



Enriching Alaskan Life for Half a Century

For Immediate Release

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Torrie Allen to resign as General Manager & Artistic Director of Anchorage Opera

Anchorage August 22, 2011 – Anchorage Opera (AO) announced today that at a recent Board meeting, Torrie Allen advised the Board he will be resigning as the general manager and artistic director by the end of the 2011-2012 season, the company's 50th anniversary.

“Torrie took the helm at AO in 2007. Under his leadership, the organization has steadily advanced toward a transformational era of financial efficiency, creativity and popularity. Although the company continues to be challenged by reduced institutional support, last year, AO achieved the first production-specific surplus in its 50 year history and increased its audience by 37%. These are remarkable accomplishments during a period when many other opera companies have been forced to close due to tough economic times. Torrie promised 5 good years and he delivered,” says Robert Bracco, President of the Anchorage Opera Board of Directors.

Torrie is deeply appreciative of his tenure with Anchorage Opera. “It has been an honor and pleasure to work with so many dedicated people to bring superb grand entertainment to the stage. The road to success has been re-paved. It is time for me to move on and make way for the next chapter at Anchorage Opera.”

“Torrie will be staying on through the season. This timeframe allows a smooth transition period and ensures that AO will continue to provide powerful performances that delight Alaskans,” said Bracco.

“We wish Torrie every success as he pursues new opportunities,” added Bracco.

AO has formed a search committee to find a successor. A nationwide search will begin this month. For more information about the search, contact Richard Block, Chair, Anchorage Opera Search Committee, 907 563 5121 or PO Box 245007, Anchorage, Alaska 99524-5007.

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Anchorage Opera is the largest producer of the performing arts in Alaska and one of America's leading regional opera companies. The 2011-2012 Season marks the company's 50th anniversary. AO will celebrate its 50th anniversary by bringing 2 Alaskan premieres to Anchorage: Ricky Ian Gordon's *The Grapes of Wrath* (November 5, 2011), Verdi's *Macbeth* (February 18 – 26, 2012), and Rodgers & Hammerstein's *The Sound of Music* (March 30 – April 7, 2012).

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