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## PRESS RELEASE

**NEWS RELEASE**  
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### **FORT WORTH OPERA ANNOUNCES CALL FOR SUBMISSION FOR FRONTIERS 2019**

*COMPANY SEEKS OUT WORKS FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION THROUGH ITS SEVENTH ANNUAL, CRITICALLY LAUDED NEW WORKS SHOWCASE.*

**FORT WORTH, TX – Fort Worth Opera announced today a call for submissions for its seventh annual *Frontiers* showcase, generously underwritten by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, to be held during the 2019 Fort Worth Opera Festival – April 26, 2019 – May 12, 2019.** Launched during the company's 2012-2013 season, *Frontiers* remains one of the only programs world-wide that seeks out unproduced works by the finest up-and-coming composers and librettists from North, South, and Central America, and has been acclaimed for the opportunities it provides its winners. Composers and librettists whose works are selected as part of the *Frontiers* showcase gain valuable exposure for their works in a live performance environment while also taking part in unparalleled networking opportunities with industry professionals including artistic directors of other established opera companies, artist managers, classical music publishers, funding organizations, and conductors.

Composer and librettist teams whose works are selected for the 2019 *Frontiers* showcase will be in residence during the 2019 Festival where they will attend the showcase, participate in the final rehearsals of their work, and engage in discussions about their works with panelists and audience members. Selected composers and librettists will also receive feedback on their piece through private meetings with the *Frontiers* jury panel and will have a recording of their work provided to assist them further in their compositional process.

Building on the model established by the program's first six installments, the 2019 *Frontiers* showcase will continue in its goal of specifically seeking out works for future production in Fort Worth Opera's popular alternative venue series *Opera Unbound*, which shines a light on thought-provoking, contemporary works and lesser-known operatic gems. Each production features socially conscious and culturally-relevant topics presented in unconventional settings. To that end, the program's selection panel will include collaborative partners who might play a critical role in the long-term development of the *Frontiers* works and ensuring its future development.

Hailed as "one of the most significant music events of the year" by D Magazine, Fort Worth Opera's *Frontiers* showcase has yielded numerous regional and world premieres since its inception. Commissioned by the American Lyric Theater, Patrick Soluri and Deborah Brevoort's macabre, Edgar Allan Poe-inspired opera *Embedded* (*Frontiers* 2013) appeared during Fort Worth Opera's 2016 Festival. Matthew Peterson and Jason Zencka's critically-acclaimed, true crime opera *Voir Dire* (*Frontiers* 2014) proved to be a highlight of the company's 2017 Festival.

# FORT WORTH OPERA

Beyond North Texas, Robert Paterson and David Cote's trio of comic, one-act operas, *Three Way*, premiered at Nashville Opera and BAM Fisher in 2017, and Opera Colorado presented the world premiere of Gerald Cohen and Deborah Brevoort's true-life WWII romance, *Steal a Pencil for Me* (*Frontiers* 2016) during their 2018 season. Griffin Candey and Thom Miller's delectable dark comedy, *Sweets by Kate* (*Frontiers* 2017), received its NYC premiere at the legendary Stonewall Inn in July of 2017 with OperaRox Productions. In May of this year, Clint Borzoni and John de los Santos' erotic opera, *When Adonis Calls* (*Frontiers* 2015), will receive its world premiere by Asheville Lyric Opera.

Composers from the Americas (citizens or residents of North, Central, and South America, as well as associated territories) are eligible and invited to submit a composition via an online portal that will guarantee blind submission. Excerpts should be between 15-25 minutes in length and must not have been presented publicly except for workshop or school presentations. While the works may ultimately consist of grand scale personnel or orchestral forces, submitted selections may only utilize up to six singers. Only those that can be performed with solo piano accompaniment will be considered for the showcase; no additional electronic, percussion, acoustic instrument, or other equipment may be used.

A minimum of 15 minutes of the composition must be completed—although the selection does not need to be continuous—and can be in any language. Composers may only submit one work for the 2019 *Frontiers* showcase. Six pieces will be selected and showcased. Composers and librettists must attend the rehearsal period and showcase during the 2019 Festival. Lodging and round-trip travel will be provided. Works not selected will not be automatically reconsidered for future showcases, however, these works may be submitted again for the 2020 program.

## **FRONTIERS 2019 SUBMISSION INFORMATION:**

APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BETWEEN MAY 3 AND JULY 31, 2018.

Please contact Joe Illick, Fort Worth Opera Artistic Director at [frontiers@fwopera.org](mailto:frontiers@fwopera.org) for submission address and information. All application materials must be submitted electronically through the *Frontiers* web portal. Only 15-25 minutes of a composition will be considered. Submissions must include: Synopsis of the entire composition; Libretto and Piano/Vocal score of the excerpts (in order within the piece); English translation if the work is in another language. All materials submitted must have the composer and librettist names removed to ensure anonymity during the panel review. A non-refundable entry fee of \$25 U.S. is due upon submission. Payments will be made with the application submission online. Fort Worth Opera retains the right to select fewer than six works for the showcase. More details are available at <http://www.fwopera.org/operas/frontiers/>.

**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.

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 American audiences.

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; and WFAA Channel 8.