



PRESS RELEASE

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FWOPERA ENDS FISCAL YEAR IN BLACK **Cancels upcoming family production to “play it safe” for next year**

Fort Worth – At its quarterly board of director’s meeting last night, Fort Worth Opera announced that it ended the 2008/09 fiscal year in the black. The exact amount is unknown, as the company received donations that have not yet been allocated. “We’re still working through the numbers because last minute donations were made and we still have pending expenses,” explained Fort Worth Opera Development Director Suzy Williams. “But I think it’s safe to say that we are at least \$25,000 in the black, maybe more.”

The company credits its financial position to careful budgeting and a successful 2009 Festival. “Sales surpassed goal, but most importantly, we have significantly raised the quality we bring to the stage over the past several years – and that has helped us gain local and national acclaim,” said Darren K. Woods, general director of Fort Worth Opera, referring in part to articles by classical music critic Scott Cantrell calling the Fort Worth Opera Festival one of the “country’s premier opera festivals.”

On a more sober note, Woods also announced that the company has decided to cancel the family-friendly production of *Hansel and Gretel*, originally scheduled for December, 2009. “We hate to do it, but 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,” said Woods. According to Woods, corporate and foundation funding often lags behind an economic recovery. “We’re just not sure how long it’s going to take for the economy to fully recover and donation levels to resume their prerecession levels. It’s a tough move, but it’s the financially responsible thing to do.”

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