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Houston Grand Opera Appoints Molly Dill as Producing Director

Hires new technical director

Houston, June 30, 2017— Houston Grand Opera (HGO) has appointed Molly Dill to the newly created position of producing director, it was announced by HGO Managing Director Perryn Leech. An HGO staff member since 2003, Dill most recently served as the company’s general manager. One of Dill’s first acts in her new role was to hire Paul Spittle as technical director. He will begin his duties in August.

“I am thrilled that Molly Dill has agreed to take on this very important role, which strengthens HGO’s management structure while taking her back to her opera production roots,” said Leech. “Having worked closely with her for the past ten years, I have tremendous confidence in her leadership.”

“It is very gratifying for me to begin this new chapter at the company that has nurtured my administrative career,” said Dill. “In Paul Spittle we have found a seasoned professional who will help us sustain the high artistic standards for which HGO is world renowned.”

Molly Dill began her career as a stage manager, working with opera and theater companies across the country, including Lyric Opera of Chicago, Opera Theater of St. Louis, Houston Grand Opera, Glimmerglass Opera in upstate New York, and Portland Stage Company in Portland, Maine. While at Portland Stage she moved into the position of company manager, which she held for three seasons before returning to Houston in 2003. Since that time she has worked for Houston Grand Opera in a number of different management roles, including as director of production. Most recently she served as general manager.

Paul Spittle’s extensive production and technical management career includes twelve years overseeing production builds at the Metropolitan Opera and, more recently, running his own production and design consultancy firm in southern California, where his clients have included La Jolla Playhouse in San Diego, the American Conservatory

Theatre in San Francisco, and the Marriott Hotel group. Born in England, he attended art school in Vienna, then earned a degree in Visual and Performing Arts (Theatre) at Brighton University in the United Kingdom.

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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. HGO was the only American finalist for “Opera Company of the Year” at the 2017 International Opera Awards. 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.

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