



## **SAN FRANCISCO OPERA APPOINTS RUTH NOTT AS DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION**

San Francisco, January 4, 2008—San Francisco Opera General Director David Gockley has appointed Ruth Nott as director of education, marking an important new direction in the Company’s education efforts. Reporting directly to the general director, the new position is designed to give education a new strategic prominence at the Company. Nott’s appointment was made following an extensive recruiting process and input from an advisory committee of staff, board members and local education specialists. The San Francisco Opera Guild currently provides opera education programming for the community and will continue to play an active role in educational programming and support.

“The Bay Area community deserves an opera education department of the highest caliber, fully interwoven with the quality of the mainstage work of the Company,” said David Gockley. “We were committed to hiring the most professional, respected and visionary education director possible. In Ruth Nott, we found an experienced educator who is dedicated to building an inspirational department at San Francisco Opera and whose skill in developing community partnerships will help us forge an education effort closely linked to the needs of Bay Area school districts and the excellent work already provided by other local arts organizations.”

“This is an exciting chance to create a new education department at San Francisco Opera,” said Ruth Nott. “I share David Gockley’s passionate belief that opera is for everyone and I look forward to working with him and the San Francisco Opera staff in providing learning opportunities about opera, designed for students and adults throughout the Bay Area.”

Ms. Nott is currently director of programs at the Metropolitan Opera Guild where she oversees the development, implementation and evaluation of multiple arts education programs and partnerships, and where she has worked as an education leader since 2000. Previously she managed education programs for New York City Opera and spent time at IMG Artists, the Aspen Music Festival and School and Lyric Opera of Chicago. She is an active choral singer and has a music degree from Illinois Wesleyan University.

Ms. Nott will move to San Francisco in mid-February and will spend the remainder of the 2007–08 Season developing a strategic direction for comprehensive and sustainable education programs for students, adults and families at San Francisco Opera. Working closely with the Opera Guild’s programs that already reach more than 50,000 children from throughout Northern California, Ms. Nott will develop pilot programs for the 2008–09 Season utilizing both traditional and progressive methods, including the use of the high-definition technology made possible by the Koret-Taube Media Suite.

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