



>>OPERA

The Picture of Dorian Gray

Wed., June 6, 8pm. \$39-\$98. Through June 12. Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, Broad and Spruce sts. 215.893.1999.
www.operatheater.org

Eight-year-old Center City Opera Theater (CCOT) is often out-sparkled by the older, larger-scale Opera Company of Philadelphia, whose production budget allows them to put bigger names (and motorcycles) onstage at the Academy of Music. But more popular operas such as *La Boheme* and *Carmen* often displace newer works at large houses, whereas the smaller size of the CCOT makes it possible to stage lesser-known works such as American composer Lowell Liebermann's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. CCOT will premiere the chamber orchestra setting of the opera in the Kimmel Center's Perelman Theater, affording Philly audiences a rare chance to see it. The libretto stays true to the two-act structure of Oscar Wilde's only novel, translating the literary themes into musical ones. The score descends from accessible consonance into dissonance to reflect the increasing ugliness of Dorian's picture as the wicked dandy himself (appropriately pretty tenor Jorge Garza) stays young and beautiful. The libretto is faithful to Wilde's voice, and his inveterately nasty sense of humor, making *Dorian* fun for the mind as well as the ear. (Emily Guendelsberger)



Wilde boys: Dorian (Jorge Garza, left) stands with his mentor Lord Henry (Raymond Ayers).