



## NEWS RELEASE

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## FORT WORTH OPERA ANNOUNCES 2012 FESTIVAL SINGLE TICKETS NOW ON SALE

2012 Festival Offers Traditional Favorites *Tosca* and *The Marriage of Figaro* Opposite Regional Premieres of Mark Adamo's *Lysistrata* and Jake Heggie's *Three Decembers*

FORT WORTH, Texas – Fort Worth Opera (FWOpera) announces **single tickets for the 2012 Fort Worth Opera Festival are now on sale**. A highly anticipated date each year, September 1 marks the first day the general public can purchase tickets to the company's upcoming Festival productions. All performances of FWOpera's 2011 production of *Hydrogen Jukebox* sold out before the show even opened and the 2012 Festival features two regional premieres which are likely to sell out as well, so customers are strongly encouraged to act quickly to reserve the seats they want.

The 2012 Festival includes Puccini's passionate blockbuster ***Tosca*** and Mozart's effervescent romantic comedy ***The Marriage of Figaro***, plus two regional premieres—Mark Adamo's ***Lysistrata*** (based on the ancient Greek comedy) and Jake Heggie's ***Three Decembers*** (based on Terrence McNally's play *Some Christmas Letters*). Adamo and Heggie are two of America's most successful opera composers, and staging *Lysistrata* and *Three Decembers* in the same season reaffirms FWOpera's status as the Metroplex's foremost producer of contemporary opera. (FWOpera has staged two mainstage world premiere operas in the last five years, in addition to several regional premieres.) Both *Lysistrata* and *Three Decembers* met with critical and audience acclaim when they first debuted, and their North Texas premieres have been highly anticipated. FWOpera is extremely excited to welcome back Adamo and Heggie, both of whom have earned a dedicated following in the Metroplex due to the popularity of Adamo's *Little Women* (FWOpera, 2005) and Heggie's *Dead Man Walking* (FWOpera, 2009) and *Moby-Dick* (Dallas Opera, 2010).

The 2012 Festival (the sixth festival and the company's 66th season), runs **May 12 – June 3, 2012**. *Tosca*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, and *Lysistrata* will be performed in the world-renowned **Bass Performance Hall**. As part of Fort Worth Opera's ongoing dedication to performing in alternative venues, *Three Decembers* will play in the **Scott Theatre**, an intimate 500-seat venue at the Fort Worth Community Arts Center that is ideally suited to the chamber work and where the company performed *Angels in America* to great success in 2008.

Read below for more details on the 2012 Festival productions.

## **TOSCA**

Music by Giacomo Puccini and libretto by Luigi Illica and Giuseppe Giacosa

- May 12, 20m, 25, and June 2, 2012 (m=matinee)
- Bass Performance Hall, Fort Worth
- In Italian with projected English and Spanish translations

The season kicks off with *Tosca*, Puccini's blockbuster opera about the fiery diva who makes a dreadful bargain with the lecherous Baron Scarpia in order to save her beloved Cavaradossi. Fort Worth Opera welcomes back soprano **Carter Scott** (*Tosca*) and baritone **Michael Chioldi** (*Scarpia*), whose performances in Fort Worth Opera's *Tosca* in 2005 were burned into the city's memory. "The intensity they projected was almost frightening," raved Fort Worth's *Star-Telegram*. Tenor **Roger Honeywell** (*Carmen*, 2009) joins them as the passionate painter Cavaradossi. Music Director **Joe Illick** conducts, and **Daniel Pelzig** (*Turandot*, 2008) directs Fort Worth Opera's period production.

