



CONTACT:

Holland Sanders, Director of Marketing and Communications,
817-288-1228; holland@fwopera.org

NEWS RELEASE

January 18, 2016

Spring Break Entertainment for the Entire Family: Children's Opera Theatre Performs *Billy Goats Gruff* and *The Bremen Town Musicians*

*Affordable \$5 Tickets;
Performances Scheduled for Monday, March 14 and Tuesday, March 15*

FORT WORTH, TX – Fort Worth Opera is giving families a spring break activity to sing about with their **Children's Opera Theatre** (COT) performances of *Billy Goats Gruff* and *The Bremen Town Musicians*. With two educational days of music and theater, these professional performances by Children's Opera Theatre (a program of Fort Worth Opera) bring classic fairytale stories to life with their bright, whimsical staging, and offer an exciting and original way to **expose children to classical music**. Each performance runs approximately 45 minutes, and children will have the opportunity to ask the singers questions and take pictures with them immediately after each show.

Additionally, the Spring Break shows will provide an opportunity for Children's Opera Theatre and its patrons to give back to the community. COT will once again join forces with the Tarrant Area Food Bank in its "Food & Fund Drive" program. Parents can teach the lesson of generosity to their children by **donating one nonperishable food item. Along with your ticket purchase, bring a can of food for one free ticket to one of the subsequent Monday or Tuesday performances. All food donations will go to the Tarrant Area Food Bank** to help fight hunger in 13 counties in North Texas.

Children and parents will enjoy the classic story of ***Billy Goats Gruff***, based on the Norwegian fairytale, adapted by John Davies using the music of Gioachino Rossini, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, and Gaetano Donizetti. An after school game of hide and seek is ruined for three billy goat friends when a big bully blocks a bridge, preventing them from being able to go home. *Billy Goats Gruff* promotes friendship, dealing with bullies, and kindness. ***Billy Goats Gruff* will be performed on Monday, March 14, at 11 a.m. and Tuesday, March 15 at 2 p.m. at the Scott Theater**, located in the Fort Worth Community Arts Center at 1300 Gendy Street, Fort Worth, Texas, 76107.

The Bremen Town Musicians features music of Offenbach, Rossini, Donizetti, and Verdi. In this version, John Davies adapted the tale of Dorabella the Cat, Barcarolle the Dog, Eddie Pensier the Rooster, and General Boom the Donkey into a delightful children's opera. General Boom seeks to form a band for the town of Bremen using the outcast farm animals as musicians. It doesn't take long for them to discover that they have to consider each other's feelings before they can make music, but can the four very different creatures band together before pirates steal all their instruments? **The Bremen Town Musicians will be performed Monday, March 14, at 2 p.m. and Tuesday, March 15, at 11 a.m. at the Scott Theater**, located in the Fort Worth Community Arts Center at 1300 Gendy Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76107.

Each opera is approximately **45 minutes long** and will be followed by a Q & A session with the cast. **Tickets are \$5** and can be purchased online at www.fwopera.org or by calling 817.288.1222.

ABOUT CHILDREN'S OPERA THEATRE: The foundation of Fort Worth Opera's educational initiatives, Children's Opera Theatre produces two different fully-costumed, portable operas children's operas each year and tours the productions across Texas, reaching over 50,000 school-aged children each year, many of whom have no other access to arts education. The artists who perform for Children's Opera Theatre are the Hattie Mae Lesley Apprentice Artists of the Fort Worth Opera Studio, a training program originally founded in 2002 for opera singer apprentices. The young artists are cast from annual national auditions and they receive professional training while in Fort Worth in addition to performing in the Children's Opera Theatre productions.

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.

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**.

###