



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: December 5, 2011

Contact: Leslie Johnson, Director of Marketing & Special Projects
215-735-6770, Leslie@AstralArtists.org

**ASTRAL ARTISTS PRESENTS THE PHILADELPHIA RECITAL DEBUT
OF SOPRANO YULIA VAN DOREN**

Sunday, January 29, 2012 at 3:00pm

PHILADELPHIA, PA – Astral Artists presents the Philadelphia recital debut of soprano Yulia Van Doren on January 29, 2012 at 3:00pm at the Trinity Center for Urban Life (2212 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103). Ms. Van Doren is joined by renowned lutenist and Baroque guitarist Stephen Stubbs for a program of works ranging from Claudio Monteverdi to Benjamin Britten, including songs by Henry Purcell and Henry Lawes, as well as Mozart and Schubert Lieder accompanied by Baroque guitar. Mr. Stubbs also performs solo Spanish guitar works. Tickets are \$18 for General Admission, \$16 for Senior Citizens, and \$5 for Students under 30 with I.D., and can be purchased by calling 215-735-6999 or by visiting AstralArtists.org.

“A sensational new voice and personality, Yulia garnered fabulous critical reviews this summer for her performances in Handel’s *Orlando* at the Mostly Mozart, Ravinia, and Tanglewood festivals with the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra. Her upcoming recital on Astral’s concert series, in the intimacy of the Trinity Center for Urban Life, will be a performance to relish and enjoy. Yulia has great panache and an inimitable style, and we are thrilled to present her and her celebrated collaborator Stephen Stubbs,” says Vera Wilson, Astral’s Founder & President.

Ms. Van Doren is a winner of Astral Artists’ 2009 National Auditions, and is consistently singled out by critics for her “perfect Baroque voice” (*Seattle Times*). Her operatic debut as the title role in *L’Incoronazione di Poppea* with Stephen Stubbs and the Early Music Guild of Seattle received unanimous critical acclaim, with *OperaNow!* calling her “the Anna Netrebko of early music.” Recent career highlights include the role of Belinda in the Mark Morris Dance Group’s iconic production of Purcell’s *Dido and Aeneas*, Manto in the Boston Early Music Festival’s recent production of Steffani’s *Niobe*, and performances at the Macao International Music Festival and the Cartagena International Music Festival. Upcoming, she appears with Opéra de Nice, Opera Lafayette, the Brooklyn Academy of Music, Houston Symphony, Nashville Symphony, the Folger Consort, and the American Symphony Orchestra.

– more –

Born in Moscow and raised in the U.S., Ms. Van Doren is the only singer to win top prizes in all four North American Bach vocal competitions. Her discography includes several Grammy-nominated opera recordings with the Boston Early Music Festival and a disc of rare French Baroque music with ensemble La Donna Musicale. Her debut solo disc with the American Bach Soloists will be recorded this season.

“I absolutely love this program. It is quite an unusual assortment of repertoire: many gems from the Baroque period, both familiar and obscure; lilting art songs by Mozart and Schubert; a touch of Britten, and even a beloved folk song. It is an honor to make my Philadelphia recital debut accompanied by the extraordinary musicianship of Stephen Stubbs on both Baroque guitar and theorbo,” says Ms. Van Doren.

###

Founded in 1992, **Astral Artists** is a non-profit organization that plays a vital role in the discovery and development of the nation’s most gifted classical musicians. Selected from a nationwide pool of applicants at competitive annual auditions, Astral artists are provided with invaluable career development guidance; debuts in Philadelphia and New York City; numerous performance opportunities via Astral’s critically-acclaimed concert series; collaborations with world-renowned musicians; auditions for major presenters, managers, and conductors; and world premières of compositions written for them and commissioned by Astral – **all at no cost to the artist**. Astral reaches approximately 10,000 community members annually through concerts and extensive community engagement programming. Astral’s impressive list of graduates includes soprano Angela Meade, bass-baritone Eric Owens, pianist Simone Dinnerstein, and cellist Mark Kosower. Highlights of Astral’s 2011-2012 season include *Spiritual Voyages*, a three-concert musical celebration of African-, Asian-, and Latin-American cultures sponsored by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the *Philadelphia Brahms Festival* sponsored by the Leo Model Foundation and Jacobs Music, and the Philadelphia recital debuts of Astral pianist Alexandre Moutouzkine, violinist Kristin Lee, flutist Julietta Curenton, and soprano Yulia Van Doren. **For more information about Astral Artists, please call 215-735-6999 or visit AstralArtists.org.**

Note to Editors: A photograph of Ms. Van Doren is available upon request; please contact Leslie@AstralArtists.org.