

FLORIDA GRAND
Opera

NEWS RELEASE

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**General Director Robert M. Heuer
To Receive George Abbott Award
At the 2010 Carbonell Awards**

Miami, FL – March 26, 2010 – Florida Grand Opera General Director and C.E.O. **Robert M. Heuer** will receive the George Abbott Award at the Carbonell Awards ceremonies on April 12, 2010, at 7:30 p.m. at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts in Fort Lauderdale. Each year, the Carbonell Awards sponsor the *George Abbott Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Arts*, awarded to an individual (or team) who has contributed significantly to the artistic and cultural development of the region. The award may be given for accomplishments within the year or for a lifetime.

Named for the legendary American theater producer, director, playwright, screenwriter, and film director **George Abbott**, who died in Miami Beach in 1995 at the age of 107, The Abbott Award was bestowed by the Carbonell Awards board of directors and its special awards committee. Since its beginnings, the list of Abbott Award honorees has become the chronicle of the artistic and cultural elite of South Florida's modern history.

Along with New York's Drama Desk and Chicago's Joseph Jefferson Awards, the Carbonell Awards are among the nation's senior regional arts awards and predates others including Washington, D.C.'s Helen Hayes and Philadelphia's Barrymore Awards. The Carbonell Awards pay tribute to the very best theatrical productions on local stages and features the area's top entertainers and theater insiders as they step out from behind their roles in an unforgettable behind-the-scenes celebration.

"All of us in the arts community salute Bob Heuer on his selection as this year's recipient of the George Abbott Award," said **Victor H. Mendelson**, President of the Florida Grand Opera Board of Directors. "It is a well-deserved recognition for a lifetime of commitment to the arts, and it is especially fitting now, as it is being made during the year we are celebrating Mr. Heuer's 25th Anniversary as General Director of Florida Grand Opera."

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The 2010 Carbonell Awards will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, April 12, 2010, at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts in the Amaturro Theater. The event is a benefit that raises money to provide scholarships for South Florida arts students. Tickets are \$25, and may be purchased at www.BrowardCenter.org, or by calling (954) 462-0222

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.

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