



NEWS RELEASE

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They're going FAST—Fort Worth Opera Starts *Hydrogen Jukebox* Ticket Sales... and Four Performances Are Already Sold Out!

Allen Ginsberg/Philip Glass Collaboration Receives Texas Premiere and
Continues Fort Worth Opera's Commitment to Chamber Works in Alternative Venues

FORT WORTH, TEXAS – Tickets will go on sale to the general public on Tuesday, March 22, at 10 a.m. for Fort Worth Opera's production of *Hydrogen Jukebox*, which will be a Texas premiere. This edgy, contemporary work by Beat poet **Allen Ginsberg** and pre-eminent American composer **Philip Glass** will be performed at the Sanders Theatre at the Fort Worth Community Arts Center. Since the theater holds only ninety-nine seats, the Opera has extended the show's run to nine performances, but Opening Night and three other performances are already sold out.

Hydrogen Jukebox is the latest "off-site" Fort Worth Opera production. To clarify recent reports, Fort Worth Opera leads North Texas in offering audiences the opportunity to see new or rarely-performed works in alternative venues. Perhaps most notable was the company's 2008 production of Peter Eötvös' *Angels in America* (based on the Tony Kushner play), which resulted in *More Life*, a community-wide collaboration amongst organizations in the performing and visual arts, children's education, medicine, and social services.

Hydrogen Jukebox is a portrait of a divided America spanning the 1950's through the 1980's, covering Ginsberg's views on the anti-war movement, the sexual revolution, drugs, eastern philosophy, and environmental awareness. Given the small theater and the topics portrayed, it promises to be an intimate, gritty theatrical experience. **(Contains adult subject matter; parental discretion advised.)**

About Hydrogen Jukebox

The phrase “hydrogen jukebox,” while curious sounding, had deep personal significance for poet Allen Ginsberg. For him, it summed up America’s sensory overload with its military industrial complex – a thought that propelled much of his writing. By the time *Hydrogen Jukebox* evolved in 1990, Ginsberg had witnessed and catalogued four decades of turmoil in America through his poetry. Together, Ginsberg and composer Philip Glass constructed this piece from his poems written from the end of World War II, through the thick of the Cold War, and until just before the Berlin Wall fell. Fundamentally, it is a living image of America’s difficult, often ugly, growing pains, and that picture is drawn by the words of someone who considered himself an outcast in his own country.

Cast and Creative Team

Conductor: **Steven R. Osgood***; Director/Choreographer: **Lawrence Edelson***; Production Designer: **Anya Klepikov***; Projections: **C. Andrew Bauer**; Lighting: **Lisa Miller**; Audio Designer: **Ra Byn Taylor**

Primary Cast: Soprano: **Rosa Betancourt****; Soprano: **Corrie Donovan***; Mezzo: **Amanda Robie***; Tenor: **Jonathan Blalock**; Baritone: **Dan Kempson***; Bass: **Justin Hopkins**

* denotes Fort Worth Debut season

** denotes member of Fort Worth Opera Studio

Tickets

Hydrogen Jukebox will be performed May 24, 25, 26, 28, 29, June 1, 2, 4, and 5, 2011. Tickets are \$60 and are general admission. Tickets can be purchased by phone or in person at Bass Performance Hall or at the Fort Worth Community Arts Center. For more information or tickets, visit www.fwopera.org or call 817.731.0726 or 1.877.396.7372.

About the 2011 Fort Worth Opera Festival

The 2011 Festival will run May 14 – June 5, 2011. The company’s three Bass Hall productions will be *The Mikado*, *Il Trovatore* and *Julius Caesar*. This year will mark both the company’s fifth annual festival and the first time the company has either produced a fully-staged Handel opera or a Philip Glass piece.

About Fort Worth Opera

Fort Worth Opera was founded in 1946 and is the oldest continually performing opera company in Texas, and one of the 14 oldest opera companies in the United States. In recent years, under the leadership of Darren Keith Woods, the company has gained national attention from critics and audiences alike for its artistic quality and willingness to take risks. In 2007, the company changed its fall/winter schedule to a condensed one-month long Festival in the spring. Darren Keith Woods, who began his operatic career in 1982 as a character tenor, joined Fort Worth Opera as general director in 2001.