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MEDIA ALERT

Fort Worth Opera's Children's Opera Theatre to Perform for Thousands of Mesquite ISD Elementary School Students at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center this Week

FWOpera will present two performances of
The Ugly Duckling
in Dallas to 2,700 students on Friday, January 19, 2018

WHAT: Fort Worth Opera (FWOpera) has partnered with Mesquite Independent School District to bring the company's educational outreach initiative, **Children's Opera Theatre** (COT), to the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas this week for two performances of **The Ugly Duckling**. This heartwarming, 45-minute opera, based on the classic fairytale by Hans Christian Andersen, promotes reading, working together, and accepting differences in other people, but it also strives to cultivate an appreciation for opera and the arts among young Texans. Each COT performance consists of elaborate storybook sets, colorful costumes, fully staged acting, singing and choreography.

The **Children's Opera Theatre** ensemble is made up of four professionally trained opera singers known collectively as the **FWOpera | TCU Hattie Mae Lesley Apprentice Artists**, with the addition of FWOpera Principal Pianist and Vocal Coach, Stephen Carey. School districts typically rent a larger facility in a centrally located venue to bus students in from each of the elementary schools within their school district. This allows between 500 and 3,000 students the opportunity to be served within a single performance. Friday's performances at the Meyerson Symphony Center will be presented to 2,700 elementary children in one of the world's greatest orchestra halls. For many students, this will be the first introduction to opera and classical music they have ever experienced.

(Performances not open to the public)

WHERE: Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center. 2301 Flora St., Dallas, Texas 75201.

WHEN: Friday, January 19, 2018. Two performances at 9:30 AM and 12:30 PM.

Press and Footage Opportunities: Interviews with the FWOpera | TCU Hattie Mae Lesley Apprentice Artists. Performance footage of **The Ugly Duckling** as well as:

- FWOpera singers in costume with colorful set
- Mesquite ISD elementary school teachers
- Mesquite ISD elementary school students

FWOpera | TCU Hattie Mae Lesley Apprentice Program: COT's four artists are soprano Bronwyn White, mezzo-soprano Bridget Cappel, tenor Joshua Friend, and bass-baritone Sam Parkinson. Not only does COT perform for 20 to 30 Title I schools within the city of Fort Worth each year, but it has expanded its educational outreach to other cities across the great state of Texas. The program continues to grow, and during FWOpera's 2016-2017 fiscal year, the Apprentice Artists gave a total of 96 performances to 61 schools and venues, serving a total of 30,271 students.

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