

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Maestro Richard Buckley Appointed Principal Conductor

June 30, 2006 Cleveland. Peter L. Rubin, president of Opera Cleveland Board of Trustees, announced today the appointment of renowned International conductor, Richard Buckley, as principal conductor of Northeast Ohio's premiere opera company. In addition to conducting in the 2007 inaugural season, Maestro Buckley will advise on artistic and orchestral matters and collaborate on the development of the new company's aesthetic.

Artistic director of Austin Lyric Opera since 2003, Mo. Buckley has been heralded by critics across the world for his contributions to both the operatic and orchestral genres. His extraordinary career includes performing with some of the world's great opera companies; Royal Opera House at Covent Garden, Deutsche Oper Berlin, L'Opéra National de Paris, Royal Danish Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, San Francisco Opera, Los Angeles Opera, Florida Grand Opera, and Washington Opera among many others. His guest conducting at some of the world's finest orchestras includes; the New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, the symphony orchestras of Chicago, St. Louis, Houston, Toronto, Edmonton, Vancouver, Utah and Seattle among others.

"Mo. Buckley brings to this appointment a deep knowledge of classical music and the opera stage, a passionate love for the art form, and a dynamic and exciting talent for taking opera to a new level emotionally" said Mr. Rubin.

"Through his work on last season's *Turandot*, he has built an excellent rapport with the artistic and management staff of Opera Cleveland."

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"I am excited to have been asked to participate in Opera Cleveland's inaugural season," said Maestro Buckley. "Cleveland has a great history of supporting the arts and of outstanding quality. To become a small part of this company is an honor."

Celebrating its inaugural season, Opera Cleveland was formed by the merger of the city's two leading professional opera companies, Cleveland Opera and Lyric Opera Cleveland. Combining over 30 years of outstanding artistic achievements and community service, Opera Cleveland produces dynamic classical and contemporary repertoire as well as new works, boasts extensive education and outreach programs and an exceptional apprentice program. For more information call 216.575.0903.

The 2007 Inaugural Season celebrates the blending of two great traditions with a five exciting productions: Richard Strauss' powerful drama, *Salome*, April 20, 22, 27, and 28, 2007; Giuseppe Verdi's heartbreaking romance, *La Traviata*, June 13, 15, 17, 20, 23, and 24, 2007; Benjamin Britten's chilling, *The Turn of the Screw*, July 11, 13, 15, 18, 21, and 22, 2007; Stephen Sondheim's sexy and stylish, *A Little Night Music*, August 8, 10, 11, 12, 15, 17, 18, and 19, 2007; and Giacomo Puccini's legendary prima donna, *Tosca*, October 19, 21, 26, and 27, 2007.

Subscriptions Are On Sale Now. Patrons may call 216.575.0903 ext 221, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or write to Opera Cleveland, 1422 Euclid Avenue, Suite 1052, Cleveland, Ohio 44115-2063. For more information, please call 216.575.0903 ext 232. Groups of 10 or more, senior citizens, young professionals, and students enjoy great savings. Call 216.575.0903 ext 221 for more information.

Opera Preview – A free "sneak peek," packed with musical, biographical and historical background information about each opera, designed for newcomers, opera aficionados and everyone in between, begins 45 minutes prior to each curtain. For more information call 216.575.0903 ext 221.

Summer Picnics – Our popular outdoor picnic tradition continues at all evening performances at the Cleveland Play House. For more information call 216.575.0903 ext 263.