

FLORIDA GRAND Opera

Fact Sheet

- Florida Grand Opera (FGO) is the Southeast's first regional Opera Company. It was created May 31, 1994 by the merger of founding companies Greater Miami Opera and The Opera Guild Inc., of Fort Lauderdale. Performances of its main-stage opera productions are given at the Sanford and Dolores Ziff Ballet Opera House in Miami's Carnival Center for the Performing Arts, and at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts in Fort Lauderdale.
- Florida Grand Opera is the 7th oldest Opera Company in the United States, dating from 1941 in Miami and 1945 in Fort Lauderdale.
- FGO is the 7th largest Opera Company in the nation with a budget that has grown from \$1,200 in 1941 to \$16 million for the 2007-08 season. More than 110,000 seats were filled for performances during the 2006-07 season.
- The Opera employs 45 full-time and 200 part-time and seasonal staff.
- Florida Grand Opera's season is composed of 5 operas. Each production is created and produced in South Florida by Florida Grand Opera.
- In the 2007-08 season, FGO will present 48 performances of 5 opera productions.
- Florida Grand Opera is one of the four resident companies that make Miami's Carnival Center for the Performing Arts its home. The Opera's new interim administrative and rehearsal facility, the Doral Center, will include rehearsal halls, coaching rooms, a costume shop, extensive storage space and a music library. Ultimately, the Company plans to consolidate Miami operations at the James Byrd Anderson, Jr. Opera Center (AOC), which will be built next to Carnival Center, and will include a 485-seat theater.
- Florida Grand Opera takes pride in having featured some of the world's leading singers, including Regina Resnick, Roberta Peters, Joan Sutherland, Luciano Pavarotti, Beverly Sills, Renata Scotto, James Morris, Sherrill Milnes, Nicolai Gedda, Evelyn Lear, Thomas Stewart, Diana Soviero, Elizabeth Futral, Helen Donath, Deborah Voigt, Fernando de la Mora and David Daniels, while nurturing the rising stars of the opera stage such as Sarah Coburn, Leah Partridge, Kelly Kaduce and Andrew Richards.
- FGO's 90-work repertoire represents 43 composers and spans nearly 400 years of the art form. FGO continues to add to its repertory of operas, mounting 25 productions over the past 20 years not previously seen by South Florida audiences, including the commission and world premiere of *Anna Karenina* in 2007.

67th Season 2007/08

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Doral Center

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- Florida Grand Opera has 5 Affiliate Groups operating in both Broward and Miami-Dade counties, with over 1,500 volunteers and supporters.
- Florida Grand Opera reaches nearly 50,000 students each year through its education and outreach programs in both Miami-Dade and Broward counties. These include a fully staged and costumed in-school opera performed in high schools throughout the region, with additional programs offered to elementary and middle schools. Nearly 5,000 high school students attend final dress rehearsals annually.
- FGO's Young Artist Studio, founded in 1984, has become recognized as one of America's important training programs for young professional singers. Each year, eight graduates of U.S. colleges and conservatories are selected from hundreds of applications to receive training in voice, movement, acting and language, and gain valuable main-stage performance experience.
- Robert M. Heuer is the third person to lead Florida Grand Opera in its 65-year history. He joined the company in 1979 as Director of Production and assumed leadership of the company as General Director and CEO in 1986.
- Maestro Stewart Robertson was appointed Music Director in 1998. In addition to his responsibilities with FGO, he is Artistic Director of Opera Omaha in Nebraska and Music Director of the Atlantic Classical Orchestra.
- Florida Grand Opera's Board of Directors includes many of South Florida's philanthropic and business leaders. In the March 2003 issue of *Worth Magazine*, the Opera made the list of America's 100 most prestigious Boards and was ranked #1 in the Miami area.

For additional information and photos depicting our company, artists, performances and community programs, please contact pr@fgo.org.