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Fort Worth Opera Proudly Announces the Formation of the FWOpera National Artistic Council, Led by Legendary Tenor, Conductor, and Impresario Plácido Domingo.

FWOpera establishes a prestigious advisory council that will support the organization from a national level to preserve and uphold the company's vision and integrity.

Fort Worth, TX - Fort Worth Opera (FWOpera) announced today the creation of the Fort Worth Opera National Artistic Council. Led by international opera star Plácido Domingo, this distinguished advisory council, composed of renowned artists, classical musicians, and directors, will provide ongoing support and guidance to FWOpera regarding artistic endeavors and educational programs that impact the city of Fort Worth. This extraordinary ensemble of creative minds and operatic entrepreneurs will keep FWOpera informed of larger trends within the opera world, as the company embarks upon its 72nd year and writes its next great chapter.

The Council is designed to establish a long-term relationship with FWOpera, and it will become an integral part of its foundation going forward. Members will make recommendations about singers and repertoire in conjunction with the vision of the company's General Director and its staff. They will receive and evaluate input from the Fort Worth community, acting as a liaison to other professionals in the opera field on behalf of the organization. The Council will also serve as a resource and advocate for the opera company, and will assist in crafting long-range strategic plans for Fort Worth Opera in conjunction with current initiatives, like the company's bold, 4-year celebration of Spanish language operas, Latino culture and heritage, *Noches de Ópera*.

L.A. Opera's Eli and Edythe Broad General Director Plácido Domingo said, "I am honored to be named Chairman of the Fort Worth Opera National Artistic Council. As the company enters an exciting new era, I am thrilled to join my fellow artists in guiding Fort Worth Opera's bright and hopeful future. Together, with your support, we can continue the company's proud tradition of innovation and artistic excellence for generations to come."

From rock star Stewart Copeland's opera *Holy Blood and Crescent Moon* to Stephen Paulus' *The Postman Always Rings Twice* and the recent world premiere of Matthew Peterson's *Voir Dire*, FWOpera has long been a champion of cutting-edge, contemporary opera. The Fort Worth Opera National Artistic Council will continue this legacy, offering exclusive insight into new works that are currently being developed by some of the most talented 21st century composers and librettists. Opera continues to evolve as an art form across the globe, and the Council will ensure that FWOpera remains at the forefront of the industry in producing modern masterpieces and traditional classics.

The formation of the Council arrives in the second month of FWOpera's pivotal, summer-long campaign, *FWOpera FOREWORD*, which was recently launched to secure the legacy of the oldest opera company in the state of Texas, and celebrate the rich stories, history, and cultural vibrancy of Fort Worth. Maestro Domingo encourages the public to give generously as the company moves forward. To share your stories of the city and join Fort Worth Opera in writing the next great chapter of the company's future, donate today by calling 817.288.1212 or go online at www.fwforeword.org.

FORT WORTH OPERA

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. The organization has received national attention from critics and audiences alike for its artistic excellence, pioneering spirit, and willingness to take risks. From its first world premiere, *Frau Margot* in 2007, to 2016's critically-acclaimed new work *JFK* -- a co-commission with American Lyric Theater and Opéra de Montréal by creative duo of David T. Little and Royce Vavrek -- FWOpera continues to augment its worldwide reputation as a trailblazing, civically minded arts institution.

Known throughout the operatic world as a champion of new and rarely-performed works, FWOpera has taken a leadership role in engaging audiences beyond the operatic stage, while producing cutting-edge, contemporary operas. Beginning in 2017, FWOpera launched the second phase of its landmark, 10-year Opera of the Americas initiative with *Noches de Ópera* (*Nights of Opera*), a groundbreaking campaign which introduces powerful operas, each reflecting the diverse cultures of new American audiences.

The 2018 FWOpera Festival will include a mind-blowing fantasy epic, Wagner's legendary *Das Rheingold*; Astor Piazzolla's tango opera, *María de Buenos Aires*, a surreal, immersive theatrical experience unlike anything in FWOpera's history, and Donizetti's hysterical bel canto comedy *Don Pasquale*, set in the golden age of Hollywood. The Festival will also usher in the sixth year of Fort Worth Opera's critically-acclaimed new works showcase, *Frontiers*.

Fort Worth Opera is sponsored in part by awards from The Arts Council of Fort Worth & Tarrant County, The City of Fort Worth, and the Texas Commission on the Arts. Additional Fort Worth Opera sponsors include: the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation; the Amon G. Carter Foundation; American Airlines; Art & Seek; Crystelle Waggoner Charitable Trust, Bank of America, Trustee; The Pangburn Foundation, J.P. Morgan Chase, Trustee; the Sid W. Richardson Foundation; *Star-Telegram*; and WFAA Channel 8.