

Patrick Summers

Artistic & Music Director
Margaret Alkek Williams Chair

Perryn Leech

Managing Director

PRESS RELEASE

Media Contact:

Christine Cantrell

christine@elmorepr.com
713-524-0661

Judith Kurnick

HGO Director of Communications
jkurnick@hgo.org
713-546-0240

Houston Grand Opera Announces Child Auditions for *Tosca* and *The Little Prince*

Open auditions May 2 and 5, 2015

Houston, April 23, 2015— Houston Grand Opera (HGO) announces open auditions for girls and boys (with unchanged voices) ages 7–16 for the children’s choruses in HGO’s 2015–16 season productions of Puccini’s *Tosca* and Rachel Portman/Nicholas Wright’s *The Little Prince*, as well as for principal solo roles in each of those operas including the title role of the Little Prince. Auditions will be held at the Wortham Theater Center on May 2 and 5, 2015. Individuals who wish to arrange an audition time should contact Houston Grand Opera’s Company Office at 713-980-8679.

Led by director Karen Reeves, the HGO Children’s Chorus welcomes children who love to sing and enjoy performing in a big way. Selected participants attend the production’s rehearsals, are taught important music skills, and have the opportunity to perform alongside international opera stars. Final selections will be announced in July 2015.

“We are searching for the best talent in Houston and beyond to be a part of a world-class art form,” said Ms. Reeves. “The children’s chorus at HGO has a long history of shepherding young voices. The program has served as a significant milestone for many participants who go on to pursue music careers or even for those who are now pursuing other paths, like medicine or engineering.”

For the audition, each child should be prepared to sing from memory a song of his/her choice, preferably in English, in a non-belt voice. HGO will provide an accompanist, and auditioning children should bring along a printed copy of their chosen music for the accompanist’s use. Children must audition with an accompanist rather than taped accompaniment or *a cappella*.

AUDITION DATES:

WHEN: Saturday, May 2 and Tuesday, May 5, 2015

WHERE: Wortham Theater Center, 510 Preston Street, Houston, TX 77002

TOSCA Auditions

HGO will present six performances of *Tosca* at the Wortham Theater Center, with rehearsals beginning in August 2015 and performances running from October 23 through November 14, 2015. Additionally, there may be a revival of the production

for Houston's Miller Outdoor Theatre and The Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion in The Woodlands in May 2016. The production will be sung in Italian, and will be directed by John Caird and conducted by HGO's artistic and music director, Patrick Summers. A child soloist for the role of the Shepherd will be cast from among the members of the children's chorus selected for *Tosca*.

THE LITTLE PRINCE

HGO will present twelve performances of *The Little Prince* at the Wortham Center, with rehearsals beginning in mid-September and performances running from December 4 through 20, 2015. Please note: three of these performances are daytime, weekday student matinees beginning at 10:00 a.m. The production will be sung in English, and will be directed by Ellen Douglas Schlaefter and conducted by HGO's head of music staff, Bradley Moore. These children's chorus auditions will also serve as preliminary rounds for identifying candidates to be considered for the title role of the Little Prince.

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About Houston Grand Opera

Since its inception in 1955, Houston Grand Opera has grown from a small regional organization into an internationally renowned opera company. HGO enjoys a reputation for commissioning and producing new works, including 56 world premieres and seven 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 and innovative program of performances, community events, and education projects that reaches the widest possible public. HGO has toured extensively, including trips to Europe and Asia, and has won a Tony, two Grammy awards, and two Emmy awards—the only opera company to have won all three honors.

Through HGOco, Houston Grand Opera creates opportunities for Houstonians of all ages and backgrounds to observe, participate in, and create art. Its *Song of Houston* project is an ongoing initiative to create and share work based on stories that define the unique character of our city and its diverse cultures. Since 2007, HGOco has commissioned 16 new works along with countless innovative community projects, reaching more than one million people in the greater Houston metropolitan area. The NEXUS Initiative is HGO's multi-year ticket underwriting program that allows Houstonians of all ages and backgrounds to enjoy world-class opera without the barrier of price. Since 2007 NEXUS has enabled more than 200,000 Houstonians to experience first-quality opera through discounted single tickets and subscriptions, subsidized student performances, and free productions.

Media Contact: Christine Cantrell, Christine@elmorepr.com, (713) 524-0661

Director of Communications: Judith Kurnick, jkurnick@hgo.org (713) 546-0240

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