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Houston Grand Opera Named to Shortlist for 2017 International Opera Awards

Winners to be announced in London May 7

Houston, February 9, 2017— **Houston Grand Opera** (HGO) has been named to the shortlist for the [International Opera Awards](#). Founded in 2012, the International Opera Awards is an annual celebration of excellence in opera around the world. The awards aim to recognize and reward success in opera while raising the profile of the art form. Funds from awards events provide support for aspiring talent from around the world in all aspects of opera. The International Opera Awards Foundation is affiliated with the English magazine *Opera*. Judging of the awards is carried out by a jury of industry professionals headed by *Opera* editor John Allison. Winners will be announced May 7 at a ceremony at the London Coliseum.

More than 20,000 nominations were submitted for 2017 from people associated with the opera industry around the world. Houston Grand Opera is the only American company on the 2017 shortlist of six named in the Opera Company category. The list also includes London's Royal Opera House and Milan's La Scala along with companies in Germany, France, and Belgium.

“We are thrilled to receive this recognition from such a prestigious organization,” said HGO Artistic and Music Director Patrick Summers and Managing Director Perryn Leech. “This affirms a fact that our audiences and supporters have long appreciated: that the quality of work produced by Houston Grand Opera is second to none.”

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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 62 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. 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 225,000 Houstonians to experience first-quality opera through discounted single tickets and subscriptions, subsidized student performances, and free productions.

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