



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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## **HOUSTON GRAND OPERA ENDS FISCAL YEAR WITH SURPLUS**

HOUSTON, TX September 30, 2010– **Houston Grand Opera** (HGO) reported today that the company had ended its Fiscal year on July 31, 2010, with a slight surplus. Addressing the Trustees of the Association at their meeting last week, **General Director and CEO Anthony Freud** stated, “In June we let you know that we expected to balance our budget for the Fiscal year just ended; in fact we have done slightly better than that.” The company’s annual audit was completed earlier this week and confirmed a surplus of \$25,700.

Houston Grand Opera Association **Board of Directors Chairman Glen Rosenbaum** noted, “This is a noteworthy accomplishment, as 2009-10 was one of the most challenging economic periods in the country’s history. The generous support of our Board and Trustees, our Endowment and our loyal donor community were key to our ending the year so strongly – together with the company’s prudent fiscal management and strong ticket sales.” The 2009-10 season included a sold-out run of Puccini’s *Tosca* as well as runaway successes for Tchaikovsky’s *The Queen of Spades* and Handel’s *Xerxes*. Rosenbaum added, “Having been part of the HGO family for more than thirty years, I consider the 2009-10 season to have been one of the best and most satisfying in the company’s history.”

“I am proud of the fact that at Houston Grand Opera we have done this without sacrificing the exceptional quality of our mainstage productions, and that we have continued to expand the important cultural and educational services that we provide to the city,” noted Freud. “We are opening our 2010-11 season from a position of real strength.” The company’s 56<sup>th</sup> season commences on October 22, with a new production of Puccini’s *Madame Butterfly* directed by Tony Award winner Michael Grandage; six mainstage productions plus the world premieres of three new commissions will be presented during the 2010-11 season.



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Since its inception in 1955, Houston Grand Opera has grown from a small regional organization into an internationally renowned opera company. The company has a reputation for commissioning and producing new works, including 40 world premieres and six American premieres since 1973. In addition to producing and performing world-class opera, HGO contributes to the cultural enrichment of Houston and the nation through a diverse, innovative and balanced program of performances, events, community and education projects that reaches the widest possible public. HGO has toured extensively, including trips to Europe and Asia, and it is the only opera company to have won a Tony, two Grammy awards, and two Emmy awards. HGO's performances are broadcast nationally on the WFMT Radio Network.