

# FLORIDA GRAND Opera

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Florida Grand Opera Hires New Director of Development** *Lisa Bury to begin June 15th*

Miami, FL, May 28, 2009 -- **Lisa Bury** will join Florida Grand Opera as its new Director of Development beginning June 15th following the completion of a national search.

Bury served most recently as the Senior Director of Development of the Arizona Opera in Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona. She trained under the late Ardis Krainik, the highly acclaimed General Director of Lyric Opera of Chicago, and spent ten years at Lyric as Director of the Women's Board Activities, Director of Corporate, Foundation and Government Support, and Assistant Director of Development for Donor Services and Special Events. She also served for two years as Director of Development of the Long Beach Symphony. "She brings with her years of experience and expertise," said Jane A. Robinson, Chairman of the Florida Grand Opera Board of Directors and Co-Chair of the Development Director Search Committee.

"Her record of performance and her references were just outstanding," Florida Grand Opera General Director & CEO Robert M. Heuer said. "She is extraordinarily respected in the opera world and has a wealth of knowledge about the art form. Lisa is very creative and has an extensive background in development and in management of an artistic organization."

"We are thrilled that Lisa is coming to South Florida," said Jane A. Robinson. "Her background in opera, arts management, and fundraising will serve the Opera extremely well, and she already loves our community and is excited about what she can bring to the Opera."

Bury was selected after a national search held under the guidance of Arts Consulting Group (ACG), a firm with offices across the United States. ACG Vice President Lee Kappelman said, "Both ACG and the Florida Grand Opera's search committee, which included board members, staff, and community leadership, worked tirelessly to ensure a rigorous process. Lisa Bury presented the skills, experience and competencies needed for the development director position at Florida Grand Opera and is looking forward to leading the opera into a bright and sustainable future."

Bury will work closely with General Director & CEO Robert Heuer in mapping out the Opera's fundraising program as it approaches its 69th anniversary in 2009-10.

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“I cannot wait to begin working with Lisa,” Heuer said. “Lisa brings the knowledge and experience of a true fundraising professional and a real love of opera that will allow us to grow and secure the future of the Opera in the years ahead.”

Bury has worked with arts groups across the country, especially in the opera field, and has a background in arts administration, business, and performance. She received her Bachelor of Music Education degree at Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio, and has professional performing experience as a violist and violinist. She received her MBA and Master of Arts Administration at South Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. She has served as a board member and development committee chair of the Association of California Symphony Orchestras and a Development Fellow Advisor for Opera America. “Those experiences have given her a broad range of expertise in music and fundraising,” said Heuer. “She also has extensive contacts in the opera field, which will complement our own.”

### **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 is sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Arts Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Funding for this organization is provided, in part, by the Broward County Board of County Commissioners as recommended by the Broward Cultural Council and by the Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau. Additional support is provided by the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, the Cultural Affairs Council, the Mayor and the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners. 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.

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