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NEWS RELEASE

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**Fort Worth Opera Is Proud To Announce
Mark Saville As The Company's Director of Development**

Mark Saville, formerly Senior Development Consultant and Director of Development for Arizona Opera, has been appointed to serve as FWOpera's Director of Development.

Fort Worth, Texas – After a national search conducted by Arts Consulting Group, FWOpera is pleased to announce that Mark Saville will be joining the company as the new Director of Development, beginning Monday, February 15, 2016.

During his tenure as the Director of Development for Arizona Opera, Mr. Saville's strong leadership skills and innovative fundraising strategies helped to double the organization's donor base. Working with the new general director and board leaders, he played an essential role in developing Arizona BOLD, a critically-acclaimed, community-based artistic initiative that promotes cultural diversity through artful programming. Mr. Saville helmed two immensely successful auxiliary \$1 million campaigns, instituted the company's first formal development plan in eight years, cultivated solid strategic community partnerships, and served as an integral part of the 45-year old, cultural institution's resurgence, including critically acclaimed new works, by guiding the company through a particularly fragile administrative transition.

"I am thrilled to welcome Mark Saville to the Fort Worth Opera family," stated FWOpera General Director Darren K. Woods. "Mark was here for three days of interviews, conversations and events and fit into our small company so beautifully. He comes with a vast amount of development experience and donor relationship building. Watching him interact with our patrons was a joy. I knew then and there that mark would be a perfect fit."

FWOpera celebrates its 70th anniversary season and embarks upon its tenth Festival in 2016. Regarded as a champion of new and rarely-performed works, the company is thrilled to integrate Mr. Saville's expertise and ingenuity. Widely considered as one of the ultimate destinations for opera lovers in the United States and abroad, The Fort Worth Opera Festival continues to push boundaries with the highly-anticipated, world premiere of *JFK*, Rossini's romantic romp *The Barber of Seville*, and the Edgar Allen Poe-inspired works *Buried Alive* and *Embedded*. As the 2016 Festival approaches, Mr. Saville's appointment as a development leader, further strengthens the company's vision and celebrates its legacy.

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.

The Hattie Mae Lesley Apprentice Artists program, formerly known as the Fort Worth Opera Studio, was established in 2002 as 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 perform in Children's Opera Theatre (COT), the company's educational program that tours fully costumed, portable operas to elementary schools. COT performances span the entire state of Texas and reach thousands of children a year, many of whom have no other access to arts education.

Fort Worth Opera is sponsored in part by awards from **The Arts Council of Fort Worth & Tarrant County**, **The City of Fort Worth**, the **Fort Worth Promotion and Development Fund**, **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**.

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