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**NEWS RELEASE
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Fort Worth Opera Names New Managing Director

FWOpera's Hannah Guinn promoted to high-level role.

FORT WORTH, TEXAS – Fort Worth Opera (FWOpera) is pleased to announce the recent promotion of Hannah Guinn to the role of Managing Director for the company. Guinn takes over for Keith A. Wolfe who left the company following 12 years in the role to become the General Director of Opera Birmingham.

“Over the past few years, Hannah has taken a greater lead in securing funding sources for the education department, going on development calls, and writing grants to enhance the resources for programming,” said Fort Worth Opera’s General Director Darren K. Woods. “She has continually shown great leadership and has the respect of the entire staff. It was easy to see that promoting her to Managing Director was the best thing we could do for Fort Worth Opera.”

As Managing Director, Guinn oversees all of Fort Worth Opera’s individual departments ensuring they are operating properly and with ease. Guinn will continue to direct the opera’s young artist program, the Fort Worth Opera Studio, manage the overall education programs with additional help from staff, and help guide the development department. The goal of the Managing Director is to make sure all departments are adhering to the company’s vision and to equip staff with necessary resources to carry out the mission of FWOpera.

“I am flattered beyond words that Darren believes I’m ready for the opportunity to be the Managing Director,” said Guinn. “I love Fort Worth Opera. The staff, artists, and community surrounding the company make it an absolute pleasure to come to work every day, and I consider myself privileged to be here.”

ABOUT HANNAH GUINN: Born in Pittsburgh and raised in Crowley, Texas, Guinn graduated from TCU and earned a Masters of Music in Musicology with a focus in opera.

In 2004, Guinn became the Van Cliburn Foundation's Production Manager and also served in the role as Competition Coordinator in 2005. Guinn joined the Fort Worth Opera staff in 2008 as Company Manager. Guinn quickly took on several projects including writing the quarterly *Libretto*, authoring program notes for the Festival program book, synopsis for the website, and other educational publications. Her willingness to take initiative and commitment to education would soon land her the role of Director of the Fort Worth Opera Studio and Director of Education in 2011. In this position, she worked to train young artists for their futures and shape Fort Worth Opera's community outreach programs.

Guinn also spent this past spring as interim Director of Opera Studies at TCU in addition to her responsibilities at FWOpera.

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. Under the leadership of General Director Darren K. Woods since 2001, the organization has gained national attention from critics and audiences alike for its artistic quality and willingness to take risks. Known throughout the operatic world as a champion of new and rarely-performed works, the company has taken a leadership role in producing contemporary operas. In 2007, when the company changed its fall/winter schedule to a condensed one-month long Festival in the spring, FWOpera staged its first world premiere, *Frau Margot*, and followed up the next season with *Angels in America*, *Dead Man Walking* in 2009, the world premiere of *Before Night Falls* in 2010, and *Hydrogen Jukebox* in 2011. The 2012 Festival staged the regional premieres of Mark Adamo's *Lysistrata* and Jake Heggie's *Three Decembers*, the first time the two composers' works have been co-programmed, and the 2013 season featured the regional premiere of Tom Cipullo's *Glory Denied*, as well as the inaugural season of its new works showcase, *Frontiers*, featuring works by eight composers from the Americas. In 2014, the company presented the professional world premiere of Daniel Crozier and Peter M. Krask's *With Blood, With Ink*, as well as the regional premiere of Kevin Puts and Mark Campbell's Pulitzer Prize-winning *Silent Night*. Fort Worth Opera's CD recordings of *Frau Margot*, *Before Night Falls*, and *Glory Denied* are available on the Albany label. Fort Worth Opera's CD recordings of *Frau Margot*, *Before Night Falls*, and *Glory Denied*, and *With Blood, With Ink* are available on the Albany label.

The company's upcoming 2016 season, the culmination of 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 world premiere of David T. Little and Royce Vavrek's commissioned opera ***JFK***, Rossini's hilarious comic romp ***The Barber of Seville***, as well as the regional premiere of two one-act operas ***Buried Alive | Embedded***, based on the short stories of Edgar Allan Poe.

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