



PRESS RELEASE

UPDATED ON:
September 1, 2009

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FORT WORTH OPERA'S 2010 FESTIVAL

FORT WORTH – On April 25, 2009, Fort Worth Opera announced its 2010 Season to a sold-out crowd for *Carmen*, coupled with a party celebrating the grand opening of the 2009 Festival. The **operas for the 2010 Festival season** will be **Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, Donizetti's *The Elixir of Love***, and the world premiere of ***Before Night Falls* by Cuban-American composer Jorge Martín**, based on the memoir of the same name by Cuban author Reinaldo Arenas.

The 2010 Festival will run **May 22 – June 6, 2010** and all three operas will be performed in **Bass Performance Hall**. It will mark both the company's fourth annual festival and the second main-stage world premiere since changing to the festival format in 2007, when the Fort Worth Opera produced the premiere of *Frau Margot* by Thomas Pasatieri.

Outside of the Festival, Fort Worth Opera will host public performances of Children's Opera Theatre productions usually performed in schools, *The Three Little Pigs* on March 15, 2010 and *The Billy Goats Gruff* on March 19, 2010, both at the Scott Theatre in Fort Worth. These productions will feature artists from the Fort Worth Opera Studio program, a training program for operatic artists beginning their careers. A previously announced, scaled-down version of *Hansel and Gretel*, scheduled for December 2009, was canceled due to economic concerns. According to Darren K. Woods, general director of Fort Worth Opera, "...we've decided to play it safe and put all of our finances into making sure that the 2010 Festival is well-funded and fantastic."

TICKETS: Ticket holders for the 2009 Season will get priority seating options for the 2010 Festival along with a special discount and can order their tickets right away. The general public can order season subscriptions, but will not be seated until after August 1, 2009. Season tickets range from \$33-\$394. Individual tickets go on sale September 1, 2009, and range from \$17-\$154 with special student and military pricing available. For more information or tickets visit www.fwopera.org, or call 817.731.0726 or toll free 1.877.FWOPERA.

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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.

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.

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Schedule of 2010 Festival Performances:

May 22	8 p.m.	<i>Don Giovanni</i>
May 23	2 p.m.	<i>The Elixir of Love</i>
May 28	8 p.m.	<i>The Elixir of Love</i>
May 29	8 p.m.	<i>Before Night Falls</i> world premiere
May 30	2 p.m.	<i>Don Giovanni</i>
June 4	8 p.m.	<i>Don Giovanni</i>
June 5	8 p.m.	<i>The Elixir of Love</i>
June 6	2 p.m.	<i>Before Night Falls</i>

Primary Casts:

***Don Giovanni* by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart:** Michael Todd Simpson as Don Giovanni, Tom Corbeil as Leporello, Susanna Phillips as Donna Anna; and Holli Harrison as Donna Elvira. Director: Richard Kagey. Conductor: Joe Illick.

***The Elixir of Love* by Gaetano Donizetti:** Ava Pine as Adina; Michael Fabiano as Nemorino; Christopher Bolduc as Belcore; and Rod Nelman as Dulcamara. Production by James Robinson. Director: Jennifer Nicoll. Conductor: Stewart Robertson

***Before Night Falls* by Jorge Martín:** Wes Mason as Reinaldo Arenas; Jesus Garcia as Ovidio; Seth Mease Carico as Victor; Janice Hall as Mother/The Sea; and Jonathan Blalock as Lazaro. Director: David Gately. Conductor: Joe Illick. **Libretto** by Jorge Martín with Dolores M. Koch.