

OPERA
Cleveland

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 28, 2006

**JEFF SODOWSKY APPOINTED
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

CLEVELAND, OH . . . Opera Cleveland today appointed Jeff Sodowsky as the first Executive Director of the new company. Mr. Sodowsky begins his new position on October 16, 2006.

“Our national search for a new executive director demonstrated to us, once again, that Cleveland is one of the country’s arts capitals. This position attracted candidates from throughout the international opera community and we had the opportunity to consider many talented arts administrators,” said Board of Trustees President Peter L. Rubin. “I’m delighted to welcome an executive director with Jeff’s outstanding qualifications to Opera Cleveland and the Cleveland arts community.”

Mr. Sodowsky brings more than 20 years of arts experience to Opera Cleveland both in front of and behind the curtain. He most recently served as Director of Development for Kentucky Opera. He has held executive positions at the Kentucky Center for the Arts, University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, Louisville Ballet, and the Oklahoma Arts Institute, with responsibility for arts education, marketing, public relations, financial management, strategic planning, program development and administration.

Mr. Sodowsky holds a BFA from the University of Oklahoma and an MA and MBA from the University Of Cincinnati College-Conservatory Of Music’s acclaimed international graduate program in arts management and business. He began his career as a professional dancer, and performed with many companies including the Louisville Ballet and the Metropolitan Ballet of Wichita.

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Leon Major
Artistic Advisor

Richard Buckley
Principal Conductor

- more -

"I am tremendously excited about this opportunity. Opera Cleveland is a bold new company built on an extraordinary foundation of two great opera traditions. I am inspired by the dedicated, passionate and visionary Board of Trustees, the talented professional staff, and the opportunity to work with artists the caliber of Leon Major and Maestro Richard Buckley," stated Mr. Sodowsky. "I am eager to roll up my sleeves and join this vibrant company as well as make my new home in such a wonderful city."

Celebrating its debut season, Opera Cleveland is built on the foundation 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 Debut 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. Groups of 10 or more, senior citizens, young professionals, and students enjoy great savings. Call 216.575.0903 ext 221 for more information.