



PRESS RELEASE

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FORT WORTH OPERA DIRECTOR OF MARKETING & PR EARNS NATIONAL ACCREDITATION CREDENTIALS

FORT WORTH – Fort Worth Opera is pleased to announce that the organization's Director of Marketing & PR, Diane Rhodes Bergman, APR, has earned national accreditation in public relations (APR) from Public Relations Society of America (PRSA). The APR is considered the mark of distinction for those who demonstrate commitment to the public relations profession and its ethical practice.

“Fort Worth Opera is very happy for Diane on her newest personal and professional accomplishment,” said Darren K. Woods, general director of Fort Worth Opera. “We know the process was long and rigorous, and she deserves every bit of the title.”

To achieve this distinction, Bergman had to first pass an oral “readiness review” that included case studies from her experience and a rigorous interview by three accredited professionals. Bergman was then required to pass a comprehensive examination where she successfully demonstrated competency in the knowledge, skills and abilities required to practice public relations effectively in today's business arena.

Bergman has been the Director of Marketing & PR for Fort Worth Opera since 2000.

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About Fort Worth Opera

Fort Worth Opera was founded in 1946 by three women, Eloise Snyder, Betty Spain, and Jeanne Axtell Walker. It is the oldest, continually performing opera company in Texas and one of the 14 oldest opera companies in the United States. The company produces between three and four operas per Festival. The company revamped its mission and image in early 2003, which included stronger support for newer operatic works and eventually led to the company's conversion to a festival format. The inaugural Festival (2007) included the company's first mainstage world premiere, *Frau Margot* by Thomas Pasatieri. **Fort Worth Opera will be producing a second world premiere, *Before Night Falls* by Jorge Martín in May 2010.** Darren Keith Woods joined Fort Worth Opera as General Director in 2001. He began his operatic career in 1982 as a character tenor.

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