



PRESS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE ON:
April 29, 2008

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FORT WORTH OPERA GEARING UP FOR SECOND ANNUAL FESTIVAL

FORT WORTH – Rehearsals for the second annual Fort Worth Opera Festival are underway as the company prepares for the opening of *Angels in America* on May 16, and the grand opening of the Festival on May 24, 2008, which coincides with the opening of *Turandot*. The grand opening will feature in-lobby entertainment for all guests and a formal dinner, for an extra charge, on the mezzanine level of Bass Performance Hall, where *Turandot* will be performed.

The 2008 Festival will run May 16 – June 8, 2008, and will include ancillary events along with opera performances. **The operas for the 2008 Festival** are: Puccini's *Turandot*, Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Carlisle Floyd's *Of Mice and Men*, which will all be staged at Bass Performance Hall in downtown Fort Worth. The fourth opera will be a new production of *Angels in America* by Peter Eötvös, based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning play by Tony Kushner, at the Scott Theatre in the Fort Worth arts district. *Angels in America* is produced in conjunction with More Life: The Art & Science of AIDS.

Ancillary events include a Marilyn Horne Recital featuring soprano Isabel Leonard on May 31, 2008, at the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth and a screening of the HBO mini-series *Angels in America* on May 3, 2008, produced in conjunction with QCinema and the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth. Fort Worth Opera will also co-produce a benefit production of the stranded Chinese acrobat troupe, the Guanhua Acrobats, who came from Shanghai to Dallas expecting a national tour and instead found themselves with no tour, money, food or shelter. Fort Worth Opera has also contracted the troupe to perform in *Turandot*, which will add a new dimension to that opera.

ABOUT MORE LIFE: More Life: The Art & Science of AIDS, a community wide effort designed to bring more attention and focus on the current U.S. AIDS epidemic, will be held May 10 – June 7, 2008, and will feature

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multiple performing and visual arts, as well as educational opportunities from AIDS service organizations. More information about the More Life Festival can be found at www.morelifetexas.com.

ABOUT FORT WORTH: Fort Worth boasts an unusual 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 a world-renowned 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. The 2007 season marked a major transformation of the company as it transitioned from producing one opera at a time during the fall/winter to producing a month long spring Festival. The 2007 Season also featured the company's first major world premiere, *Frau Margot* by composer Thomas Pasatieri. 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, including fact sheets on each opera and press photos (call 817.269.9795 for password), can be found on the website: www.fwopera.org.

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Schedule of 2008 Performances:

May 16	8pm	<i>Angels in America</i>
May 18	2pm	<i>Angels in America</i>
May 23	10am	FWOpera Guild McCammon Competition semi-finals
May 24	1pm	FWOpera Guild McCammon Competition finals
May 24	2pm	<i>Angels in America</i>
May 24	6pm	Grand Opening Dinner & Festivities at Bass Hall
May 24	8pm	<i>Turandot</i>
May 25	2pm	<i>Lucia di Lammermoor</i>
May 27	7pm	Guanhua Acrobats benefit performance
May 28	8pm	<i>Angels in America</i>
May 30	8pm	<i>Lucia di Lammermoor</i>
May 31	1pm	Marilyn Horne Recital featuring Isabel Leonard
May 31	2pm	<i>Angels in America</i>
May 31	8pm	<i>Of Mice & Men</i>
June 1	2pm	<i>Turandot</i>
June 4	8pm	<i>Angels in America</i>
June 6	8pm	<i>Turandot</i>
June 7	2pm	<i>Angels in America</i>
June 7	8pm	<i>Lucia di Lammermoor</i>
June 8	2pm	<i>Of Mice & Men</i>