



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Diane Rhodes Bergman
Fort Worth Opera
diane@fwopera.org
817.269.9795

WOODS CONTRACT EXTENDED - AGAIN

FORT WORTH – The Fort Worth Opera Board of Directors voted on Monday to extend the contract of General Director Darren K. Woods until June 30, 2016. This is the second year in a row that the board voted to extend his contract.

According to Board President Kristen Lindsay, "Darren and his outstanding staff have brought extraordinarily fresh and innovative changes to Fort Worth Opera, which have provided us with a younger, more vibrant and diverse audience while maintaining our devoted and much-loved patrons. We are thrilled he has chosen to lengthen his stay in Fort Worth."

Woods expressed surprise at the extension and credited Fort Worth Opera staff, crew, chorus and the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra for the company's successes in recent years. "I think the community is excited that every year, a huge group of people comes together to pull off a great feat of magic, which is the Fort Worth Opera Festival. I am thrilled that the board wants me a part of it for a good long time."

While not cited as a reason for the extension, the board also announced an unaudited budget surplus of \$23,181 for the 2009/2010 fiscal year. While company officials admitted that the economy has negatively impacted the company, they credit individual donor support combined with cost saving measures as the reason for the surplus.

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.

#