



## PRESS RELEASE

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# **NEA & OPERA AMERICA ANNOUNCE NATIONAL OPERA WEEK NOVEMBER 13 - 22, 2009**

– Fort Worth Opera to participate

FORT WORTH – Opera has become such a vital part of the American musical fabric that over 90 companies/organizations from New York to Los Angeles, from Alaska to Texas and many states in between (32 to be exact), will be participating in and celebrating the first ever **NATIONAL OPERA WEEK from November 13-22, 2009**. National Opera Week is organized by OPERA America, the national service organization for opera, with the support of the National Endowment for the Arts.

National Opera Week will be launched officially with the presentation of the 2009 NEA Opera Honors to Marilyn Horne, John Adams, Frank Corsaro, Lotfi Mansouri and Julius Rudel on November 14 at the Harman Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.

Participating opera companies will offer a range of **free** programs for the public that demonstrate the allure and excitement of this art form, which combines the best aspects of music and theater, and will be accessible to both opera lovers and newcomers.

**FORT WORTH OPERA** is participating by offering a **free** performance of the **children's opera, *The Three Little Pigs*** and a **singer's master class** that will be open to the public. *The Three Little Pigs* is

an adaptation, by John Davies, of the classic fairy tale. Performed in English, it uses music from the operas of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. It is designed to promote reading and problem solving skills. *The Three Little Pigs* will be performed on **Monday, November 9, 2009** at the **Rose Marine Theater** located at 1440 Main Street Fort Worth, TX 76164. The show begins at **7:00 pm**; seating is on a first come, first served basis.

The **master's class** will be held at the **University of North Texas** and conducted by Darren K. Woods, general director of Fort Worth Opera. The public is invited to come observe Woods working with students interested in pursuing careers in opera. Woods will discuss opera fundamentals, critique a few singers and answer questions about the opera business and the audition process. The **master's class** will be held on **Wednesday, November 19, 2009 at 4:30 pm** in the **Lyric Theater** located in the **Murchison Performing Arts Center on the University of North Texas** campus (415 Avenue C, Denton, TX 76201).

In New York City, other noteworthy events of National Opera Week include the fifth annual *Opera News* Awards on November 19; the November 22 annual Richard Tucker Music Foundation Gala, showcasing some of today's most promising young singers; the New York City Opera dedicating all performances from November 14-22 to National Opera Week, with special tributes to Julius Rudel and Frank Corsaro; and the Metropolitan Opera providing special free access to Met performances during National Opera Week available on Met Player, the company's new online streaming service.

#### **About Darren Keith Woods and 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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