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CINCINNATI OPERA EXTENDS CONTRACT FOR ARTISTIC DIRECTOR EVANS MIRAGEAS THROUGH 2012

CINCINNATI – Cincinnati Opera General Director and CEO, Patricia K. Beggs today announced that the company has extended Artistic Director Evans Mirageas’s contract through 2012. Mirageas was named the company’s Artistic Director in 2005 after serving briefly in a consulting role as Artistic Advisor to assist with repertoire and casting planning for the 2006 and 2007 Seasons.

“We knew immediately that Evans was the ideal choice to help lead Cincinnati Opera to even greater heights of artistic excellence,” said Beggs. “In a short time, Evans has made a powerful personal connection to our audience and to our community. He demonstrates daily why he has an international reputation for world-class artistic planning and management. Extending his contract is integral to realizing the long-range plans we are creating through this very positive partnership with Evans.”

“Evans brings a wealth of experience, encyclopedic knowledge of opera and classical music, extraordinary vision and a natural ability to engage and excite our team and our patrons,” said Cathy Crain, president of the Cincinnati Opera Board of Trustees. “Last August, after a highly successful first season, he was listed among the ‘25 Most Powerful Names in U.S. Opera’ by *Opera News*. What a gratifying endorsement of our selection.”

“I am honored by the continued trust and faith our board and leadership have placed in me to help this magnificent company take the next exciting steps into its 10th decade,” says Mirageas. “It is gratifying to be able to plan our activities well into the future with this peerless staff, great artists and in a community which supports opera at the highest international level.”

Widely considered one of the most talented and respected artistic leaders in the classical music industry today, Mirageas has brought to Cincinnati Opera a broad range of experience in both opera and symphonic music, as well as a long history of successful partnerships with many of the world’s leading singers and conductors, including James Levine, Seiji Ozawa, Renée Fleming, Angela Gheorghiu, Cecilia Bartoli, Luciano Pavarotti, and Sir Georg Solti among numerous others.

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The 2007 Summer Festival is made possible with support from the Fine Arts Fund, Ohio Arts Council, City of Cincinnati, and many generous foundations, corporations, and individual donors. Delta Air Lines is the official airline of Cincinnati Opera. Seta Music is the official piano supplier for Cincinnati Opera. The 2007 Summer Festival runs June 14 through July 31 and features Faust, Così Fan Tutte, Nixon in China, and Aida. www.cincinnatiopera.org