



NEWS RELEASE

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FORT WORTH OPERA ANNOUNCES 2011 FESTIVAL

FORT WORTH – Late last night, Fort Worth Opera announced it's 2011 Season via the company's Facebook page, where the company has over 3100 fans. According to the post, the operas for the 2011 Season will be **Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado*, Verdi's *Il Trovatore*, Handel's *Julius Caesar*, and *Hydrogen Jukebox***, a chamber opera based on the poetry of Allen Ginsberg by **Philip Glass**.

The 2011 Festival will run **May 14 – June 5, 2011**. *The Mikado*, *Il Trovatore* and *Julius Caesar* will be performed in **Bass Performance Hall**; *Hydrogen Jukebox* will be performed in the Hardy and Betty Sanders Theatre, a small venue located at the **Fort Worth Community Arts Center**. It will mark both the company's fifth annual festival and the first time the company has produced a fully-staged Handel opera or a Philip Glass piece.

More information about the Fort Worth Opera Festival, including press materials and photos (call 817.269.9795 for photo password), can be found on the website: www.fwopera.org.

ABOUT THE OPERAS:

***The Mikado*:** Music by Arthur Sullivan and libretto by W. S. Gilbert.

- May 14, 22, 27 and June 4, 2011
- Bass Performance Hall, Fort Worth
- In English

The Mikado, a comedy, contains some of the best-known and popular Gilbert and Sullivan tunes. The story centers around two young lovers struggling against the powers that be to become husband and wife. Fort Worth Opera's version will be true to the original, but with a fun twist of setting it in modern-day Japan.

Director: John de los Santos **Conductor:** Joe Illick **Primary Cast:** Jessica Cates as Yum-Yum; Meaghan Deiter as Katisha; Logan Rucker as Nanki-Poo; and Matthew Young as Mikado

- M O R E -

Il Trovatore: Music by Giuseppe Verdi and libretto by Salvatore Cammarano.

- May 21, 29 and June 3, 2011
- Bass Performance Hall, Fort Worth
- In Italian with projected English translations

Classic, larger-than-life, Verdi with traditional sets and costumes and contains the very popular “Anvil Chorus.” The story is a rich labyrinth of gypsy mothers, revenge, warring rivals (who are brothers, but don’t know it) and love.

Director: David Lefkovich **Conductor:** Joe Illick **Primary Cast:** Marjorie Owens as Leonora; Victoria Livengood as Azucena; Dongwon Shin as Manrico; and Malcolm MacKenzie as Count di Luna

Julius Caesar: Music by George Frideric Handel and libretto by Nicola Francesco Haym

- May 28 and June 5, 2011
- Bass Performance Hall, Fort Worth
- In Italian with projected English translations

Classic production, **except that the Fort Worth Opera production will feature three male counter-tenors** to sing the roles Handel originally wrote for castrati (castrated men). In modern, post-castrati times, these roles are typically sung by women. The story centers around the Egyptian-Roman war and the romance between Julius Caesar and Cleopatra.

Director: David Gately **Conductor:** Daniel Beckwith **Primary Cast:** Randall Scotting as Julius Caesar; Ava Pine as Cleopatra; Meredith Arwady as Cornelia; and Michael Maniaci as Sextus

Hydrogen Jukebox: Music by Philip Glass and poetry by Allen Ginsberg

- May 24, 25, 26, 28, 29, June 1, 2, 4 and 5, 2011
- Sanders Theatre, Fort Worth Community Arts Center
- In English

Described as a “**chamber opera for ensemble and soloists,**” **Hydrogen Jukebox is unlike any opera most people have seen.** Based on the work “Howl” by Beat poet Allen Ginsberg, this music/theater piece is a portrait of America that covers 1950’s through the 1980’s. Its content ranges from highly personal poems of Ginsberg to his reflection on social issues: the anti-war movement, the sexual revolution, drugs, eastern philosophy, and environmental awareness.

Director: Lawrence Edelson **Conductor:** Steven R. Osgood

TICKETS:

Ticket holders for the 2010 Season will get priority seating options for the 2011 Festival along with a special discount and can order **season tickets** beginning May 22, 2010 over the phone or in person at Bass Performance Hall. The general public can order season subscriptions, but will not be seated until after August 1, 2010. Season tickets range from \$29-\$327.

- M O R E -

Individual tickets for *The Mikado*, *Il Trovatore* and *Julius Caesar* go on sale September 1, 2010; special student and military pricing available. Tickets to *Hydrogen Jukebox* will be offered to season ticket holders on a first-come, first-served basis. Supply is very limited; individual tickets, if available, will be released for sale to the public in 2011.

For more information or tickets visit www.fwopera.org, or call 817.731.0726 or toll free 1.877.FWOPERA.

ABOUT FORT WORTH: Fort Worth boasts a unique mix of western culture, urban sophistication and fine art. The city is home to world-renowned art organizations such as the Kimbell Art Museum, the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, the Amon Carter Museum and the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition. On the other end of the spectrum, the city sponsors daily cattle drives through its “Stockyards” district, hosts equestrian and livestock events throughout the year, and is home to the Cowgirl Hall of Fame. Downtown Fort Worth is a lively spot for residents and tourists; activities include fine dining, shopping, nightclubs and the opera house, Bass Performance Hall.

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.

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Schedule of 2011 Festival Performances:

May 14	7:30 p.m.	<i>The Mikado</i>
May 21	7:30 p.m.	<i>Il Trovatore</i>
May 22	2:00 p.m.	<i>The Mikado</i>
May 24	7:30 p.m.	<i>Hydrogen Jukebox</i>
May 25	7:30 p.m.	<i>Hydrogen Jukebox</i>
May 26	7:30 p.m.	<i>Hydrogen Jukebox</i>
May 27	7:30 p.m.	<i>The Mikado</i>
May 28	2:00 p.m.	<i>Hydrogen Jukebox</i>
May 28	7:30 p.m.	<i>Julius Caesar</i>
May 29	2:00 p.m.	<i>Il Trovatore</i>
May 29	7:30 p.m.	<i>Hydrogen Jukebox</i>
June 1	7:30 p.m.	<i>Hydrogen Jukebox</i>
June 2	7:30 p.m.	<i>Hydrogen Jukebox</i>
June 3	7:30 p.m.	<i>Il Trovatore</i>
June 4	2:00 p.m.	<i>Hydrogen Jukebox</i>
June 4	7:30 p.m.	<i>The Mikado</i>
June 5	2:00 p.m.	<i>Julius Caesar</i>
June 5	7:30 p.m.	<i>Hydrogen Jukebox</i>