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NORTH CAROLINA OPERA WELCOMES FIVE NEW BOARD MEMBERS

RALEIGH, N.C. - Now in its third season, [North Carolina Opera](#) continues to grow and look towards the future of the organization. We are proud to announce the admission of five individuals to the Board of Directors as of February 12, 2013. Welcoming new members Bryan Gilliam, James Gulick, William Hampton, Rose Meltzer and Sterling Perkinson.

General Director Eric Mitchko comments "Our board is essential in our long term goals for growth and development. We are so thrilled to bring these exciting and fresh voices to an already robust group and I personally am looking forward to working with them as we take the organization into the next year."

The new members are also welcomed by existing board members: David Baker, Chair of the NCO Board Development Committee says "We are pleased to welcome such an esteemed group of individuals to the North Carolina Opera Board. With varied and impressive backgrounds in both business and music/performing arts, each new member brings a unique perspective and extends our ability to develop and support this great organization." Dr. Stephen Prystowsky, President of the Board has this to add "We kicked off our 2013/14 season with the outstanding and sold out Wagner concert in January, to be followed by *Aida* in May and *Così fan tutte* October. My vision is to build this organization into a major regional opera company within the next five years. Vital to this endeavor is continuing to build a board with members who have strong ties to the community, share a passion for our mission and are committed to fundraising. Opera and the arts play a central role in the social and economic growth of the Triangle area."

All of the incoming members bring a depth of experience in a variety of fields that will help flush out and enhance the existing board. With backgrounds in Humanities, Law, Classical Music, Competitive Bridge, Sciences, Literature, Performance and more, this group of individuals will be essential contributors to development, outreach and creative growth of the organization.

Bryan Gilliam has been at the Duke University Department of Music since 1986 and now serves as Frances Hill Fox Professor in Humanities; he was admitted into the Bass Society of Fellows. Gilliam serves as Associate Editor at *The Musical Quarterly* and is on the board of advisors for the Kurt Weill Edition. His book publications include four on Richard Strauss and one on music during the Weimar Republic. He has most recently edited a special edition of the *South Atlantic Quarterly* ("Music, Image, Gesture") and is currently writing a book on Richard Strauss and modern German opera.

James C. Gulick has been Senior Deputy Attorney General in charge of the Environmental Division of the North Carolina Attorney General's Office for the past eleven years. He will be retiring March 1, 2013, having served in the Attorney General's office continuously, with the exception of a year and a half in private practice, since January, 1979. Throughout the tenure of Attorney General Lacy Thornburg (1985-1992), Jim was chief of the Consumer Protection and Antitrust Section. He is a 1971 Phi Beta Kappa graduate from UNC-Chapel Hill and a 1974 graduate of UNC Law School.

William Hampton was born in Chattanooga, TN and attended his first opera at age 6. After graduating from Duke University and then graduate studies in music at California Institute for the Arts, he founded

Millennium Music, a chain of successful CD stores in North and South Carolina from 1994-2008. Hampton served also as President of the Board for Triangle Opera from 1998 till 2001.

Rose Meltzer grew up in Westchester County, north of NYC, and studied Piano performance at the Juilliard School of Music. She then went on to graduate from Columbia University with both a BS and MS in Chemistry and has worked at many major corporations in the New York area. In 1997, when Cliff was transferred to San Jose, CA, to work with Cisco Systems, Rose started her quest in competitive bridge. She has won 5 open World Championships and is the only woman to have done so. Rose has served on the board of directors of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and the San Jose Symphony.

Sterling Perkinson is an attorney in the Employee Benefits and Executive Compensation group of Kilpatrick Townsend, where he has been named as one of five North Carolina "Rising Stars" in Employee Benefits/ERISA Law for 2013 by Super Lawyers magazine. Mr. Perkinson currently serves as secretary and is a member of the executive committee of the board of directors of Prevent Blindness North Carolina. He has also been a volunteer with the North Carolina Symphony and as a campaigner for SAFEchild. He attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Washington University in St. Louis.

ABOUT NORTH CAROLINA OPERA

[North Carolina Opera](#) was formed in 2010 from the merger of Capital Opera Raleigh and The Opera Company of North Carolina. It is dedicated to presenting operatic performances at the highest level throughout the Triangle. We also have a robust education program that brings opera to schools across Wake County and surrounding counties. North Carolina Opera brings international level artists to Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill, and also engages the best in local Triangle talent.

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