

Tomorrow night the curtain goes up on a dream.

The opening of the Metropolitan Opera's sixtieth visit, in the company's own gala centennial year.

A wonderfully special night for Cleveland, to be sure.

But the prologue to "Peter Grimes" will announce an even larger story, one that will be heard in every heart that has ever been gladdened by a great performance.

Tomorrow night will mark the beginning of the end for the largest theatre restoration project in the world.

It will signal to Cleveland and to America the opening of Playhouse Square Center.

Twelve years after the wrecking ball threatened to knock it all down, an extraordinary mobilization of public and private support restored it to life.

With the State hosting its first performance tomorrow night, the Ohio's intimate elegance already familiar to thousands, and the Palace's return next year to its historic splendor, you'll have 7,400 seats to the best entertainment the world has to offer.

Comedy, drama, music, dance...a potpourri of magical performances staged in a restored magnificence that would have been impossible to recreate.

Home to Cleveland Opera, Cleveland Ballet, the Great Lakes Shakespeare Festival and the Kenley Players. Host to shows like "Nicholas Nickleby," "A Child's Christmas in Wales," "Black Nativity." And to the forthcoming favorite, "The King and I."

To the halls that once heard Jack Benny and Fanny Brice, that rang with laughter and music and applause, you and your family will come again.



You made it happen with your money, your work and your faith. Thanks to you, tomorrow night is something really special.

Thanks to you all.

PLAYHOUSE SQUARE CENTER

