SAN FRANCISCO
OPERA GUILD

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA GUILD APPOINTS ANDREW BERGER DIRECTOR OF OPERA GUILD EDUCATION PROGRAMS

San Francisco, CA (November 8, 2013) – Andrew Berger, a distinguished veteran arts administrator and educator with more than twenty years of experience at several of the New York area's premier cultural institutions, has joined San Francisco Opera Guild as director of education. Mr. Berger began his position on September 30 and provides leadership and vision in developing and directing a comprehensive education program for San Francisco Opera Guild.

Reporting to Opera Guild Managing Director Susan Malott and working closely with the Opera Guild vice president of education and Opera Guild staff, Mr. Berger is responsible for the design, implementation, management and evaluation of all San Francisco Opera Guild educational programs, including its acclaimed K–12 education programs that currently serve more than 50,000 students in 200 schools throughout Northern California.

San Francisco Opera Guild President Karen Kubin stated: "Andrew Berger joins us as we begin preparations to celebrate our 75th anniversary in 2014. It is a credit to the Opera Guild and our award-winning education programs that we could attract a person of Andrew's caliber to help us further advance our mission. We are thrilled to welcome Andrew to the Opera Guild family."

"I'm excited to be joining the wonderful team at San Francisco Opera Guild as I make a new home in a city I've always found enchanting," said Andrew Berger. "Opera aims to combine great poetry and great music to move the spirit and soul in the most profound ways. It contains myriad connections to our most compelling human experiences. These qualities make it an ideal catalyst for the development of our creative potential, and through the Guild's programs, I hope to help make opera an even more vital component in the education of our young people and in the life of the Bay Area community at large."

Andrew Berger comes to San Francisco Opera Guild with more twenty years of experience in senior education positions at leading New York arts organizations, most recently as director of education at Midori & Friends, where he was responsible for a broad range of arts education programs serving

schools and community agencies in underserved communities across New York City. Prior to Midori & Friends, he was director of education at the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and director of education and outreach at the Tilles Center for the Performing Arts. His extensive experience in the performing arts field also includes positions as director of performances/Education department with the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, director of education and finance of Connecticut Grand Opera & Orchestra, artistic administrator of the Lincoln Center Institute, director of Merkin Concert Hall, and executive producer/music director for WNYC Radio. Mr. Berger received a Bachelor of Arts degree in music from Harvard College and his master's degree in curriculum and instruction from Long Island University.

San Francisco Opera Guild's 75-year tradition of music education is complemented by San Francisco Opera's own education division, which was established in 2008 to expand upon the acclaimed education and community partnership programs of the Opera Guild. Through programs such as San Francisco Opera's *Opera ARIA* suite of K–12 education programs, family and adult opera workshops, and more, San Francisco Opera and San Francisco Opera Guild bring countless arts education and on-going enrichment opportunities to students, teachers, families and adults of all ages throughout Northern California. For more information about these programs, visit www.sfopera.com.

About San Francisco Opera Guild

Founded in 1939 to provide arts education and support San Francisco Opera, San Francisco Opera Guild is an independent nonprofit organization whose board of directors oversees the activities of the Guild. San Francisco Opera Guild believes that the life lessons drawn from creative expression are the foundation of confidence and integrity. Celebrating 75 years of offering award winning K–12 education programs and engaging community outreach programs, its mission is to give voice to potential, extending the impact of opera and bringing it center stage into the life of the community. Each year, through San Francisco Opera Guild's fundraising and education fund, more than 50,000 students in 200 schools throughout Northern California find their voices, benefiting from the power of arts education as only opera can deliver. To learn more about San Francisco Opera Guild and its comprehensive education and community engagement programs, visit sfoperaguild.com.

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