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Vancouver Opera expands development team

Vancouver, BC ~ Vancouver Opera is pleased to announce the expansion of its development team as part of its planning for its 50th Anniversary in 2010 and beyond. Included in the expansion is the key appointment of **Jeff Sodowsky** as Chief Development Officer, a new position that will commence March 1, 2008. Under Sodowsky's leadership, the development team is expanding their services to donors and their stewardship of the company's \$9 million operating budget and growing \$6 million foundation.

Jeff Sodowsky comes to Vancouver Opera as the former Executive Director of Opera Cleveland, a growing \$4 million (U.S.) company. With extensive senior leadership experience in fund raising at Opera Cleveland and as Development Director of Kentucky Opera, Sodowsky will lead the expanded development team's campaigns leading up to the company's 50th Anniversary celebrations, which begin with the opening production in the 2009-2010 season.

In addition to Sodowsky's appointment, Vancouver Opera announces the appointment of **Jennifer Hargreaves** as Development Manager – Corporate Relations, and **Jenny Breckon** as Development Manager – Government and Foundation Grants, also a new position.

Jennifer Hargreaves comes to Vancouver Opera after four years as Director of Canada Operations with Golden Key International Honour Society, an international academic honor society headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia. Hargreaves will be instrumental in implementing the company's plans to expand corporate sponsorship opportunities, both leading up to the company's 50th Anniversary and into the future.

Jenny Breckon comes to Vancouver Opera after eight years on the staffs of several area museums, most recently the Richmond Heritage Museum. Breckon will oversee Vancouver Opera's extensive support from local, provincial and federal sources. Breckon's portfolio includes responsibility for the expansion of support from private and individual foundations for VO's popular 35-year-old education program. *Vancouver Opera In Schools*, BC's largest arts education program and the largest touring program of its kind in Canada.

-30-