



**Media Contact:**  
Bronwen Bradley  
416-703-3767 x224  
Bronwen.Bradley@operaatelier.com

## **Opera Atelier Bids Farewell to Executive Director**

**- Patricia Barretto to join Chicago's Harris Theatre -**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Toronto, ON (August 17, 2015) - Opera Atelier's co-artistic directors Marshall Pynkoski and Jeannette Lajeunesse Zingg announced today that Executive Director Patricia Barretto will be leaving Opera Atelier. Barretto joined Opera Atelier in 2010 as Marketing Director and has served as Executive Director since October 2011, overseeing several international tours and major new opera productions in her time at Opera Atelier. She has accepted the position of Vice President, Marketing and Communications at Chicago's Harris Theatre and her last day at Opera Atelier will be September 21, 2015.

"Patricia has given Opera Atelier five extraordinary years as Executive Director. She has been at the helm during the greatest period of growth in our company's history. We look forward to building on the incredible foundation that she has provided for us in both the artistic and administrative arenas," say Pynkoski and Zingg. "We thank her for the invaluable contribution she has made to Opera Atelier and we wish her all the best in her new position. She leaves Opera Atelier well positioned to realize our ambitious plans for the months and years to come."

Opera Atelier's board of directors will be working to identify Barretto's successor as soon as possible. It is their wish to realize Pynkoski and Zingg's desire that the company continue to be led by a Toronto-based expert who has a deep understanding of Opera Atelier's vision and mandate as well as the ability to build the very successful international touring arm of the company.

"Patricia is leaving us with an incredibly bright future and very big shoes to fill," says Opera Atelier Board Chair John MacKinlay of PwC. "Opera Atelier is at an all-time high going into our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season, and our incoming Executive Director will have the exciting opportunity to continue building on the company's great recent successes."

***Opera Atelier is North America's premier period opera/ballet company, producing the opera, ballet and drama of the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. While drawing upon the aesthetics and ideals of the period, Opera Atelier goes beyond "reconstruction" and infuses each production with an inventive theatricality that resonates with modern audiences. Led by founding artistic directors Marshall Pynkoski and Jeannette Lajeunesse Zingg since 1985, Opera Atelier has garnered acclaim for its performances at home as well as in the United States, Europe and Asia.***

-END-