



HoustonGrandOpera

510 Preston Street
Houston, Texas 77002-1504
Tel: 713-546-0200
Fax: 713-228-4355
HGO.org

Patrick Summers

Artistic & Music Director
Margaret Alkek Williams Chair

Perryn Leech

Managing Director

PRESS RELEASE

Media Contact:

Melissa Arredondo

Melissa@elmorepr.com
713-524-0661

Judith Kurnick

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

Houston Grand Opera Awarded Innovation Grant by OPERA America

Houston, June 2, 2017— Houston Grand Opera (HGO) has been awarded one of [OPERA America's](#) first Innovation Grants for HGO's recently announced [Seeking the Human Spirit \(STHS\)](#) initiative. Launched last fall and generously funded by the Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation, Innovation Grants support “exceptional projects that have the capacity to strengthen the field’s most important areas of practice, including artistic vitality, audience experience, organizational effectiveness and community connections,” according to the announcement by OPERA America, the national service organization for opera.

Starting in the fall of 2017, *STHS* is a six-year multidisciplinary initiative designed to highlight the universal spiritual themes raised in opera and to expand and deepen Houstonians’ connection to opera and to art. The program will include three mainstage operas each season—one of which will be a new work—united by a single theme, and complementary projects by HGO and partner organizations created to enhance and enrich the community’s experience of the themes. Some of these activities will be available to the public; others will focus on groups such as hospital patients, women who are rebuilding their lives after homelessness, and young people pursuing interfaith projects.

“With our *Seeking the Human Spirit* community partners we are developing programs all over the city,” said HGO Managing Director Perryn Leech, “in museums, schools, community centers, hospitals, public spaces, and parks as well as in the opera house—collaborating with entirely new communities. We are thrilled to receive the Getty Foundation’s support and OPERA America’s recognition for this ambitious undertaking.”

HGO is one of 27 opera companies who received awards totaling \$1.411 million in the program’s first granting cycle.

* * * * *

About Houston Grand Opera

Houston Grand Opera (HGO) is one of the largest, most innovative, and most highly acclaimed opera companies in the United States. In fulfilling its mission to advance the operatic art to serve an ever-evolving audience, HGO has led the field in commissioning new works (63 world premieres to date) and in training and nurturing promising young artists and administrators. The company 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's pioneering community engagement initiative, HGOco, has served as a model for other arts organizations.

The NEXUS Initiative is HGO's multi-year ticket underwriting program that allows Houstonians of all ages and backgrounds to enjoy opera without the barrier of price. Since 2007, NEXUS has enabled more than 250,000 Houstonians to experience superlative opera through discounted single tickets and subscriptions, subsidized student performances, and free productions.

HGO has toured extensively and has won a Tony, two Grammy awards, and two Emmy awards. It is the only opera company to win all three honors.

Media Contact: Melissa Arredondo, melissa@elmorepr.com 713-524-0661

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

HGO.org

facebook.com/houstongrandopera

twitter.com/hougrandopera

HOUSTON
Methodist[™]
LEADING MEDICINE
Official Health Care Provider
for Houston Grand Opera

UNITED 
Official Airline of Houston Grand Opera

TENENBAUM
CLASSIC JEWELERS
Preferred Jeweler of Houston Grand Opera