

**STAFFING  
ANNOUNCEMENT**

**For Immediate Release**



PRESS ROOM: [www.fgo.org/press-room](http://www.fgo.org/press-room)  
 PHOTOS: [www.flickr.com/photos/fgopera](http://www.flickr.com/photos/fgopera)

Brittany Mazzurco  
 Public & Media Relations Manager  
 305-403-3282  
[bmazzurco@fgo.org](mailto:bmazzurco@fgo.org)

**Florida Grand Opera Hires Local Talent as  
 New Director of Education, Director of  
 Young Artist Program**

*Opera welcomes soprano Rebekah Diaz-Fandrei and  
 baritone Graham Fandrei as the newest members of its staff*

**MIAMI – September 2, 2015** – Florida Grand Opera (FGO) is pleased to welcome two new staff members to its team: Rebekah Diaz-Fandrei and Graham Fandrei. Mrs. Diaz-Fandrei will act as Director of Education, and Mr. Fandrei will serve as Director of the Young Artist Program.

Both Ms. Diaz-Fandrei and Mr. Fandrei are Miami residents, music educators, and professional opera singers who have performed on the FGO mainstage in years’ past.

“I am very pleased to welcome both Rebekah and Graham to the FGO team. As two veteran singers and music educators, I am certain their unique experiences and expertise will position them as invaluable additions to our staff,” said Susan T. Danis, General Director & CEO of Florida Grand Opera.



**Rebekah Diaz-Fandrei**

Rebekah Diaz-Fandrei has performed extensively across the musical genres; from her performance with Florida Grand Opera’s production of *Luisa Fernanda* under the baton of Maestro Plácido Domingo, to the soloist in George Crumb’s eclectic *Ancient Voices of Children* with the SoBe Institute of the Arts. She holds degrees from Manhattan School of Music and Carnegie Mellon University and has been on faculty at

New World School for the Arts, FIU School of Music, University of Miami’s Young Musician’s Camp and holds a full accreditation with the National Association of Teachers of Singing.

At FGO, Mrs. Diaz-Fandrei will serve as the Director of Education. She will oversee programs that provide opportunities for engagement for both children and adults.



**Graham Fandrei**

Performer, educator, and entrepreneur Graham Fandrei has been one of South Florida’s most active classical singers, with performance credits ranging from Broadway to Florida Grand Opera itself. Mr. Fandrei has spent years as an educator in colleges, public schools, and as a private voice teacher. As an entrepreneur Mr. Fandrei conceived, developed and managed an online search engine for classical singers and performing arts institutions,

SingerSearch.com. Mr. Fandrei received his musical education from the New England Conservatory of Music and The Juilliard School in New York. He is also a graduate of the New World School of the Arts in Miami.

Mr. Fandrei will be the Director of Florida Grand Opera’s prestigious Young Artist Programs. His responsibilities will include overseeing the training of the Young Artists as well as coordinating their community outreach performances.

**ABOUT FLORIDA GRAND OPERA**

Florida Grand Opera (FGO), the oldest performing arts organization in Florida, celebrates its 75th year of continuously producing grand opera during the 2015-16 Season. The mainstage operas of the season include: Gioachino Rossini’s *The Barber of Seville* (November 15–December 5, 2015), Bellini’s *Norma* (January 23–February 11, 2016), Weinberg’s *The Passenger* (April 2–9, 2016), and Donizetti’s *Don Pasquale* (May 7–14, 2016).



Throughout the fall of 2014, Florida Grand Opera (FGO) announced the launch of “Say YES! to Opera, South Florida,” a \$17.5 million comprehensive campaign to fund the future of the company. FGO is now asking all those who enjoy and support grand opera in South Florida to make their gifts or pledge today. For more information, or to make a pledge please contact our Development Staff at [giving@fgo.org](mailto:giving@fgo.org) or by calling Catalina Villamarín at 305-403-3317.

Founded in 1941 as Greater Miami Opera and later merging with The Opera Guild Inc. in 1994, FGO presents a mixture of standard repertoire and contemporary works as well as commissions and new productions – all featuring projected translations in English and Spanish. FGO is recognized for funding by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Arts Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Funding is also provided, in part, by the Broward County Board of County Commissioners as recommended by the Broward Cultural Council and the Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau, the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, Cultural Affairs Council, the Mayor and the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners and the Miami-Dade County Tourist Development Council. Program support is provided by the City of Miami Beach, Cultural Affairs Program, Cultural Arts Council. Florida Grand Opera is a Resident Company of the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County and a member company of OPERA America. Intercontinental Miami is the Official Hotel and Steinway & Sons is the Official Piano of Florida Grand Opera.

# # #