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OPERA TO PRESENT LOCAL PREMIERE OF PHILIP GLASS OPERA

Directed and choreographed by Carolina Ballet Artistic Director Robert Weiss

North Carolina Opera is excited to present *Les Enfants Terribles* (Children of the Game) by Philip Glass January 19, 20 and 22, 2012 at the Fletcher Opera Theater at the Progress Energy Center in Raleigh. This production replaces the originally announced *The Fall of the House of Usher*. Robert Weiss, Artistic Director of Carolina Ballet, will serve as director and choreographer and the production will feature dancers from Carolina Ballet.

Les Enfants Terribles is a “dance opera” created by Philip Glass and Susan Marshall in 1996. It is based on the 1929 novel of the same title by Jean Cocteau and the 1950 film from Jean-Pierre Melville. The opera is scored for three pianos, soprano, baritone, tenor, and mezzo-soprano. The story articulates Cocteau’s belief in the power of imagination to transform the ordinary world into a world of magic. A brother and sister who live in a fantasy world, a “game” of their own imagining. Friends from the outside world try to enter, but the once-harmless “game” turns into a fierce and tragic struggle

“*Les Enfants* is a piece I have long wanted to produce, and I am thrilled that we have the opportunity to do it here. It contains some of Glass’s most beautiful and most dramatic music,” said General Director Eric Mitchko.

“After watching the original Cocteau film and then listening to a CD of the Glass opera I immediately was struck with the haunting quality of the Glass music and how appropriate it was for this strange and haunting tale,” said Carolina Ballet Artistic Director Robert Weiss. “As with the movie “The Hours” Glass’ music creates an atmosphere that is both poetic and eerie. The common place is just a little off, the everyday seems normal but there is something brewing under the surface. The music captures this perfectly.”

NC Opera Artistic Director Timothy Myers adds, “This project perfectly fulfills two strong visions I have for the company. First, expanding our repertoire to include modern masterpieces by composers like Philip Glass and second, to create innovative collaborations with world-class artists like Robert Weiss. The fact that we’re able to accomplish something like this in just our second season is very exciting.”

North Carolina Opera’s 2011-2012 season opens with *Carmen* by Georges Bizet on October 14 and 16 at Memorial Auditorium at the Progress Energy Center in Raleigh. *Carmen*, one of the most popular operas of all-time, is set in Spain (and sung in French with English supertitles) and tells the riveting story a soldier with a past who is seduced by a gypsy woman who cares only about her own freedom. Featuring some of the best-known tunes in music, including the Habanera and Toreador Song.

The grand finale to the season is *Il Trovatore* by Giuseppe Verdi on April 27, 2012 at the Meymandi Concert Hall in the Progress Energy Center in Raleigh and on April 29, 2012 at Memorial Hall in Chapel Hill. This semi-staged production sung in the original Italian (with English supertitles) has everything we love about

Italian opera. It is filled with ardent lovers, jealous rivals, crazed gypsies and a wealth of great melodies, including the famous Anvil Chorus.

Season subscriptions start at just \$66 and are on sale now by calling the North Carolina Opera Box Office at 919-792-3850 or filling out the form available at www.ncopera.org. Single tickets for individual operas start at \$25 and will go on sale in September 2011.

ABOUT NORTH CAROLINA OPERA

North Carolina Opera was formed in 2010 from the merger of Capital Opera Raleigh and The Opera Company of North Carolina. It is dedicated to presenting operatic performances at the highest level throughout the Triangle. We also have a robust education program that brings opera to schools across Wake County and surrounding counties. North Carolina Opera brings international level artists to Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill, and also engages the best in local Triangle talent.

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