

**RICHMOND HILL STUDENT TO MAKE HER DEBUT IN PUCCINI OPERAS  
AT OPENING WEEKEND OF SAVANNAH MUSIC FESTIVAL  
MARCH 20-22 2015**

**RICHMOND HILL, GA – March 12, 2015** On the opening weekend of the 2015 Savannah Music Festival, 16 year old soprano, Hanna Suddath from Richmond Hill, will play the role of a seven year old boy - Gherardino, in the Puccini comedy *Gianni Schicchi* and a nun in the tragedy *Suor Angelica*. The Savannah VOICE Festival (SVF) and Savannah Music Festival (SMF) are co-producing two short Puccini operas on the evening of Friday March 20<sup>th</sup> and afternoon of Sunday March 22<sup>nd</sup> 2015 at the Lucas Theatre for the Arts.

Suddath is a Teen VOICE alum and was encouraged to audition for production by her VOICE teacher Rebecca Flaherty. Hanna is a homeschooled sophomore with The American School and already a talented artist. Her mother Mary Suddath says “she was raised in our musical family and is an accomplished pianist sharing my piano which belonged to my mother and which we are lucky enough to have in our home. At the age of four she was pitch perfect when she began to sing at family reunions so we knew from that time that she had a great talent.”

Hanna is an alumnus of the Savannah Children’s Choir and was given the opportunity to attend the Teen VOICE Workshop with the Savannah Voice Festival back in August last year. She was also awarded a scholarship from the Savannah Friends of Music organization to attend a summer music camp at Charleston Southern University in June. During that time, she received awards for performance and for original compositions. Hanna was hired as an interim pianist for the summer at Spirit of Peace Lutheran Church in Richmond Hill. Her other interests include Taekwondo where she is a black belt, running, and reading.

Both one-hour operas will be performed together, allowing people to choose between Friday evening or Sunday afternoon. Maria Zouves, Executive Director of the Savannah VOICE Festival said “It’s one of those shows that is visually stunning with multimedia cinematography, filled with recognizable tunes and two very different and fast paced stories. We are very proud of Hanna and excited to see her performances next week”.

Tickets can be purchased online at [www.savannahmusicfestival.org](http://www.savannahmusicfestival.org), by phone at 912.525.5050 or in person at the Savannah Box Office at 216 E. Broughton Street. For more information, please visit [www.savannahvoicesfestival.org](http://www.savannahvoicesfestival.org), [www.voicexperiencefoundation.com](http://www.voicexperiencefoundation.com) or call 855.76.OPERA.

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**For media enquiries, interviews and tickets call Lesley Francis at - 912-429-3950  
- or email [lesley@francis.com](mailto:lesley@francis.com)**

**Editor's Note**

**Savannah VOICE Festival** is a non-profit arts organization that brings classical vocal excellence to the Savannah area through a two-week celebration of concerts, events and educational presentations during the month of August and throughout the year. Focusing on arts awareness and audience development in the performing arts, it offers music from opera, musical theatre and popular song,

**VOICEexperience Foundation** is an educational non-profit partner organization to the Festival, helping young artists pursue their careers in the performing arts. It provides crucial outreaches to the communities it serves and perpetuates excellence in the art of singing with its educational programs.

Both organizations were founded by opera legend Sherrill Milnes and soprano Maria Zouves. They work together to serve the community by providing the highest level of education and quality performances by talented artists for all to enjoy.