



Jane Hill, Interim Executive Director
Kim Simon, Interim Resident Administrator
Garnett Bruce, Artistic Adviser

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Opera Omaha Board of Directors Names Jane Hill as Interim Executive Director

Omaha, NE – On Tuesday, October 26, the Opera Omaha Board of Directors Executive Committee unanimously voted to hire Jane Hill as Interim Executive Director of Opera Omaha. From 1994 to 2002, Ms. Hill served as the Executive Director of Opera Omaha. Kim Simon will remain with the company as the Interim Resident Administrator.

Prior to returning to Opera Omaha, Jane Hill served as the Executive Director of the Sacramento Philharmonic Orchestra and Executive Director of the Stockton Symphony. Other highlights from Ms. Hill's career include managing the "For Arts' Sake" initiative by invitation of Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson, a three year Action Plan that will be launched on November 12, 2010; project coordinator for "Ansel Adams: America," a multi-orchestra commission of a new work from Dave and Chris Brubeck in honor of Photographer Ansel Adams; and she currently serves as a consultant for arts management and not-for-profit institutional development.

Tim Hart, Chairman of the Opera Omaha Board of Directors, said, "With Jane Hill firmly in place as the Interim Executive Director, the staff of Opera Omaha and the Board of Directors are excited about continuing our 2010-2011 'Season of Journeys' and the planning of next year's offerings"

Opera Omaha's Orpheum season continues in February and April with productions of *Don Giovanni* and *Madama Butterfly*. Jane Hill stated, "I am honored and excited to be returning to Omaha as Interim Executive Director of Opera Omaha. I have a deep and sincere affection for this company, one of the most important regional opera companies

in the nation. As we approach our 54th season, this is the perfect moment to consider our history, re-examine our mission and strategies, and confirm our role as one of the Midwest's cultural treasures. I look forward to an opportunity to engage with Opera Omaha's loyal supporters, share the opera company's 'story' with newcomers, and re-connect with arts colleagues and friends in the region. I am especially pleased to partner with Interim Resident Administrator Kim Simon, a talented and capable manager who has a long history of involvement with the organization. Working with the board and staff, our goal is to establish a strong and sustainable infrastructure that can prepare for new long-term leadership."

Don Giovanni performances are Friday, February 25 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, February 27 at 2 p.m. at the Orpheum Theater. *Madama Butterfly* performances are Friday, April 15 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, April 17 at 2:00 p.m. All performances are held at the Orpheum Theater in downtown Omaha. Tickets start at \$19. Tickets sale dates will be announced on www.operaomaha.org.

Jane Hill's complete biography:

In 2009, Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson asked her to manage "For Arts' Sake," his initiative to support and sustain the arts in the Sacramento region. The 3-year Action Plan resulting from this work will be launched on November 12, 2010.

From 2002 to 2007, she was the Executive Director of The Sacramento Philharmonic Orchestra. Following that she was engaged as interim Executive Director of the Stockton Symphony for 9 months. During that same period she was project coordinator for "Ansel Adams: America", a multi-orchestra commission of a new work from Dave and Chris Brubeck in honor of photographer Ansel Adams. From 1994 to 2002, she was the Executive Director of Opera Omaha in Nebraska.

Before joining the staff of Opera Omaha, Hill was co-founder, master teacher of melodrama and development director for Dell'Arte, Inc., a prestigious California theatre company and professional training program.

Hill has served as a board member of the Association of California Symphony Orchestras and of OPERA America. She is past president of ArtsAIM, an association of the executive directors of Omaha's top arts organizations. She has also been a member of the board of directors of the Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts in Omaha and past treasurer of the board for Downtown Omaha, Inc. For two years, Hill represented the arts on the board of directors of the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce.

In 2000 she received the Greater Omaha YWCA Woman of Vision Award for significant contributions to the Arts & Humanities. In 2001 she received the annual Arts on the Green Award for service to the arts. In 2002 she was inducted into the South Omaha High School Hall of Fame, a rare honor for a non-graduate, for her contributions to education and the community. In 2004 she was honored as Arts Executive of the Year

by the Arts and Business Council of the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce.

Hill holds a bachelor of fine arts degree from Carnegie-Mellon University and a master's degree in theatre arts from Humboldt State University in California. She has three grown children and seven grandchildren, all of whom live in northern California.

Since retiring from the Sacramento Philharmonic, Hill established her consulting firm artSMART and is a consultant in arts management and not-for-profit institutional development.

About Opera Omaha

Opera Omaha, the only professional opera company in Nebraska, began in 1958 as the Omaha Civic Opera Society, a volunteer association, and with tremendous community support became fully professional by 1970. Opera Omaha produces a season of original mainstage productions, presented at the historic Orpheum Theater, and smaller productions and musical events throughout the community. Opera Omaha is internationally known for its productions of eight world premieres and four American premieres of classical masterpieces, and is highly regarded regionally for an extensive education and outreach program that annually reaches as many as 15,000 people from elementary school through adulthood.