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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 14, 2016

*Fort Worth Opera Turns Up The Heat For It's 57th Annual Opera Ball with
Una Noche de Estrellas (Night Of Stars)*

FWOpera's Fiesta-Inspired Ball Will Launch *Noches de Ópera*,
A Four-Year Programming Initiative Aimed at
Creating Stronger Ties With the Latino Community

FORT WORTH, TX-- Fort Worth Opera invites art and culture enthusiasts to *Una Noche de Estrellas (Night Of Stars)* at the 57th annual Fort Worth Opera Ball, held at Ridglea Country Club on Saturday, September 17, 2016 at 6:30pm. This exclusive evening will kick off FWOpera's newest initiative, *Noches de Ópera*, a four-year programmatic campaign with the goal of further strengthening Latino community ties. Destined to be the fall's most unforgettable event, *Una Noche de Estrellas* will **celebrate the Latino culture** and its relationship with traditional opera. FWOpera's Annual Ball is the company's **most financially impactful fundraiser** with the proceeds **directly benefitting** the organization's **statewide arts outreach programs** and the Fort Worth Opera Festival.

The evening will feature live performances from **mariachi's** and **ballet folklórico dancers**, along with an upscale silent auction, that will include glamorous offerings from around the country and across our great city. *Una Noche de Estrellas* guests will enjoy **specially crafted drinks during a spiced-up cocktail-hour** before heading **south-of-the-border for a themed, three-course dinner**. At 9:00pm, the colorful after party begins where guests can **taste-test an array of tequilas**, and indulge in **casino gaming**, and enjoy an energetic dance party featuring **Fort Worth's hottest entertainer's *Trey and the Tritones***.

Una Noche de Estrellas will welcome the city's most vibrant young professionals to the after party festivities. Tickets for the after party alone are just \$75 a piece and include the open-bar, gaming, and dancing.

Individual tickets for this once-a-year experience are \$375 per person. Tables and sponsorships are available upon request. For more information and to purchase tickets to *Una Noche de Estrellas*, or just to attend the after party, visit www.fwopera.org/events/social-events, contact Emily at emily@fwopera.org, or by phone at 817.288.1214.

Event Details:

Saturday, September 17, 2016
Ridglea Country Club

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3700 Bernie Anderson Avenue, Fort Worth, TX 76102

6:30pm Cocktail Reception, Champagne and Wine Pull, Silent Auction

8:00pm Mexican Themed Dinner

9:00pm Casino gaming and dancing, Young Professionals After Party

ABOUT FORT WORTH OPERA: Pioneering new frontiers of operatic repertoire, Fort Worth Opera has received critical acclaim over the past decade for its willingness to take risks and expand the cannon of musical storytelling to include new and rarely-performed works, both relevant and representative of the contemporary experience. Founded in 1946, Fort Worth Opera is the oldest continuously performing opera company in the state of Texas, one of the 14 oldest opera companies in the United States, and has launched the American careers of international opera star Plácido Domingo and the late, great Beverly Sills.

In 2007, the company changed its 60 year format and fall/winter schedule to a condensed one-month long Festival in the spring, drawing international attention as a premiere destination for opera lovers and aficionados. Beginning with Thomas Pastier's *Frau Margot* in the company's inaugural year as a Festival, FWOpera has featured four world premieres over the past decade, including David T. Little and Royce Vavrek's critically lauded *JFK* (2016), Daniel Crozier and Peter M. Krask's *With Blood, With Ink* (2014), and Jorge Martín's triumph over suppressive brutality, *Before Night Falls* (2010).

In crafting the perfectly balanced season, FWOpera gives audiences the opportunity to savor the celebrated classics alongside contemporary tales that challenge and inspire. Throughout the years, the company has presented audiences with works both poignant and provocative, like the regional premieres David T. Little and Royce Vavrek's *Dog Days* (2015), Kevin Puts and Mark Campbell's Pulitzer Prize-winning *Silent Night* (2014), and Tom Cipullo's *Glory Denied* (2013). With the inclusion of Peter Eötvös' *Angels in America* (2008) and Phillip Glass' *Hydrogen Jukebox* (2011), FWOpera has proclaimed to the world, that modern opera is alive and thriving in North Texas.

Through FWOpera's Hattie Mae Lesley Apprenticeship Program, the company offers year-round training program for four young artists to hone their craft, and launch their operatic careers. These exceptionally-gifted artists participate in the Children's Opera Theatre (COT), an educational program that tours fully costumed, portable operas to elementary schools across the state of Texas. In the 2013 season, FWOpera augmented its season to stretch beyond our outreach and training programs and court the attention of national composers and librettists. This renowned, new works showcase, called *Frontiers*, features works by eight composers from the Americas and has become a celebrated staple of our Festival seasons.

The company's upcoming 2017 season kicks off Phase Two of its ten-year artistic vision *Opera of the Americas*. Titled *Noches de Ópera* (Nights of Opera), this new phase will consist of a four year exploration of contemporary Spanish language operas by Latino and Latina composers and librettists from across the Americas. Beginning next season with the groundbreaking mariachi opera *Cruzar la Cara de la Luna* and extending through the 2020 Festival, *Noches de Ópera* will bring compelling and culturally relevant operas to new audiences from an often overlooked, but diversified body of works.

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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