

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 23, 2007

Media Contact: Karen Lorenowicz
416-243-0168 karen.l@sympatico.ca

Jane Hargraft appointed General Manager of Opera Atelier

Toronto, ON – Alberta Cefis, chair of the board of Opera Atelier, is pleased to announce that Jane Hargraft has been appointed General Manager of Opera Atelier. Ms Hargraft comes to Canada's premier baroque theatre company after a successful five-year stint at the Canadian Opera Company as Director of Development (Annual Fund). Ms Hargraft starts at Opera Atelier on November 21, 2007.

"We are very excited that Ms Hargraft has joined Opera Atelier," said Ms Cefis. "Jane's experience, passion and vision will be a terrific support to Co-Artistic Directors Marshall Pynkoski and Jeannette Zingg as we approach our Silver Anniversary in 2010."

Ms Hargraft, a native of Port Hope, Ontario and graduate of Queen's University, has been a life-long opera fan. "Opera Atelier's 1988 production of Gagliano's *La Dafne* was the first opera I ever saw, and what a *tour de force*! Jeannette Zingg's casteneted habañera to Italian baroque music was stunning, and is still one of the most exciting things I have ever seen on the stage. The opportunity to work with Jeannette and Marshall is an arts administrators' dream come true," said Ms Hargraft.

"We've known Jane and admired her work as a fundraiser for many years," said Marshall Pynkoski, Co-Artistic Director of Opera Atelier. "Her knowledge of the opera scene in Toronto and her experience at the Canadian Opera Company are most welcome at Opera Atelier. Jeannette and I are thrilled that she has joined the company."

Ms Cefis thanked outgoing General Manager David Baile for his six years of service to the company, noting that under his guidance Opera Atelier has enjoyed financial stability, allowing the company to stage innovative productions, such as 2008's *Idomeneo*, the first time this Mozart production ever been performed on period instruments in Canada.

Ms Hargraft is married to Tafelmusik violist Elly Winer and they have two children, Rachel, 15, and Eleanor, 5.

Opera Atelier is Canada's premier baroque theatre company, producing opera, ballet and drama from the 17th and 18th centuries. Opera Atelier's 2007-08 season begins on October 27, 2007 with Monteverdi's *The Return of Ulysses* for six performances at the Elgin Theatre and continues with Mozart's *Idomeneo* on April 26, 2008. Subscriptions may be purchased by calling (416) 703-3767.