



Contact:

Holland Sanders, Director of Marketing and Communications
817-288-1228; holland@fwopera.org
Christina Allen, Marketing and Communications Manager
817.288.1218; christina@fwopera.org

News Release
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**UPDATED: 2015 Fort Worth Opera Ball Celebrates JFK with
Presidential Black Tie Evening**

*Plus, exclusive young professionals after party takes guests back to the 1960s wildest
Fort Worth nightclub, The Cellar.*

FORT WORTH, Texas – Fort Worth Opera (FWOpera) will host its 55th annual Opera Ball on **Saturday, September 19, 2015 at the Renaissance Worthington Hotel in downtown Fort Worth beginning at 6:30pm.** Celebrating the upcoming FWOpera world premiere work *JFK*, by David T. Little and Royce Vavrek, the **Presidential Gala** recalls the glamour and elegance of the Kennedy White House of the early 1960s. The organization's largest fundraising event of the year, **this year's Presidential Gala will honor special guest Mrs. Bayard "Corky" Friedman.**

Ball guests can enjoy cocktails and music beginning at 6:30pm with a lineup of **specially-curated signature drinks** – including President Kennedy's personal favorite The Daiquiri – **provided by Proper on Magnolia** and **entertainment by the acclaimed Paschal High School Jazz Combo.** Attendees can also snap a photo with **Marilyn Monroe** before experiencing a sneak peek of the new opera in a **special performance by our own "Jack and Jackie," Matthew Worth and Daniela Mack.** A chef-created **three course dinner with wine pairings, dancing to the music of In10City, casino gaming, and a raffle featuring a special tasting opportunities from Rahr & Sons Brewery and the Lost Oak Winery, as well as a jewelry package from Kendra Scott** round out the evening.

At 9:00pm, FWOpera opens the doors to the city's most dashing young professionals for an exclusive after party. **Themed after The Cellar – Fort Worth's notorious nightclub of the 1960s, guests will enjoy drinks from Proper, dancing, gaming, raffle prizes, and a special dessert and coffee bar until the wee hours of the morning.**

Individual tickets to the Presidential Gala are \$375 a piece and full tables are also available for purchase. Tickets to The Cellar after party for young professionals are \$75 a piece. Tickets are available at www.fwopera.org or by contacting **Emily Weir** at emily@fwopera.org or 817.288.1214.

Event Details:

FWOpera Presidential Gala

Saturday, September 19, 2015

6:30pm Cocktail reception featuring the Paschal High School Jazz Combo.

8:00pm Presidential Dinner.

9:00pm The Cellar after party begins. Music and dancing from In10City, casino gaming, and raffle begin.

ABOUT JFK: *JFK* is an opera about John F. Kennedy's final night and subsequent morning in Fort Worth, Texas, on November 22, 1963. We became fascinated with dreaming up, quite literally, the private hours spent both asleep and sleepless by the President and First Lady in their suite at the Hotel Texas, in the hours prior to his assassination. It is a work that digs into the psychology of a couple who play the part of American royalty, but who struggle with both physical and emotional pain, symptoms of a bad back, infidelity, the loss of a child, and deep regret. It is the story of the forces that push us ever closer to our destiny, and of the final moments—real or imagined—that are shared with people who define our character. – Royce Vavrek and David T. Little

Major Project Support Includes:

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

OPERA America's The Opera Fund

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.

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 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 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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