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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***THE PIATIGORSKY FOUNDATION FOCUSES ON
ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE AND PUBLIC OUTREACH***

***Thursday, November 12, 2009 at 7:00 PM
Rialto Theatre in Canton, Pennsylvania***

This concert is generously sponsored by Brett Scrafford of Troy

***The program will feature masterpieces performed by two outstanding Piatigorsky Foundation artists:
Raquela Sheeran, soprano and Jeffrey Grossman, piano***

For over 19 years, The Piatigorsky Foundation's commitment to artistic excellence and public outreach has fascinated many avid concert goers as well as curious first-timers. It is this combination of complimentary access, flamboyant performances, and human warmth that makes Piatigorsky Foundation concerts so appealing to diverse audiences. Last season, the Foundation presented a tour of 8 concerts in Pennsylvania reaching over 1,070 people in Oil City, Towanda and Media. Likewise, this year The Piatigorsky Foundation aims to reach hundreds of people across Pennsylvania to increase awareness and appreciation of classical music in communities throughout the state.

As an active performer of opera, recital and concert repertoire, North American born **soprano RAQUELA SHEERAN** has performed extensively throughout the United States and Europe. Ms. Sheeran has performed with Central City Opera, Chautauqua Opera, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Giessen Theater, Mannheim Theater, Chamber Opera Vienna, Graz Opera, Teatro Verdi in Sassari, Sardinia, Gran Teatre del Liceu in Barcelona, New Israeli Opera in Tel Aviv and with the Glyndebourne Opera Festival in England. She has been featured in concerts and recitals throughout Spain, Italy, Germany, Austria, Israel, and in the United States in North Carolina, Oklahoma, Maryland, Washington State, Washington D.C., New York, Pennsylvania, California, Louisiana, Texas, Rhode Island, Colorado, New Jersey, New Mexico and Florida. Ms. Sheeran was a winner of numerous national and international vocal competitions. A native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania of Moroccan-Israeli descent, she earned a Bachelor of Music Degree from the Esther Boyer College of Music at Temple University, a Master of Music Degree from the Manhattan School of Music in vocal performance, and completed her training as a young artist at The Juilliard School Opera Center.

JEFFREY GROSSMAN's extensive musical activities include continual performances as a pianist, harpsichordist, and conductor. Acclaimed for his musicality in every style, he was recently praised as a "sensitive and fluent accompanist" in *Fanfare* magazine. A native of Detroit, Michigan, he holds degrees in music from Harvard College and Carnegie Mellon University, and has studied at The Juilliard School. He is the founding harpsichordist of New York early music ensemble, Callisto Ascending. This year, Jeffrey will release his fifth recording, a solo disc on the Metier Records label. He currently resides in New York City and Boston. For more information, please visit his website at <http://www.jeffreygrossman.com>

About The Piatigorsky Foundation: Evan Drachman established The Piatigorsky Foundation in 1990 in honor of his grandfather Gregor Piatigorsky. Piatigorsky deeply believed in the healing and inspiration power of classical music. He once said, "*Music makes life better. Music is a necessity. It is rich. It is imaginative. It is magnificent. And it is for everyone.*" The Piatigorsky Foundation is committed to carrying on Piatigorsky's mission by evoking cultural curiosity through educational and accessible live performances.

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