



NEWS RELEASE

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Fort Worth Opera Expands Favorite Programs to Funky New Cowtown Venues.

*North Texas music lovers can enjoy their first round of Opera Shots in 2015
as well as a behind the scenes look at the Frontiers showcase.*

Fort Worth, Texas – Fort Worth Opera (FWOpera) is kicking off the New Year with the return of two of its most popular event-style programs, **Opera Shots** and **Opera Overture**. Expanding its reach in the Fort Worth community at two new-to-FWOpera venues, Opera Shots will give opera newcomers a taste of great classical singing at the celebrated **Rahr & Sons Brewing Company**, while Opera Overture: *Frontiers* will introduce guests to three of the youngest composers ever selected for the company's renowned new works series in a special evening at **Four Day Weekend**.

February Events:

02/11/2015

Opera Shots

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Rahr & Sons Brewing Company (701 Galveston Avenue, Fort Worth, TX 76104)

FWOpera's Opera Shots returns for the first time in 2015 for a night of stout singing at Fort Worth's own Rahr & Sons Brewing Company. Guests can relax and enjoy arias and duets performed by FWOpera's talented Studio Artists and members of the Festival chorus while indulging in up to three pints of Rahr's award-winning craft beers in specially-designed, limited-supply FWOpera souvenir pint glasses. Tours of the brewery along with food from a lineup of tasty food trucks will also be available throughout the night. **This event is family friendly; however there is a \$10 admission charge for guests over the age of 18 and a valid ID is required. For more information visit www.fwopera.org/operashots.**

02/24/2015

Opera Overture: *Frontiers*

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Four Day Weekend (312 Houston Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102)

Experience the process of creating brand new operatic works in a riveting evening of discussion featuring three of the youngest composers ever selected for FWOpera's annual *Frontiers* showcase, **Zachary Redler**, **Charles Halka**, and **Jorge Sosa**. Moderated by FWOpera General Director **Darren K. Woods**, this insightful event will pull back the curtain on the company's critically acclaimed new works program *Frontiers*, exploring how young composers get their

start and the methods by which they go about creating their works. The event will also feature music from each of the selected composers – performed by members of the Fort Worth Opera Studio – giving audience members an exclusive preview of their musical styles before their operas are highlighted during this Festival's *Frontiers* workshops. **Tickets start at \$35, and include a cocktail reception prior to the program. Tickets can be purchased at www.fwopera.org/overture, or RSVP's can be made to Barbara Acuña-Taylor at 817.288.1214 or barbara@fwopera.org.**

ABOUT OPERA SHOTS: Opera Shots, FWOpera's informal pop-up style concert series, has gained a following among "in-the-know" entertainment seekers throughout the metroplex as a must-see evening of unconventional entertainment. Attracting crowds of hundreds of fans eager to experience classical music in this unique way, Opera Shots brushes off the stereotypes of the operatic genre with captivating free events in local area bars. Through recognizable arias, duets, and well-know musical theater pieces performed by FWOpera's talented Studio Artists and members of the FWOpera Festival chorus, Opera Shots proves that opera is accessible and fun by engaging audiences in the comfortable social environments.

ABOUT FRONTIERS: FWOpera's annual new works showcase *Frontiers* is one of the only programs world-wide designed to seek out unproduced works by up-and-coming composers from North, South, and Central America. The showcase provides composers and librettists a platform by which to gain exposure for their pieces in a live performance environment while also affording them valuable networking opportunities with industry professionals including artistic directors of opera companies, artist managers, classical music publishers, funding organizations, and conductors. Called "one of the most important classical music events of the year," (*D Magazine*) the program specifically seeks out works for future production in FWOpera's popular alternative venue series *Opera Unbound*, which presents new or rarely-performed works by contemporary composers. Composer and librettist teams are selected by a panel of esteemed industry professionals through a blind submission process, and are subsequently invited to FWOpera's annual spring Festival for a workshop of their piece. While in residence, the creative teams attend the *Frontiers* showcases, participate in the final, open-to-the-public rehearsals of their work, and engage in post-performance feedback sessions with the panelists. Selected composers and librettists will also receive feedback on their piece through private meetings with the *Frontiers* jury panel and will have a recording of their work provided to assist them further in their compositional process.

ABOUT FORT WORTH OPERA'S 2015 SEASON: The company's upcoming 2015 season (April 24 – May 10, 2015), part of Phase One of its recently announced ten-year artistic vision ***Opera of the Americas*** — funded in part by support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation — includes the regional premiere of David T. Little and Royce Vavrek's critically acclaimed ***Dog Days***, based on the Judy Budnitz short story of the same title. Reinforcing its leadership role in contemporary opera, the 2015 Festival includes the third season of its annual new works program, ***Frontiers***, showcasing new works by composers from the Americas. The company will also feature fresh productions of Verdi's timeless tale of love and sacrifice ***La Traviata***, and Ambroise Thomas' soaring grand operatic masterwork ***Hamlet***.

Established in 2002, the Fort Worth Opera Studio is a year-round training program for emerging young artists who are cast from annual national auditions. In addition to receiving professional training while in Fort Worth, the singers also perform in the Children's Opera Theatre, the company's educational program that tours fully costumed, portable operas to elementary schools. COT performances span the whole state of Texas and reach as many as 50,000 children a year, many of whom have no other access to arts education. Since 2007, attendance of Festival performances by out-of-town audiences has grown almost 5%. The local economy has also benefitted, with over 1,900 hotel rooms booked for the 2012 Festival alone. The company has balanced its budget for the eighth consecutive year.

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