## **THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO**

Music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and libretto by Lorenzo da Ponte

\* denotes Fort Worth Opera Debut Season

- May 19, 27m, and June 1, 2012 (m=matinee)
- Bass Performance Hall, Fort Worth
- In Italian with projected English and Spanish translations

Considered revolutionary when it was written, Mozart's comedy *The Marriage of Figaro* is as fresh and relevant now as when it was premiered—and Fort Worth Opera has assembled a young cast packed with rising stars. Singing the title role is bass-baritone **Donovan Singletary** (*Julius Caesar*, 2011), who won both the 2010 George London Foundation Award and the Opera Guild of Fort Worth's 2010 McCammon Voice Competition's Audience Choice Award. Making their house debuts are soprano **Andrea Carroll**\* as Figaro's fiancée Susanna, 2010 McCammon winner and baritone **Jonathan Beyer**\* as Count Almaviva, soprano **Jan Cornelius**\* as the Countess, and mezzo-soprano **Wallis Giunta**\* as Cherubino. **Stewart Robertson** (*Elixir of Love*, 2010) returns to conduct, and **Eric Einhorn**\* makes his house debut directing the period production.

# LYSISTRATA

Music and libretto by Mark Adamo

+ denotes Fort Worth Opera Studio Member    ^ denotes Fort Worth Opera Studio Alumnus

- May 26 and June 3m, 2012 (m=matinee)
- Bass Performance Hall, Fort Worth
- In English with projected English translations
- **Regional premiere** (world premiere: Houston, 2005)

Acclaimed American composer **Mark Adamo**, whose opera *Little Women* has enjoyed over 75 productions worldwide (including in Fort Worth), has created in *Lysistrata* an opera that is “at once provocative, hilarious, bawdy and tender” (*Houston Chronicle*). Based on Aristophanes’ work, this “fantastical riff on the ancient Greek play” (*The New York Times*) satirizes humanity’s endless legacy of war, not only war between nations but also between the sexes. The opera expands on the original premise (a group of Athenian and Spartan women are tired of the constant warring between their cities, so they band together and refuse to have sex with their men until peace is declared), but despite the comic backdrop, it is also a “a sumptuous love story, poised between comedy and heartbreak” (*New Yorker*).

Metroplex favorite and Texas native, soprano **Ava Pine** (*Julius Caesar*, 2011) takes on the title role, and her lover Nico, an Athenian soldier, is sung by tenor **Scott Scully** (*Angels in America*, 2008). Mezzo-soprano **Meaghan Dieter**\* (*The Mikado*, 2011) is Kleonike, the leader of the Athenian women, while her Spartan counterpart, Lampito, is sung by mezzo-soprano **Alissa Anderson**^ (*Cinderella*, 2009). Lampito’s husband Leonidas is the Spartan general, sung by bass-baritone **Seth Mease Carico**^ (*Before Night Falls*, 2010). The Athenian couple Myrrhine and Kinesias are sung by soprano **Ashley Kerr**^ (*Don Giovanni*, 2010) and baritone **Michael Mayes** (*Dead Man Walking*, 2009).

Music Director **Joe Illick** conducts, with direction by **David Gately**, who is well-known to FWOpera audiences for directing Adamo’s *Little Women* in 2005 and many operas since then (*Julius Caesar*, 2011; *Before Night Falls*, 2010; *Cinderella*, 2009; *Angels in America* and *Lucia di Lammermoor*, 2008; among others).

# THREE DECEMBERS

Music by Jake Heggie and libretto by Gene Scheer

\* denotes Fort Worth Debut Season

- May 13m, 18, 20, 26m, 31, and June 2m, 2012 (m=matinee)
- Scott Theatre, Fort Worth Community Arts Center
- In English
- **Regional premiere** (world premiere: Houston, 2008, under original title *Last Acts*)

Renowned American composer **Jake Heggie**, whose opera *Dead Man Walking* has dominated the worldwide opera scene (including in Fort Worth), chronicles three decades in the lives of a Broadway diva and her adult children in his second opera, *Three Decembers*. Unfolding through Christmas letters, phone calls, and family visits, the story captures their heartbreaking and inspiring struggle to love each other despite conflict and disappointments. Called “a modern masterpiece” (*Opera Today*) and “sharp and witty and poignant” (*Chicago Tribune*), the chamber opera is based on the play *Some Christmas*

*Letters* by Broadway's Terrence McNally (*Dead Man Walking* librettist), with a libretto by writer **Gene Scheer\*** (librettist for Heggie's opera *Moby-Dick*).

