

FLORIDA GRAND
Opera

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Florida Grand Opera's
Robert M. Heuer 25th Anniversary
Tribute Concert and Dinner
Raises Over \$300,000**

March 10, 2010 – Miami, FL – Florida Grand Opera celebrated **Robert M. Heuer's** 25th Anniversary as General Director with a Tribute Concert and Dinner on February 25, 2010 that netted more than \$300,000 for the Company. Legendary opera stars **Renata Scotto** and **Sherrill Milnes** served as Masters of Ceremonies, welcoming the audience, warmly reminiscing about their association with the Company, and introducing the concert. Nineteen singers who have appeared with Florida Grand Opera during Mr. Heuer's tenure performed arias, duets, and ensembles with the Florida Grand Opera Orchestra and Chorus in the Sanford and Dolores Ziff Ballet Opera House at the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County. Conducting duties were shared in turn by **Andrew Bisantz**, **Gary Thor Wedow**, **Steven White**, and **Stewart Robertson**.

Following the concert, 330 guests attended a post-performance dinner on the Lynn Wolfson Stage of the Ziff Ballet Opera House, which featured tribute presentations by **Victor H. Mendelson**, President of the Opera's Board of Directors, **Adolfo Henriques**, Chairman of the Miami-Dade County Cultural Affairs Council, **Marc A. Scorca**, President of OPERA America, **David DiChiera**, General Director of Michigan Opera Theatre, and **Jane A. Robinson**, Chairman of the Opera's Board of Directors. They were followed by Mr. Heuer, who expressed his deep gratitude to the South Florida community for its support over the past 25 years.

Major sponsorship support from Florida Grand Opera Board member **Lynn Wolfson**, honorary chairman of the event, and a leadership gift from Board members and event chairmen **Jane and Mort Robinson** led the way to this successful celebratory evening for the Company, now in its 69th year of presenting grand opera in South Florida. The event brought together patrons of the Opera, as well as leaders in the arts, business, education, and philanthropy, regionally and nationally, to pay tribute to Mr. Heuer's many accomplishments.

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Participating Singers:

David Bailey, tenor
Andrew Bidlack, tenor
Elizabeth Caballero, soprano
Sarah Coburn, soprano
Amanda Crider, mezzo-soprano
Fernando de la Mora, tenor
Helen Donath, soprano
Julia Ebner, soprano
Elizabeth Futral, soprano
Kendall Gladen, mezzo-soprano

Katharine Goeldner, mezzo-soprano
Eglise Gutiérrez, soprano
Jonathan Michie, baritone
Daniel Mobbs, bass-baritone
Kyle Pfortmiller, baritone
David Pomeroy, tenor
Bruno Praticò, bass-baritone
Mark Walters, baritone
Roderick Williams, baritone

Event Sponsors:

Leadership

Lynn Wolfson

Composer

Jane and Mort Robinson

Librettist

Arthur F. and Alice E. Adams Foundation
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HEICO Corporation and the Mendelson Family
John S. and James L. Knight Foundation
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Florence and Robert Werner

Maestro

Greenberg Traurig, P.A.
Mrs. David L. Gamble/Dr. Bruce C. Horten
Olga and David Melin
Jay and Lucie Spieler
Jeff Weiner and MDW Insurance Group

Official Sponsors

Artists' travel donated by **American Airlines**
Artists' hotel accommodations donated by **InterContinental Miami**
Piano donated by **Steinway & Sons**

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In-Kind Donors and Event Partners

Wine donated by **Southern Wine & Spirits of America, Inc.**

Liquor and Bartenders donated by **Bacardi USA, Inc.**

Floral Design donated by **Jenny's Flowers**

Flowers donated by **Ana and Alvaro Varela**

Calligraphy donated by **Sally Renuart**

Barton G. Catering

Photography by **Al Barg and Jeff Weisberg**

Reception music by **John Bauer Band**

About Florida Grand Opera

Florida Grand Opera was formed in June 1994 by the merger of Greater Miami Opera, founded in 1941, and The Opera Guild Inc., of Fort Lauderdale, founded in 1945. Celebrating its 69th season of continuous performances, Florida Grand Opera stands as one of the oldest performing arts organizations in Florida. In addition to producing standard repertoire, Florida Grand Opera also presents lesser known operas, as well as commissions and produces new operas. Annually, performances are attended by nearly 100,000 people, and education and outreach programs serve over 50,000 students. FGO offers several highly successful outreach and educational programs, including its internationally-recognized Young Artist Studio. Founded in 1984, the program attracts young singers who train and enhance their professional skills during a 35-week Miami residency.

Florida Grand Opera, 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.

American Airlines is the Official Airline, Intercontinental Miami is the Official Hotel and Steinway & Sons is the Official Piano of Florida Grand Opera.

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