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Opera Cleveland Artistic Director extends tenure into 2012

Artistic Director Dean Williamson has accepted the offer to extend his tenure at Opera Cleveland through June 2012. Since January 2008, he has served the company as Artistic Director and Conductor for the 2008 and 2009 seasons.

"Through his programming, Dean demonstrates both an eye and ear for intriguing concepts, which are brought to fruition by artists who excel at their craft," says William Cole, Executive Director. "His choice of singers, directors, scenic designers and highly regarded professionals of stage craft has given Opera Cleveland an artistic direction that is garnering national and international attention."

This tenure takes Williamson through Opera Cleveland's 2010-11 and 2011-12 seasons; he will continue to conduct some of the productions.

"We are thrilled that Dean has agreed to extend his tenure," says Dr. Pauline F. Ramig, President of the Board of Directors. "In a year and a half, he has boosted the company's artistic product to critical and audience acclaim. His creative choices are done with an astute eye and prudence appropriate to the company and to Cleveland."

About Dean Williamson

A well-known and respected conductor, Williamson has garnered acclaim for conducting in repertoire such as *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, *Le nozze di Figaro*, *The Turn of the Screw*, *I Pagliacci*, *Così fan tutte* and *La bohème*. He has conducted for Seattle Opera, Opera Colorado, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Wolf Trap Opera and Chautauqua Opera Festival, among others. Until 2002, he served as Music Director and Conductor of the Seattle Opera Young Artists Program and for 12 years was principal coach and pianist for Seattle Opera. Williamson was also Music Director of the Washington East Opera and Artistic Director of the Viva Voce Song Recital Series with the Northwest Chamber Orchestra.

About the 2010-11 Season

Opera Cleveland splits open the human psyche in its 2010-11 season. Madness, loyalty, corrupt jealousy, obsession, and yearning all come into sharp focus through five titles, which comprise four dynamic evenings of opera. Join us at the State Theatre in PlayhouseSquare for *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *The Pearl Fishers*, *I Pagliacci/La voix humaine* and *Werther*. Visit www.operacleveland.org to learn more.

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