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**Chicago's Newest Opera Company**  
**Rings in the New Year!**

**Chicago, IL** – Home to one of the most vibrant and eclectic opera scenes in the country, it is only fitting that Chicago should be the birthplace of OperaModa, a new company that focuses on featuring young Chicago singers in modern, accessible operas. Run by a team of three young, enterprising women, OperaModa was created specifically to give performance opportunities to Chicago opera talents making the difficult transition between school and a professional career. And it's coming to a New Year's celebration near you! OperaModa will be performing two 40-minute concerts on December 31, in Mather Gardens North Lounge, at 8pm and 9pm. Part of the First Night Evanston celebration, OperaModa will be giving new opera audiences an introduction to opera—with a few twists including snippets of famous operas, an introduction to voice types and aria formats and OperaModa's special brand of opera "improv."

OperaModa presents modern, entertaining works that follow a general rule: They stay under two and a half hours and are in English. And the public is responding. "We had a standing ovation at one of our latest outreach concerts" states OperaModa conductor Anna Binneweg. "Except that some of the audience members couldn't stand because they were laughing too hard. Our shows bring out the best in opera: the passion, the excitement, and above all, the humor. We always end our shows saying that it isn't over until the thin, totally hot chick sings."

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OperaModa is Chicago's newest opera company, founded and run by Chicago entrepreneurs Genevieve Thiers and Mary Lutz. It's inaugural 2004 season included Menotti's The Telephone, sung live on WNUR-FM radio June 6, and Kirke Mechem's Tartuffe, presented from October 15-17 at the Athenaeum Theater on Southport to great reviews! More information on this company and its exciting 2005 season can be found at [www.operamoda.com](http://www.operamoda.com).