

TOSCA ALBERT HERRING DON GIOVANNI DON CARLO

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**VANCOUVER OPERA ACHIEVES OPERATING SURPLUS IN 2012-2013**

Second surplus in as many years eliminates accumulated deficit

Vancouver, BC ~ Vancouver Opera achieved a significant operating surplus in 2012-2013, allowing the company to complete recovery from its accumulated deficit of \$831,000 in just two years.

Audited financial statements presented at VO's Annual General Meeting on September 14, 2013 reported an operating surplus of \$435,483 for the year ended on June 30, 2013, on a budget of \$10.2-million, bringing the company's accumulated surplus to \$169,354.

"We are very pleased to have finished last season in a solid financial position," said VO's General Director **James W. Wright**. "2012-2013 was very consciously a mix of traditional, new and innovative productions and firmly in line with our strategic plan. It's exciting to see audiences responding so enthusiastically and we are greatly encouraged as we enter Vancouver Opera's 54th season."

Added Wright, "I am grateful for the leadership of our Board of Directors. The Board's support, foresight and collective experience continue to be instrumental in guiding the company through changing trends in the arts."

Vancouver Opera's 2012-2013 mainstage program began with a well received *La bohème*, designed in a classic way with a contemporary audience in mind, followed later in the season by an enhanced remount of the acclaimed First Nations-inspired *The Magic Flute*. "The concept of this production, and its sets and costumes in particular, certainly ought to travel beyond Vancouver. We keep enough magic to ourselves here as it is," noted Elissa Poole in the *Globe and Mail*.

The company's second-ever production of *The Pirates of Penzance* brought many new faces to the Queen Elizabeth Theatre, and the season closed with the Canadian premiere of *Tan Dun's Tea: A Mirror of Soul*, an unusual production that fused eastern myth and western opera to reach a new and diverse generation of Vancouverites. "In these days of cautious programming and obsessions with bottom lines, VO's confident practice of presenting new work is entirely commendable," declared David Gordon Duke in *The Vancouver Sun*.

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*Naomi's Road*, VO's 2005 commissioned opera about the Japanese internment, was remounted for the season's Vancouver Opera In Schools tour.

"It's very satisfying to end the season with the elimination of the accumulated deficit, but the Board is aware that the years to come will challenge Vancouver Opera in new ways. Continuing to follow the company's strategic plan will be key to maintaining this upward trend," commented **Bev Park**, outgoing Chair of the VO Board of Directors. "The careful and nimble planning of senior management and the continued good work of staff have contributed to the elimination of a significant deficit in just two years. The dedication and hard work of our Board, committees and task forces, particularly around OVERTURE also helped maintain Vancouver Opera's solid footing this season."

"The company is very grateful for the leadership and strength with which Bev Park has guided the Board as Chair over the past three years," added James Wright. "We are very pleased that she will remain on the Board, and are excited to welcome our new Chair, **Pascal Spothelfer**."

VO's annual major fundraising event, OVERTURE, once again set the standard for glittering galas with an extremely successful evening featuring headlining artist k.d. lang.

In May 2013, Vancouver Opera hosted more than 100 companies from across North America for the annual OPERA America conference and Opera.ca colloquium. Delegates from all areas of the industry, as well from local arts organizations were in attendance, allowing collaboration and a chance to put The O'Brian Centre for Vancouver Opera in the spotlight.

Elsewhere in the community, VO continued its practise of offering free dress rehearsal tickets to residents of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside at the Carnegie Community Centre.

## NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Six esteemed community leaders were elected to the VO Board of Directors at the Annual General Meeting on September 14, 2013:

VO's new Board Chair, **Pascal Spothelfer** is Vice President of Communications and Community Partnerships at UBC. From 2007 to June 2011, Mr. Spothelfer was President and CEO of British Columbia Technology Industry Association. Before joining BCTIA, he was President and CEO at Spectrum Signal Processing, which was purchased by Vecima Networks in early 2007. Mr. Spothelfer previously served on the VO Board from 2000-2009. He is also a member of the Board of the Discovery Parks Foundation, and is Chair of the Board of Copperleaf Technologies Inc.

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**Jill Bodkin** has been Chair and CEO of Golden Heron Enterprises since 1996. Her career has spanned government, business and entrepreneurial enterprises in Canada and China. Ms. Bodkin was BC's first female Deputy Minister and the Founding Chair of the BC Securities Commission. She sits on the board of Westport Innovations, is a former member of the Board of Directors of the Laurentian Bank of Canada and KCTS Television, and is former President of the Board of Pacific Coast Public Television. Locally, she is a Governor and former Chair of the Vancouver Board of Trade.

**Mo Dhaliwal** is Director of Client Services at Skyrocket Digital. In 2009, Mr. Dhaliwal joined the Multicultural Advisory Council for the Province of BC to develop an annual report published by the Ministry of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism. In 2012, he received the Arnold Edinborough Award from Business for the Arts for his volunteerism and arts leadership. Mr. Dhaliwal is a director of Vancouver International Bhangra Celebration and a member of the task force for the City of Vancouver's 125th Anniversary celebration. He has been awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.

**Jessica McDonald** serves as an independent consultant specializing in management and organizational performance, and commercial mediation and negotiation. She served as a Deputy Minister in the British Columbia Government for six years and served in a number of other posts in the government under numerous administrations beginning in 1991. From 2005 to 2009, Ms. McDonald held the most senior public service position in the provincial government as Deputy Minister to the Premier, Cabinet Secretary and Head of the BC Public Service. She led landmark discussions including negotiation of the "New Relationship" between government and First Nations in British Columbia.

**Dr. Blaize Horner Reich** is a Professor at Beedie School of Business and a consultant. She worked for fifteen years in Canada and Asia as an information technology practitioner and consultant. Her publication *Governing Information Technology Risk*, with co-author Michael Parent, has been helpful to Boards who are grappling with their role in managing the value and risk aspects of information and technology.

**David Steiner** joins the Board as the new President of the Vancouver Opera Guild.

**Vancouver Opera Board of Directors, 2013-2014**

Pascal Spothelfer - Chair

Bev Park - Vice Chair

Mary Jordan - Treasurer

Lis Welch - Secretary

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**Directors**

Jill Bodkin  
Stephanie Chung  
Mo Dhaliwal  
Yuri Fulmer  
Divyesh Gadhia  
Patricia Graham  
Yoshiko Karasawa  
Sherry Killam  
Julia Kim  
Jessica McDonald  
Paul McEwen  
Inna O'Brian  
Michael O'Brian  
Blaize Horner Reich  
Bill Sirett  
Michael Stevenson  
Susan Van der Flier  
Jeffrey Wilhoit

Bruce Munro Wright, Chair, **Vancouver Opera Foundation**  
David Steiner, President, **Vancouver Opera Guild**

**Distinguished Honourary Members:**

Yulanda M. Faris  
Martha Lou Henley CM  
Kenneth W. Mahon

*The 2012-2013 season was sponsored by **Goldcorp Inc.**, in the first of a three-season sponsorship. This is the second multi-year sponsorship from Goldcorp.*