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PRESS RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE

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FORT WORTH OPERA ADDS FALL PRODUCTION OF THE CLASSIC FAIRY TALE OPERA HANSEL AND GRETEL AND CHILDREN'S OPERA THEATRE PERFORMANCES OF COMPOSER MICHAEL CHING'S THREE PIGS REMIX

FORT WORTH, TX – Fort Worth Opera (FWOpera) is thrilled to announce today the addition of Engelbert Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel* to the 2018-2019 season, and elementary student performances of *Three Pigs Remix*, presented through the company's acclaimed Children's Opera Theatre program. A fully-staged, 60-minute, pop-up production of the enchanting fairy tale opera, *Hansel and Gretel* will be presented at The Marq in Southlake, Arlington Music Hall, and the Fort Worth Botanic Garden in November of 2018. Based upon the beloved Brothers Grimm story, this family-friendly classic in English explores the perils of growing up and reminds children of all ages to beware the witchy woods and never judge a book by its candy-coated cover. Cleverly reimaged for 21st-century audiences, FWOpera's innovative update features a witty, contemporary design, exhilarating performances from the immensely talented FWO-TCU Lesley Artists, and a delightful chorus of gingerbread children.

Since 1966, Fort Worth Opera has opened millions of young minds to the colorful and exciting world of opera, and each season our Children's Opera Theatre (COT) program offers educational performances to over 35,000 elementary school students across North Texas. These professionally trained opera singers perform fully-costumed, 45-minute operas based upon well-known children's fairy tales. This season, COT is proud to present composer Michael Ching's "remix" of the classic folktale about three friends who work together in the face of adversity. *Three Pigs Remix* features three little pigs, one big, bad wolf, and multiple exciting outcomes. Not only is this wonderful opera an engaging and entertaining theater experience, but it serves as an inspiring introduction to classical music and literature as Fort Worth Opera brings the magic of opera to students and cultivates the next generation of art lovers.

HANSEL AND GRETEL

Music by Engelbert Humperdinck

Libretto by Adelheid Wette

In English with no supertitles

PERFORMANCE DATES:

The Marq in Southlake

November 11

FORT WORTH OPERA

Arlington Music Hall

November 16

Fort Worth Botanic Garden, Lecture Hall Auditorium

November 17

CAST:

Francesca Mehrotra (*Gretel*)

Bridget Cappel (*Hansel*)

Heather Weirich (*Hansel*)

Anne Wright (*The Mother*)

Janani Sridhar (*The Mother*)

Myles Clayton Garver (*The Witch*)

Jonathan Walker-VanKuren (*The Witch*)

Erik Earl David Larson (*The Father*)

Sam Filson Parkinson (*The Father*)

CREATIVE TEAM:

David Gately, Director

Stephen Carey, Conductor | Music Director | Pianist

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.