

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
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MANITOBA OPERA FINISHES SUCCESSFUL 40TH SEASON WITH A BALANCED BUDGET

Manitoba Opera announced this evening at its Annual General Meeting (AGM), held at the Centennial Concert Hall in Winnipeg, that the company finished its artistically acclaimed 40th season with a surplus of \$11,718 using a small draw from its Operating Reserve Fund. This marks the 11th time in the past 13 seasons that Manitoba Opera has ended the season positively. The operating budget for the year ending May 31, 2013, was \$1,872,677.

When all the assets of the organization are taken into account, the accumulated deficit now stands at \$59,000 or approximately 3% of assets. The deficit had reached \$654,000 or 54% of assets in 2000.

During the fiscal year 2013, the Board of Trustees established an Operating Reserve Fund of \$200,000 with the donation of a bequest. The purpose of the fund is to fulfill operating obligations and/or address financial obligations that may arise in the case of an emergency. Transfer or disbursements are approved by the Board of Trustees as required.

“Manitoba Opera’s 40th season was indeed one to remember,” said Larry Desrochers, General Director and CEO. “Artistically speaking, our two productions were outstanding - thanks to the fine work of Canadian and international artists like Tracy Dahl (Gilda), Todd Thomas (Rigoletto), David Pomeroy (The Duke), and Lauren Segal (Maddalena) in *Rigoletto* and Michele Capalbo (Aida), Rafael Davila (Ramfis), Phillip Ens (High Priest), and Gregory Dahl (Amonasro) in *Aida*.

We are also very pleased that our community outreach events keep growing each season. This season’s events included the Opera Primers; a presentation by Will Berger of the Met Opera in the fall; an artists’ conversation and brunch at the Free Press News Café; a meet-the-artists lunch at Harman’s, an Ethiopian restaurant; pre-show dinner and opera chats with Al Rae; comedian Al Simmons performing his version of *The Barber of Seville* in 25 schools in the province; 2,190 students attending the Student Night at the Opera performances; and special events including Dinner at DeLuca’s, the Opening Night Dinner in November, and the Bravo Gala in March. We also distributed complimentary tickets through 18 community organizations, offering the opportunity to see opera to those who might not normally be able to do so.”

2. Manitoba Opera 2012/13 AGM Media Release

With the programming of two popular operas: *Rigoletto* and *Aida*, subscriptions in 2012/13 increased by 19% over 2011/12 to 2,908. Box office sales were \$592,418, achieving 93% of the budget goal.

“Once again, artistically speaking, I’m very proud to say that we had a phenomenal season that was a hit with our audiences,” commented Jennifer Snyder, Chair of the Board of Trustees. “I want to thank all the individual donors, corporate supporters, and public funders for their continued financial support of Manitoba Opera. I also want to welcome our new trustees to the Board and look forward to working with them to serve a broader, more diverse segment of our community, to reach more people, and connect with new audiences.”

The 2013/14 Board of Trustees was also announced at the AGM. Returning trustees are Jennifer Snyder (Chair), Robert Vineberg (Vice-Chair), Wayne Benson (Secretary), Dr. Robert Biscontri (Treasurer), Elba Haid, Peter Heavysege, Dr. Anthony Iacopino, Sue Jurkovic, Luisa Matheson, The Honourable Christopher J. Mainella, and Carolin Taubensee. New trustees elected to the Board are Liz Barron, Brent Bottomley, Abbie Grieder, Dr. Amanda Huminicki and Heather Sarna. (* See below for brief biographies of the new trustees.)

Retiring from the Board of Trustees are Peter George and Melanie Sifton.

Manitoba Opera launches its 41st season in 2013/14 with a Hollywood-style Wild West version of Donizetti’s comedy, *Don Pasquale*, November 23, 26, and 29. In April, the setting is Paris, the City of Love, for Puccini’s greatest opera, *La Bohème*, April 5, 8, and 11. Both productions will take place at the Centennial Concert Hall.

Subscriptions are now on sale and casual tickets for both productions will be available beginning Monday, October 7. To order tickets, call 204-957-7842 or go to www.manitobaopera.mb.ca

**MANITOBA OPERA
BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2013/14 SEASON
NEW TRUSTEES**

Liz Barron has operated a consulting business for 15 years, providing expertise to clients in management, marketing, and communications with a focus on enhancing the health and viability of the cultural sector. She has volunteered extensively over the years, working with such groups as the Canadian Conference for the Arts and the Cultural Human Resource Council.

Brent Bottomley has been a partner with Osprey Capital Partners for the past two years. Prior to that, he was Vice President of Corporate Finance at Wellington West Capital. He has also worked for Merrill Lynch Canada and The Vision Capital Fund. He has served on the board for the Royal Winnipeg Ballet and volunteered with many community sport organizations.

Abbie Grieder graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with a major in History. She has worked for Health & Social Services, the Winnipeg Police Department, and Canada Post. Recently she has returned to work in the family business, G & L Sales. Her volunteer experience is wide ranging and includes Police & Pal activities, President of the Parent's Guild at St. John's Ravenscourt, and work with the Winnipeg Women's ORT.

Dr. Amanda Huminicki is currently completing her residency in pediatric dentistry at the University of Manitoba. Amanda has also practiced at Kids Dental and has worked as a clinical instructor at the University of Manitoba. Amanda has been active in the local community and abroad with organizations such as Siloam Mission, Kindness in Action, and fundraising for the Manitoba Marathon.

Heather Sarna is the President and Senior Designer of HSA Design. Heather is a graduate of the University of Manitoba and has had strong volunteer involvement in the education community including work as a member of the Board of Governors for St. John's Ravenscourt and Balmoral Hall School. She and her husband, Dale Evanyshyn, are raising their two children to be actively involved in the Winnipeg vocal music community.

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