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Media only: Walton Ferrell
(919) 559-7589
Public: (919) 792-3850

NORTH CAROLINA OPERA NAMES FIRST GENERAL DIRECTOR
Atlanta Opera Executive Takes the Helm of Recently Formed Company

RALEIGH – The newly formed North Carolina Opera has named Eric Mitchko as its first General Director. He will oversee the company’s day-to-day operations, manage its growth and development, as well as ensure that the company achieves its creative, fundraising, and financial goals. He assumes his new responsibilities July 6.

Mitchko comes to Raleigh from The Atlanta Opera where, as Director of Artistic Administration, he was responsible for the selection of the company’s repertoire and casting, and oversaw all elements of each production. He organized the Atlanta Opera Chorus’s participation in the Opera-Comique’s 2008 production of *Porgy and Bess*, which started in Paris and then toured elsewhere in Europe. He was instrumental in bringing new repertoire to The Atlanta Opera, including traditional and more contemporary works.

“I am thrilled at the opportunity to guide North Carolina Opera through its first season. I am looking forward to helping bring great performances of opera – the most exciting, passionate, and irresistible art form - to the rich cultural life of the Triangle,” says Mitchko.

Mitchko brings considerable knowledge of the classical music industry to his new position with the Raleigh-based opera company. At Herbert Barrett Management, and later as vice-president of Columbia Artists Management, LLC, both located in New York City, Mitchko managed the careers of a large roster of opera singers, conductors, instrumentalists, and chamber ensembles.

Eric Mitchko is an alumnus of both Princeton University and Columbia University where he studied politics and philosophy. He lectures frequently on opera. Joining the new General Director in his move to the area are his wife Holly and their children Charles and Isabel. The move to Raleigh brings the family closer to his parents, who live in Wake Forest.

North Carolina Opera was formed when The Opera Company of North Carolina and Capital Opera Raleigh merged. For the 2010-2011 season, North Carolina Opera will mount both large-scale and more intimate productions in a variety of venues across the Triangle. Casts will feature the finest singers from the world’s opera stages, as well as emerging talent from across the state. The company will offer programming in area schools and numerous outreach activities and events throughout the region.

North Carolina Opera will raise the curtain on its debut season with Puccini’s “Tosca”, October 15 and 17 in Memorial Auditorium, Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts in Raleigh.

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