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**VIRGINIA OPERA COMMENDED FOR CULTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS
THROUGH VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH HOUSE RESOLUTION
(NO. 358) ON OCCASION OF 45th ANNIVERSARY YEAR**

**Public proclamation to be made Opening Night of VO 2019–2020 Season by
House Delegate Kelly K. Convirs-Fowler, serving Virginia’s Twenty-First House District**

NORFOLK, VA (September 30, 2019)—Today, the **Virginia Opera Association**, *The Official Opera Company of the Commonwealth of Virginia*, is honored to acknowledge commendation by the **Virginia House of Delegates** via **Virginia Commonwealth House Resolution No. 358**, which echoes the company’s 2018 recognition by the **Virginia Commission for the Arts** as a “Bedrock Institution of the Commonwealth,” and its “vital importance to the state’s cultural and artistic life.” The resolution is made on the occasion of this, the company’s 45th anniversary season.

The official public announcement of the proclamation will occur prior to the debut of the first of four scheduled statewide main stage productions—**Puccini’s *Tosca*—Friday, October 4, 2019**, at the Edythe C. and Stanley L. Harrison Opera House in Norfolk, VA; presented by honorable **Virginia House Delegate Kelly K. Convirs-Fowler**, serving Virginia’s Twenty-First House District. The resolution was ratified by the Virginia House of Delegates on February 20, 2019, and its official representation as resolved made to **VOA Board of Directors chair, Elisabeth M. Wollan**.

Additional recognitions within Resolution No. 358 include acknowledgment of the company’s initial declaration as the state of Virginia’s “Official Opera Company of the Commonwealth;” its “wide and unique repertory;” and its community service to over 150,000 patrons each season through means of performance and broadcast, along with its 40-year dedication in providing educational opportunities in learning about the art form in schools.

In acknowledging the resolution, **Virginia Opera President and CEO Russell P. Allen**, states: “Virginia Opera was founded by visionary community leaders in Hampton Roads who recognized early on that the Opera’s mission should be statewide. Within three years of its founding in 1975, Virginia Opera’s Education program extended far beyond Hampton Roads and main stage performances were taking place in both Hampton Roads and Richmond. From its founding, the regular venues of Virginia Opera were envisioned stretching from Wise County to the Eastern

Shore, and from Loudon County to Danville. Now, in its 45th Anniversary Season, that vision is, and has been, Virginia Opera's reality as it continues to serve the entire Commonwealth of Virginia."

Virginia House Delegate Kelly K. Convors-Fowler: "The Virginia Opera has shown itself as an exemplary leader in the field of Cultural Arts; not just in the Hampton Roads region, but throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. On their 45th anniversary, this resolution serves to recognize this organization for their educational programs, extensive repertory, and philanthropic efforts. On behalf of the Commonwealth of Virginia, we are so thankful for the contributions of the Virginia Opera and I look forward to joining the Virginia Opera on opening night and presenting this resolution."

Virginia Opera announced the four main stage opera productions in the company's 2019-2020, 45th anniversary season February 25, 2019, including three works of classical repertory—Giacomo Puccini's *Tosca*, debuting October 4, 2019; Gioachino Rossini's *Cinderella (La Cenerentola)*, which makes its debut early 2020; Giuseppe Verdi's four-act, *Aida*, which closes the season in spring 2020—as well as contemporary composer Daniel Catán's, *Il Postino (The Postman)*, which debuts in November 2019.

Virginia Opera's 45th Anniversary Season (2019-2020)

***Tosca* – Giacomo Puccini**

Among Puccini's most acclaimed and performed operas, the three-act *Tosca* (1900) is a volatile tale of romance, jealousy, deceit and murder set against the backdrop of Rome on the verge of military invasion. *Tosca* will be sung in Italian with English supertitles.

Norfolk - OCT 4, 6 & 8, 2019 | Fairfax - OCT 12 & 13, 2019 | Richmond - OCT 18 & 20, 2019

***Il Postino (The Postman)* – Daniel Catán**

Commissioned by the Los Angeles Opera (2010) and based in part on the 1994 Oscar-winning film of the same title, this critically lauded debut by composer Daniel Catán recalls the imagined life of exiled Chilean poet Pablo Neruda as he provides his love-struck postman with the words to reveal his heart to the one he loves. A universal story of love longed-for and won—and a Virginia Opera first—this timeless tale is itself poised to be a potential modern classic. Sung in Spanish with English supertitles.

Norfolk - NOV 8, 10 & 12, 2019 | Fairfax - NOV 16 & 17, 2019 | Richmond - NOV 22 & 24, 2019

***Cinderella (La Cenerentola)* – Gioachino Rossini**

Rossini's unique take on the classic fairytale, *Cinderella (La Cenerentola)* (1817) is full of both the familiar joys of its namesake and imbued with the revelations Rossini brought to its music and staging. The downtrodden heroine Cinderella rises to meet the more hopeful and promising destiny that only romance with her one true prince can bring. *Cinderella (La Cenerentola)* will be sung in Italian with English Supertitles.

Norfolk - JAN 31, FEB 2 & 4, 2020 | Fairfax - FEB 15 & 16, 2020 | Richmond - FEB 21 & 23, 2020

Aida – Giuseppe Verdi

Closing the 2018–2019 season, *Aida* is the story of the enslaved Ethiopian princess who captures the heart of her Egyptian conqueror, divides allegiances, and sets in motion what is inarguably among the world’s epic narratives of undying love. Set in ancient Egypt, *Aida* remains among the most popular operas of all time. *Aida* will be sung in Italian with English Supertitles.

Norfolk - MAR 20, 22 & 23, 2020 | Richmond - MAR 27 & 29, 2020 ———

Subscription Information

Subscription tickets for all 4 productions are on sale now for performances in Norfolk and Richmond starting as low as \$75. Subscription tickets and ticket information at:

The Edythe C. and Stanley L.
Harrison Opera House
Norfolk, VA
866.673.7282
vaopera.org

George Mason
University’s
Center for the Arts
Fairfax, VA
703.993.2787
cfa.gmu.edu

The Carpenter Theatre at
Dominion Energy Center
Richmond, VA
866.673.7282
vaopera.org

About Virginia Opera

Virginia Opera Association, Inc., in its 45th season, is known and respected nationwide for the identification and presentation of the finest young artists, for the musical and dramatic integrity of its productions, and for the ingenuity and variety of its education and outreach programs. Mainstage performances in three markets across the Commonwealth reach nearly 50,000 attendees annually. In March of 1994, by unanimous vote of the Virginia General Assembly, Virginia Opera was named *The Official Opera Company of the Commonwealth of Virginia* in recognition of the organization’s contribution to the state as well as to the world of opera. For tickets and information visit vaopera.org or call 866.673.7282.

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