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Madison Opera Receives Madison Community Foundation Grant, Starts New Season Strong

**50th anniversary season begins with \$20,000 award and record subscription sales,
2009-2010 season closes with 5th consecutive operating surplus**

Madison, Wis. – Madison Opera has received a \$20,000 grant from the Madison Community Foundation’s Pleasant Rowland Great Performance Fund for Theater. With record subscription sales for the 2010-2011 season and an operating budget surplus for the recently closed 2009-2010 season, Madison Opera begins its 50th anniversary season in strength.

The Fund for Theater award will support Madison Opera’s production of Kurt Weill’s *The Threepenny Opera* in the Playhouse at the Overture Center for the Arts, Feb. 4 – 13, 2011. This landmark work was chosen for the 50th anniversary season in order to pay tribute to Madison Opera’s repertoire history, which for many years included both opera and musical theater. Dorothy Danner, a versatile director and former Broadway actress, leads the production, which stars American Players Theater favorites James DeVita and Tracy Michelle Arnold, and Broadway veteran David Barron.

General Director Allan Naplan said, “We are thrilled and honored to have the support of the Madison Community Foundation for our second production in the Playhouse. *The Threepenny Opera* will offer audiences a vivid theatrical and musical experience, which this generous grant will help bring to life.”

Further adding to the momentum of the new season, Madison Opera’s subscription sales recently reached an all time company high, with a 19% increase over the 2009-2010 season and a 77% increase in new subscribers. The increase may be attributed to numerous factors, including the popular and diverse programming for the anniversary season, the 15% discount offered for new subscribers, and a new online subscription option.

This strong start comes after the end of Madison Opera’s 2009-2010 fiscal year on Aug. 31: for the fifth consecutive season, the company ended with an operating budget surplus. Anchored by strong ticket sales that brought an average season capacity of 92%, the season was both an artistic and financial success as Madison Opera presented a sell-out run of *Carmen*, an inventive new production of Britten’s *The Turn of the Screw*, and the company’s Wagner debut, *The Flying Dutchman*.

Tickets are currently on sale for Madison Opera’s 2010-2011 Season: Celebrating Fifty Years, featuring *The Marriage of Figaro*, *The Threepenny Opera*, *La Traviata*, and the 10th anniversary of Opera in the Park. Visit www.madisonopera.org or call (608) 258-4141 for tickets and information.