

**CONTACT:**

Holland Sanders, Director of Marketing and Communications
817.288.1228; holland@fwopera.org
Christina Allen, Marketing and Communications Manager
817.288.1218; christina@fwopera.org

NEWS RELEASE
March 13, 2015

FWOpera brings the Festival Experience to Life with a line-up of Festival Events

*Opera steps off the stage of Bass Hall to bring audiences an
immersive experience with a well-cultivated series of events*

FORT WORTH, TX – Fort Worth Opera (FWOpera) will kick off its 2015 Festival in just a few weeks, and as the stars begin arriving and rehearsals get underway, the organization has a full line-up of events to engage audiences in the magic of opera outside of the traditional performance environment.

April—May FWOpera Festival Events:

04/07/2015

Dinner with the Stars | *La Traviata* – sponsored by Bank of Texas

6:30 pm – 9:00 pm

The City Club

A perennial favorite, *Dinner with the Stars* brings guests and artists together for an evening of cocktails, great food, and wonderful music. Sponsored by Bank of Texas, this *Dinner with the Stars* will feature principal cast members from Verdi's timeless love story *La Traviata*, along with conductor Joe Illick. Patrons will get to know the opera's story and will enjoy performances of arias and duets from stars Rachelle Durkin, Patrick O'Halloran, and Nicholas Pallesen, as well as the FWOpera Studio Artists. Tickets for this event are \$75, and can be purchased by contacting events@fwopera.org or by calling 817.288.1212.

04/18/2015

FWOpera Festival Open House

Bass Performance Hall

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm.

Ring in the start of the 2015 FWOpera Festival and celebrating the announcement of the 2016 Festival lineup, FWOpera invites the community to join in the company's first-ever Open House at Bass Performance Hall. Themed "A Night at the Theater," this free family-friendly event will introduce guests to the art of opera through a fun list of casual activities. Attendees can learn about opera in a special "Opera Basics" presentation before enjoying a tour of Bass Hall's audience chamber and lobby; listen as local Fort Worth DJ and composer James Talambas of New Media Recordings blends the sounds of opera and popular music in the Bass Hall Lobby throughout the evening; enjoy live performances from FWOpera Festival Stars singing highlights from this year's productions; take part in an Instagram Scavenger Hunt for a chance to win tickets to the opening night performance of Verdi's *La Traviata*; and more. This event is free and open to the public.

04/25/2015

Opening Night Dinner | *La Traviata* – sponsored by Wells Fargo Bank

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Bass Performance Hall

One of the most highly-anticipated events of the season, this year's Grand Opening Night Dinner will usher in the 2015 Festival and celebrate the first performance of Giuseppe Verdi's timeless love story *La Traviata*. Sponsored by Wells Fargo Bank, guests will enjoy an exclusive cocktail reception and dinner catered by the City Club on the breathtaking Bass Hall Mezzanine Lobby level before attending the evening's performance. Tickets to this popular event are \$150 per person and can be purchased by contacting events@fwopera.org or by calling 817.288.1212.

05/02/2015

Opening Night Dinner | *Hamlet* – sponsored by Frost Bank

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

GRACE

FWOpera fans are invited to celebrate the opening night of Ambroise Thomas' riveting retelling of Shakespeare's iconic *Hamlet* with a chic dinner at GRACE in downtown Fort Worth sponsored by Frost Bank. Guests can enjoy cocktails and a specially crafted tasting menu while rubbing elbows with Festival artists before enjoying a savory seated dinner. Tickets to the event are \$150 per person and can be purchased by contacting events@fwopera.org or by calling 817.288.1212.

05/03/2015

After Show Lounge Opera Shots at *The Flying Saucer*

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

The singing won't stop when the curtain closes on FWOpera's Sunday matinee performance of *La Traviata*. For the first time ever, we're moving our popular After Show Lounge across the street to The Flying Saucer for a special post-show Opera Shots pop-up concert. Guests can enjoy dinner and drinks while FWOpera's Studio Artists, Festival choristers, and stars of the 2015 Fort Worth Opera Festival serenade the crowd with famous opera arias and duets on the pub's breezy outdoor patio. Opera Shots is open to the public and free to attend. For more information, visit www.fwopera.org/operashots.

ABOUT THE FORT WORTH OPERA FESTIVAL EXPERIENCE: In addition to its three weeks of unparalleled opera, the annual Fort Worth Opera Festival invites guest into an immersive experience complete with Backstage Tours, Pre-show Previews, and the one-of-a-kind After Show Lounge.

- **Backstage Tours**— Come stand on the stage of Bass Hall! Our behind-the-scene tours give you a new perspective of opera and Bass Hall by focusing on the backstage area and set. You'll see how we change the set and learn all kinds of interesting things about opera and singers. There is no charge to attend. Tours begin 90 minutes before the performance and are offered for each opera's second and remaining performances. Space is available on a first-come first-served basis - the tour group forms in the West Portal of the Bass Hall - and is limited to the first 30 people who arrive.
- **Pre-show Preview**— You don't have to know anything about opera to enjoy it, but some entertaining background information is bound to spice up your opera experience. Since these previews are optional, we've made sure they're interesting, fun, and best of all, FREE! Whether you are a novice or an old hand, you will immensely enjoy our pre-show previews. The opera previews are a delightful and entertaining dose of education. You'll learn the story of the opera, the juicy tales surrounding it, and get a sampling of the music. They are held on the Mezzanine Lobby of Bass Performance Hall beginning one hour before every performance and lasting 30-40 minutes.
- **After Show Lounge**— Mix and mingle with the casts of the 2014 FWOpera Festival productions during our one-of-a-kind After Show Lounge. Held on the on the Mezzanine Level of Bass Hall after all performances, you can enjoy a your favorite cocktail while meeting the artists from the show and chat with fellow opera lovers. Complimentary to ticket holders

Fort Worth Opera is sponsored in part by awards from **The Arts Council of Fort Worth & Tarrant County, The City of Fort Worth, The National Endowment for the Arts**, and the **Texas Commission on the Arts**. Additional Fort Worth Opera sponsors include: **American Airlines; Art & Seek; Crystelle Waggoner Charitable Trust, Bank of America, Trustee; The Pangburn Foundation, J.P. Morgan Chase, Trustee; *Star-Telegram***; and **WFAA Channel 8**.

#####