Soprano **Janice Hall** (*Before Night Falls*, 2010) returns to Fort Worth to sing the mother Madeline. No stranger to contemporary opera, Hall's performance in FWOpera's 2008 *Angels in America* was hailed as "nothing less than magnificent" (*Opera News*). Soprano **Emily Pulley\*** and baritone **Matthew Worth\*** make their house debuts reprising their roles as daughter Bea and son Charlie (sung at Chicago Opera Theatre and Central City Opera, respectively).

**Christopher Larkin** (*Angels in America*, 2008) conducts. Director **Candace Evans\*** makes her FWOpera debut at the helm of a new production with sets by **Bob Lavalee\***, costumes by **Rondi Hillstrom Davis\***, and lighting by **Lisa Miller** (*Hydrogen Jukebox*, 2011).

### Schedule of 2012 Festival Performances

Saturday, May 12	7:30 p.m.	<i>Tosca</i>	Bass Hall
Sunday, May 13	2:00 p.m.	<i>Three Decembers</i>	Scott Theatre
Friday, May 18	7:30 p.m.	<i>Three Decembers</i>	Scott Theatre
Saturday, May 19	7:30 p.m.	<i>The Marriage of Figaro</i>	Bass Hall
Sunday, May 20	2:00 p.m.	<i>Tosca</i>	Bass Hall
Sunday, May 20	7:30 p.m.	<i>Three Decembers</i>	Scott Theatre
Friday, May 25	7:30 p.m.	<i>Tosca</i>	Bass Hall
Saturday, May 26	2:00 p.m.	<i>Three Decembers</i>	Scott Theatre
Saturday, May 26	7:30 p.m.	<i>Lysistrata</i>	Bass Hall
Sunday, May 27	2:00 p.m.	<i>The Marriage of Figaro</i>	Bass Hall
Thursday, May 31	7:30 p.m.	<i>Three Decembers</i>	Scott Theatre
Friday, June 1	7:30 p.m.	<i>The Marriage of Figaro</i>	Bass Hall
Saturday, June 2	2:00 p.m.	<i>Three Decembers</i>	Scott Theatre
Saturday, June 2	7:30 p.m.	<i>Tosca</i>	Bass Hall
Sunday, June 3	2:00 p.m.	<i>Lysistrata</i>	Bass Hall

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**TICKETS:** Tickets can be purchased online, by phone, or in person at the Fort Worth Opera Box Office inside the Fort Worth Community Arts Center at 1300 Gendy St., Fort Worth, Texas, 76107. Season subscriptions range from \$70 to \$455 while single tickets range from \$15 to \$180. For more information or tickets, visit [www.fwopera.org](http://www.fwopera.org) or call 817.731.0726 or toll-free at 1.877.396.7372. To buy tickets online, go to [www.fwopera.org](http://www.fwopera.org).

**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. Under the leadership of General Director Darren Keith Woods since 2001, the company has gained national attention from critics and audiences alike for its artistic quality and willingness to take risks. Known throughout the operatic world as a champion of new and rarely-performed works, the company has taken a leadership role in producing contemporary operas. In 2007, when the company changed its fall/winter schedule to a condensed one-month long Festival in the spring, FWOpera staged its first world premiere, *Frau Margot*; and followed up the next season with *Angels in America* (which resulted in "More Life: the Art and Science of AIDS", a community-wide collaboration amongst organizations in the performing and visual arts, children's education, medicine, and social services), *Dead Man Walking* in 2009, the world premiere of *Before Night Falls* in 2010, and *Hydrogen Jukebox* in 2011. The company's CD recordings of *Frau Margot* and *Before Night Falls* are available on the Albany label.

**ABOUT FORT WORTH:** Fort Worth boasts a unique mix of western culture, urban sophistication, and fine art. The city is home to world-renowned arts 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; attractions include fine dining, shopping, nightclubs, and the opera house, Bass Performance Hall.