While at Illinois Wesleyan, Pfortmiller studied with Professor of Music Linda Farquharson and received a bachelor of music degree. He performed several roles in IWU productions, including Top in Aaron Copland's *The Tender Land*, a king in Gian Carlo Menotti's *Amahl and the Night Visitors* and the wolf in Cesar Cui's *Little Red Riding Hood*.

In 1990, Pfortmiller was the winner of Illinois Wesleyan's Concerto-Aria competition, in which he performed Figaro's *Largo ad Factorem*. His performance was so well received that the conductor, Associate Professor of Music Vadim Mazo, invited Pfortmiller on stage for an encore.

After graduating from IWU, Pfortmiller received a master of music degree from the Manhattan School of Music in 1994. He has held roles in a number of New York City Opera productions, including Georges Bizet's *Carmen*, Leonard Bernstein's *Candide* and Mozart's *Così fan tutte*. He has also played the role of Figaro in seven different productions of Gioachino Rossini's *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* with companies such as Florida Grand Opera and Tulsa Opera.

For more information on Pfortmiller's upcoming performances, visit The Met's website at <http://www.metoperafamily.org/metopera/>.

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