

FLORIDA GRAND Opera

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Members Elected To Florida Grand Opera Board of Directors

Miami, FL – June 7, 2010 – Two new directors have been elected to Florida Grand Opera's Board of Directors, **Peggy Czyzak-Dannenbaum** and **Alvaro Martinez-Fonts**.

Peggy Czyzak-Dannenbaum is a graduate of Wellesley College with a degree in Art History, and also has a degree from the London Business School. She was a founding member of the Wellesley Business Leadership Council and was on the Governing Body of London Business School for six years. She remains chair of the UK Regional Advisory Board and was the first entrepreneur to receive the Alumni Achievement Award from London Business School.

Mrs. Czyzak-Dannenbaum has worked in corporate finance and became a specialist in corporate turnarounds, chiefly with engineering companies, until she started her own business providing handmade Italian gourmet bread products to leading retailers including Harry's Bar, Harrod's, and Marks and Spencer. She has held numerous positions on private and public companies, most recently Le Pain Quotidien. She currently serves on the Board of Trustees of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, and is married to Karl Dannenbaum.

Alvaro Martinez-Fonts is the CEO of J.P. Morgan Florida, Global Wealth Management, overseeing the firm's private banking wealth management business in the state. J.P. Morgan Global Wealth Management is a leader in the High Net Worth and Ultra High Net Worth market, managing over \$500 billion in client assets. Mr. Martinez-Fonts is a member of the Private Bank Operating Committee, the global decision-making group for day-to-day strategic and operating matters.

Mr. Martinez-Fonts has been with the Private Bank since 1993 and has held numerous leadership positions, most recently CEO of the Latin America Private Bank. Prior to joining the Private Bank, he worked as a commodities trader covering Asia and Latin America for Czarnikow Rionda Co. He has lived in Hong Kong where he became fluent in Mandarin and Cantonese. He serves on the Advisory Board of the Kellogg Institute for International Studies at the University of Notre Dame, and on the Board of Directors of Rattlestick Playwrights Theater in Manhattan. His son, Joseph, graduated from Notre Dame in 2007.

Continued on following page . . .

Victor H. Mendelson, President of the Florida Grand Opera Board of Directors, stated “We are extremely pleased to have these highly qualified individuals joining the FGO Board of Directors. They both are passionate about opera, and their remarkable professional achievements point to the experience and judgment they will bring to our governing body at this critical time for not just Florida Grand Opera, but for arts organizations in general.”

FGO General Director and CEO **Robert M. Heuer** added, “I warmly welcome Peggy and Alvaro to FGO’s Board of Directors. Every opera company in America faces severe challenges in the current economy, and their love for the art form, together with their business acumen, enthusiasm, and support provide great encouragement to all of us.”

Also joining the Board of Directors are representatives of three of Florida Grand Opera’s supporting organizations: **Dr. Lee Ann Schaffhausen**, representing the Young Patronesses of the Opera (YPO) as their new President, and **Ms. Rebecca Spinale**, as the new YPO Vice President. In addition, **Ms. Louise Harms** joined the Board of Directors representing the Florida Grand Opera Guild as its new President, along with **Dr. Gloria C. Kline**, representing the Opera Society in Fort Lauderdale as their new President.

Directors **Diane de Vries Ashley**, **Dr. Linda Balent**, **Lesleen Bolt**, **Andrew H. Boros**, **Anne Camner**, **Dr. James Doan**, **Eva U. Gordon**, **Tibor Hollo**, **Victor H. Mendelson**, **KayeLynne Northcutt**, and **Jeff Weiner** were re-elected to three year terms ending May 31, 2013.

Dr. Horacio Aguirre, founding Editor of *Diario las Americas*, was elected a Director Emeritus.

James M. Herron was reelected as the Florida Grand Opera Representative to the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County Trust.

Newly elected to the Finance Committee were Directors **Anne Camner**, **Alvaro Martinez-Fonts**, and **Gale Goldstein Tucker**.

