

New Administrative and Board Leadership at Opera Atelier

**- Patricia Barretto appointed Executive Director,
Bryan Graham elected Chair of the Board of Directors -**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Toronto, ON (July 18, 2012) - Founding Co-Artistic Directors Marshall Pynkoski and Jeannette Lajeunesse Zingg are delighted to announce two key changes in the leadership of Opera Atelier. Patricia Barretto, Opera Atelier's former Director of Marketing, has been appointed Executive Director, and former Board Treasurer Bryan Graham is taking the helm as Chair of the Board of Directors. Both appointments are effective immediately.

"This is a very exciting time for our company, and Patricia and Bryan have been integral to our recent successes. We are confident that they are the right people to build on those successes and to propel the company to new heights," explains Mr. Pynkoski. *"It has been a pleasure to work with both of these individuals, and we are thrilled that they have agreed to take on increased responsibility within our organization."*

Patricia Barretto has served as Interim General Manager since October 2011. During this period, she has exceeded ticket sales targets, shepherded two major tours to three venues, and fostered strong working relationships both within the company and with external partners. *"Our accomplishments this past season would simply not have been possible without Patricia's careful management,"* adds Ms Zingg. *"She is an inspiring leader and a true collaborator. Our company is in excellent hands."* The role of Executive Director has been created to reflect the scope of her new position.

"It is an honour and a pleasure to work with artists with the passion, vision and generosity of Marshall, Jeannette, and their team," says Ms Barretto. *"They have created an astounding company, and I am delighted to help shape its next chapter."* Before joining Opera Atelier in July 2010, Ms Barretto held senior leadership positions at the Royal Conservatory of Music and Artsmarketing Services Inc., and was most recently Senior Marketing Manager at Canadian Stage.

Board Treasurer Bryan Graham has been elected Chair of the Board of Directors, following the retirement of longtime Chair Alberta G. Cefis. A retired partner at Pricewaterhouse Coopers, Mr. Graham possesses extensive professional and volunteer experience through his broad involvement in the performing arts and not-for-profit sectors. He has served on multiple committees since joining the Opera Atelier Board in 2002, and is the ideal candidate to lead the Board at this time. *"I am looking forward to expanding my role with Opera Atelier and supporting the continued growth and achievements of this outstanding company,"* says Mr. Graham.

Opera Atelier is Canada's premier baroque opera/ballet company, specializing in producing opera, ballet and drama from the 17th and 18th centuries. Opera Atelier's 12-13 season features Weber's *Der Freishütz* (The Marksman), Oct. 27 – Nov. 3 2012, and Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, Apr. 6 – 13 2013, at the Elgin Theatre. For more information, visit operaatelier.com.