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PRESS RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE

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FORT WORTH OPERA PROUDLY ANNOUNCES DECEMBER PERFORMANCE OF GIAN CARLO MENOTTI'S FAMILY-FRIENDLY HOLIDAY OPERA *AM AHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS*, A COLLABORATION WITH RIDGLEA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FORT WORTH, TX – For the first time in a decade, Fort Worth Opera (FWOpera) will present Gian Carlo Menotti's Christmas opera *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. A collaboration with Ridglea Presbyterian Church, this 45-minute, one-act family opera is part of FWOpera's renewed commitment to fostering collaborative partnerships and bringing opera out into the community. *Amahl* stars 11-year-old Ethan Prickett as the young shepherd boy Amahl, Bronwyn White as his mother, and John Sauvey, Music Director of Ridglea Presbyterian Church, directs.

"We are delighted to partner with Ridglea Presbyterian Church this holiday season to present Menotti's timeless classic, *Amahl and the Night Visitors*," says FWOpera General Director Tuomas Hiltunen. "As we look to expand our programming, we hope to make opera accessible for everyone in Fort Worth. Not only will *Amahl* provide our FWOpera | TCU Lesley Apprentice Artists with an invaluable training opportunity, but through this touching production, we will introduce new audiences to opera and present an unforgettable theatrical experience for the entire family."

The opera tells the story of a disabled shepherd boy named Amahl, who along with his devoted mother, encounter three wise men on a journey to visit the holy infant. Since it first premiered on network television over six decades ago, *Amahl and the Night Visitors* has become one of the most frequently produced operas in the world and a perennial favorite. Like *Amahl*, audiences are reminded that compassion and a generous spirit can truly work miracles. With its glorious music and inspiring message of forgiveness and redemption, this Christmas classic is a perfect holiday treat for the child in all of us.

Amahl and the Night Visitors

Music and libretto by Gian Carlo Menotti

December 10, 2018 | 3 PM | Ridglea Presbyterian Church
6201 Camp Bowie Blvd. | Fort Worth, TX 76116

IN ENGLISH WITH NO SUBTITLES

TICKETS: The Sunday, December 10 performance of *Amahl and the Night Visitors* is FREE for the public. Seating is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. A free-will offering will be accepted. For more information, please call 817.731.0726, toll-free at 1.877.396.7372 or visit www.fwopera.org.

ABOUT FORT WORTH OPERA: Founded in 1946, Fort Worth Opera is the oldest continually performing opera company in Texas, and one of the 14 oldest opera companies in the United States. The organization has received national attention from critics and audiences alike for its artistic excellence.

FWOpera has taken a leadership role in engaging audiences beyond the operatic stage, while producing cutting-edge, contemporary operas. Beginning in 2017, FWOpera launched the second phase of its landmark, 10-year *Opera of the Americas* initiative with *Noches de Ópera (Nights of Opera)*, a groundbreaking campaign which introduces powerful operas, each reflecting the diverse cultures of new American audiences.

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