



NEWS RELEASE

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Fort Worth Opera's Response To Better Business Bureau Of Fort Worth's "Accountability Standards"

FORT WORTH – Fort Worth Opera officials were displeased to read an article in the November 9, 2010, issue of *Star-Telegram*, in which Fort Worth Opera, along with many reputable area non-profit organizations, was listed as an organization that did not meet the standards of the Better Business Bureau of Fort Worth. During the past year, Fort Worth Opera has submitted information to the Better Business Bureau and has subsequently requested that inaccurate information contained in BBB reports be corrected.

On September 24, 2010, an employee of Fort Worth Opera sent the Better Business Bureau of Fort Worth an email asking to speak with "someone about correcting these [mistakes]" and requesting information how to update the current profile.

On September 27, 2010, Fort Worth Opera received the following response from Julie McMillin with the Better Business Bureau: "Sorry for the inconvenience. I have forwarded your email over to April Jones, our Charity Review Coordinator." Ms. Jones never contacted Fort Worth Opera.

Darren Woods, General Director of Fort Worth Opera said, "We think that the Better Business Bureau should review its own standards of reporting and accountability before judging other organizations." Woods went on to say, "We are a small non-profit that has been in business for 64 years. We work very hard to ensure that we are good stewards of the public's trust and our donors' investment in us. True, we don't spend the time and money to create fancy annual reports, but we freely provide the same information to anyone who requests it. We also diligently follow stringent financial standards, as well as all laws and regulations that govern non-profits."

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 completely 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. More information about Fort Worth Opera and the 2011 Festival season, including images, can be found at www.fwopera.org.

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