A complete listing of the Florida Grand Opera Board of Directors is on the following page . . .

Florida Grand Opera Board of Directors 2010-2011 Season

Officers

Mrs. Jane A. Robinson, Chairman
Dr. Linda Balent, Vice Chairman
Dr. James Doan, Vice Chairman
Mrs. Laurans A. Mendelson, Vice Chairman

Mr. Victor H. Mendelson, President
Mr. Charles E. Porter, Treasurer
Mrs. Diane de Vries Ashley, Assistant Treasurer
Mrs. Eva U. Gordon, Secretary
Mrs. Barbara C. Copanos, Assistant Secretary

Board of Directors

Mrs. Diane de Vries Ashley
Dr. Linda Balent
Mr. Dennis G. Bedley
Ms. Lesleen Bolt
Andrew H. Boros, Esquire
Dr. Siavosh Bozorgi
Mrs. Anne Camner
Mrs. Barbara C. Copanos
Ms. Peggy Czyzak-Dannenbaum
Mrs. Leatrice Damus
Ms. Nancy Jean Davis
Dr. James Doan
Mrs. Charlene Esserman
Robert C. Gang, Esquire
Mrs. José Garrigo
Mrs. Eva U. Gordon
Ms. Louise Harms
Mr. James M. Herron
Ms. Nancy Herstand
William K. Hill, Esquire
Mr. Roger R. Hinkley
Mr. Tibor Hollo
Dr. Gloria C. Kline
Mr. Alberto Manrara
Mr. Alvaro Martinez-Fonts
Mr. David Melin
Mrs. Laurans A. Mendelson
Victor H. Mendelson
Mrs. Thomas Northcutt
Mr. Manny Perez
Mr. Charles E. Porter

Mrs. Jane A. Robinson
Dr. Morton J. Robinson
Robert Roselli, Esquire
Dr. Lee Ann Schaffhausen
Ms. Rebecca Spinale
Gale Goldstein Tucker, Esquire
Mrs. Ana Moran Varela
Mr. Jeff Weiner

Chairmen Emeriti

Mr. Roger R. Hinkley
Robert H. Taurig, Esquire
Mr. Alberto Vadia

Directors Emeriti

Dr. Horacio Aguirre
Dr. Richard A. Elias
Mr. Theodore K. Friedt
Mrs. R.M. Gardner
Ms. Florence Hecht
Mrs. Lee Hills
Mr. Ronald J. Korn
Mr. Graham C. Miller
Mrs. Adelio J. Montanari
Aaron Podhurst, Esquire
Leonard Robbins, Esquire
Mr. José Valdés-Fauli
Ms. Lynn Wolfson

Treasurer Emeritus

Mr. Theodore Spak

Finance Committee

Mr. Charles E. Porter
Chairman
Mrs. Diane de Vries Ashley
Vice Chairman-Investment Committee
Mr. Dennis G. Bedley
Mrs. Anne Camner
Mrs. José Garrigo
William K. Hill, Esquire
Mr. Alberto Manrara
Mr. Alvaro Martinez-Fonts
Dr. Morton J. Robinson
Gale Goldstein Tucker, Esquire
Ex-Officio Members
Mrs. Jane A. Robinson
Mr. Victor H. Mendelson

Representative for Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County Trust
Mr. James M. Herron

Representative for Arsht Center for the Performing Arts Foundation of Greater Miami
Mr. Robert M. Heuer
Mrs. Laurans A. Mendelson
Mrs. Jane A. Robinson

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 70th season of continuous performances during the 2010-2011 season, Florida Grand Opera stands as one of the oldest performing arts organizations in Florida. In addition to producing standard repertoire, Florida Grand Opera also produces lesser known operas, and commissions and produces new operas. Annually, performances are attended by nearly 100,000 people, and education and outreach programs serve over 10,000 students. Founded in 1984, the internationally recognized Young Artist Studio attracts young singers from around the country who train and enhance their professional skills during a 35-week Miami residency.

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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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