

# NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**DISCUSSION OF THE NEW OPERA *MARGARET GARNER*  
AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER  
*As part of the members only Constitution Culture Club series***

PHILADELPHIA, PA (January 26, 2006) – Members of the National Constitution Center will have the chance to discuss the new American opera *Margaret Garner* on Thursday, February 16 from 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. The opera, based on one of the most significant slave stories in pre- Civil War America, marks the debut collaboration of composer Richard Danielpour and Nobel Prize-winning author Toni Morrison, and stars renowned mezzo-soprano Denyce Graves in the title role. Admission is free, but the Culture Club is limited to National Constitution Center members only. Please call the membership line at 215.409.6767 to reserve your place.

*Margaret Garner*, presented by the Opera Company of Philadelphia, tells the story of a runaway slave, who tragically made the decision to sacrifice her own children when facing recapture rather than see them returned to slavery. Her trial became the subject of national debate, addressing issues of constitutional law and human rights. Participants are expected to see the opera prior to attending the Culture Club meeting. The National Constitution Center obtained a 10% discount for Garner Culture Club participants. Please contact The Opera Company at 215.732.8400 or visit [www.operaphilly.com](http://www.operaphilly.com) for more information.

The Culture Club is an exclusive offering for members of the National Constitution Center. The club meets monthly to discuss the current constitutional issues we encounter in our daily lives through the lens of new books, film, television, theater, and other cultural activities. Similar to a traditional book club, participants will be expected to have experienced the subject of the month before attending. Culture Club events are free of charge to National Constitution Center members.

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## ADD ONE/MARGARET GARNER CULTURE CLUB

Membership to the National Constitution Center is an easy way to become a part of history. Benefits include free admission for you or your family for one year, a 10% Museum shop discount, the *Signature* newsletter, members only discounts to National Constitution Center programs and membership to the Culture Club.

For more information about National Constitution Center Membership or to make a reservation for an upcoming event, please call the membership line at 215.409.6767 or contact by email at [membership@constitutioncenter.org](mailto:membership@constitutioncenter.org)

Located at 525 Arch Street on Philadelphia's historic Independence Mall, the National Constitution Center is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing public understanding of the U.S. Constitution and its relevance to Americans' daily lives. Opened on July 4, 2003, the museum dramatically tells the story of the Constitution from Revolutionary times to the present through more than 100 interactive, multimedia exhibits, film, photographs, text, sculpture and artifacts, and features a powerful, award-winning theatrical performance, "Freedom Rising".

The National Constitution Center also houses the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach, which serves as the hub for national constitutional education and debates, and as a home for visiting scholars. Also, serving as a nonpartisan forum for constitutional debate, the Center presents – without endorsement – programs that contain diverse viewpoints on a broad range of issues. For more information, call 215.409.6600 or visit [www.constitutioncenter.org](http://www.constitutioncenter.org).

*Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World*, a blockbuster exhibition celebrating Franklin's 300<sup>th</sup> birthday, makes its world premiere at the National Constitution Center from December 15, 2005, through April 30, 2006. Created by the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary, this exhibition is being hosted locally by CBS 3. Tickets for the exhibition, which also include regular museum admission, are \$14 for adults; \$12 for children ages 4-12, seniors, and college students; and \$8.50 for groups of 20 or more. For advance tickets, call 215.409.6700 or visit [www.constitutioncenter.org](http://www.constitutioncenter.org).

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