



## **Houston Grand Opera Elects New Board Chair**

***Janet Carrig's term will begin August 1***

Houston, May 7, 2018—Houston Grand Opera (HGO) has elected Janet Carrig as chair of its board of directors. Carrig will serve a two-year term beginning August 1, 2018, succeeding Jim Crownover. Crownover's two-year term included the company's creation of a temporary theater in the George R. Brown Convention Center after its displacement from its home by Hurricane Harvey and the culmination of HGO's four-year presentation of Wagner's epic *Ring* cycle.

HGO Chairman of the Board Jim Crownover said, "I was proud to take over the chairmanship of this Board from a strong leader like John Mendelsohn, and I am just as proud to turn it over to another distinguished leader, Janet Carrig. Last season this company reached a new artistic high point with the completion of the *Ring* cycle, and only a few months later managed the amazing feat of presenting a complete opera season in a temporary theater at the George R. Brown Convention Center after being displaced by Harvey. Janet's dedication, commitment, and expertise are welcome as HGO continues to recover from Harvey and plan for its future back in the Wortham Theater Center."

Added HGO Managing Director Perryn Leech and Artistic and Music Director Patrick Summers, "Jim Crownover has been so generous a source of knowledge, perspective, and guidance for our Board and for us, especially during this incredibly challenging post-Harvey season. He has brought great leadership, especially this year, and we are tremendously grateful for his unfailing support and advocacy for HGO. We are looking forward to having the benefit of Janet Carrig's outstanding combination of skills, expertise, and longstanding knowledge of HGO as we work to not only continue our recovery, but to find creative and innovative ways to serve both our Houston community and the world of opera."

Said Janet Carrig, "HGO's performers, staff, and leaders showed the world this year how great art can overcome enormous odds. I am honored to follow Jim Crownover in working with this dedicated board and outstanding leadership team as we return to our creative home in the Wortham and build an ever more exciting future for opera in Houston."

Janet Carrig has been a member of HGO's board of directors since 2007. She chaired the development committee from 2009 to 2012 and chaired the company's endowment board from 2013 to 2017. As Senior Vice President, Legal, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary of ConocoPhillips, an independent oil and gas company that operates in 17 countries, she provides guidance in all areas of corporate strategy, business initiatives, and corporate governance. Prior to joining ConocoPhillips, Carrig was a partner at Zelle, Hoffman, Voelbel, Mason and Gette. She also previously served as Kmart Corporation's senior vice president, chief administrative officer and chief compliance officer; as Kellogg Company's executive vice president of corporate development and administration, general counsel and corporate secretary; and as Sara Lee Corporation's senior vice president, secretary and general counsel. She began her career as a law clerk on the Third Circuit Court of Appeals, and was thereafter an associate at Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz and a partner at Sidley & Austin. Carrig received a bachelor's degree in history, with honors, from Grinnell College and a juris doctorate from Yale University.

She serves as a trustee for the Columbia Threadneedle Mutual Funds and serves on the boards of directors for the National Association of Corporate Directors Texas TriCities Chapter and the International Institute for Conflict Prevention & Resolution. Previously, she has served on the boards of United Airlines, Grinnell College, The Joffrey Ballet, the Chicago Shakespeare Theater, the Yellowstone Park Foundation, and on the New York Stock Exchange's Legal Advisory Committee. She also previously taught mergers & acquisitions as an adjunct professor at the Northwestern University School of Law and served as a Commissioner of the American Bar Association Commission on Women in the Profession.

Carrig's contributions have been recognized with numerous honors and awards throughout her career, including the National Law Journal's 50 Most Influential Women Lawyers in America, the Burton Awards Legends in the Law, the Houston Business Journal Women in Energy – Women in Leadership, and Crain's Chicago Business' 40 Under 40.

Houston Grand Opera announced its 64<sup>nd</sup> season at the end of January. The main-stage season will include 33 performances of six productions, including two free community performances. Details are available at [HGO.org](http://HGO.org)

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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 (65 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 three Emmy awards. It is the only opera company to win all three honors.

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**Media Contact:** Melissa Arredondo, melissa@elmorepr.com, 713-524-0661  
**Director of Communications:** Judith Kurnick, jkurnick@hgo.org 713-546-0240

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