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Opera Atelier Welcomes New Executive Director

- Alexandra Skoczylas joins the company Oct. 1 -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Toronto, ON (September 9, 2015) - Opera Atelier's co-artistic directors Marshall Pynkoski and Jeannette Lajeunesse Zingg announced today that Alexandra Skoczylas will be joining the company as Executive Director. Skoczylas is an experienced leader with more than two decades of experience in the performing arts in Canada, most recently serving as Interim Managing Director at Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra. Taking over from outgoing Executive Director Patricia Barretto, whose departure for Chicago's Harris Theatre was announced on August 17, Skoczylas joins the company on October 1.

"We are thrilled to welcome Alex to Opera Atelier," say Pynkoski and Zingg. "We are privileged to have worked with her during her time at Tafelmusik and we know that her management skills combined with her knowledge of early music make her the ideal leader to bring Opera Atelier to new heights both at home and abroad in the years to come."

In her time with Tafelmusik as Interim Managing Director and previously as head of marketing for 15 years, Skoczylas generated more than \$1.7 million in revenue annually. In addition to her core expertise in non-profit arts marketing, Skoczylas brings additional depth in the period performance space gained through Tafelmusik's longstanding artistic partnership with Opera Atelier. With an academic background in Fine Art History (University of Toronto), and career experience ranging from the McIntosh Gallery in London, Ontario to the Arts Club Theatre in Vancouver, British Columbia, Alexandra has a deep and continuing passion for connecting people with arts, culture, and performance.

"With vision, passion, and unwavering dedication, Marshall Pynkoski and Jeannette Lajeunesse Zingg have created the world's premier period opera company – a gem on the Canadian cultural landscape," says Skoczylas. "I am delighted with both the opportunity and the privilege of partnering with them, and with the talented administrative team, to achieve Opera Atelier's artistic goals."

Opera Atelier is North America's premier period opera/ballet company, producing the opera, ballet and drama of the 17th, 18th, and 19th 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.

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