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Melissa Voigt Named Sarasota Opera Director of Development

Sarasota, FL – Melissa Voigt has been named Director of Development of Sarasota Opera. Her promotion was recently announced by General Director Richard Russell and Artistic Director Victor DeRenzi.

Voigt first joined Sarasota Opera in 2000 as Individual Giving Officer and became Director of Development in 2002. During her tenure, she led the completion of the \$20 million capital campaign that funded the renovation of the historic Sarasota Opera House. She left the company in 2009 to pursue other opportunities and returned in 2021 as Senior Development Officer.

“It will be my sincere joy to serve the Sarasota Opera, supporters, and community in this role. Sarasota Opera has always felt like home to me, and it is a pleasure to support Richard Russell, Maestro DeRenzi, our Board of Trustees and my colleagues to elevate our programs and artistic excellence,” Voigt said. “For me, I love watching newcomers discover our world-renowned opera company, dive into a newfound love of opera, and form lasting friendships with other patrons. To see folks then choose to invest philanthropically in the work we do – how fulfilling!”

Russell is equally pleased with Voigt’s return. “I’m thrilled to have Melissa Voigt return as our Director of Development. She has a long history of success in fundraising with the company and the community and I know she will help us achieve even greater heights,” he said.

ABOUT SARASOTA OPERA

This is Sarasota Opera’s 66th Season of bringing world-class opera to Florida’s Gulf Coast. The company was launched in 1960 in the historic 320-seat Asolo Theater on the grounds of Sarasota’s Ringling Museum of Art. In 1984 the company moved into the former A.B. Edwards Theater—now the Sarasota Opera House. Since then, the company has gained an international reputation as one of the leading regional opera companies in the U.S. through initiatives such as the Masterworks Revival Series and the Verdi Cycle. The company’s Sarasota Youth Opera is the most comprehensive Youth Program in the U.S. The Sarasota Opera House, which underwent a \$20 million renovation and rehabilitation in 2007, has been called “one of America’s finest venues for opera” by Musical America. Since 1983, the company has been under the artistic leadership of Victor DeRenzi and administrative leadership of General Director Richard Russell since 2012. Sarasota Opera is sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture and the National Endowment for the Arts. Programs are paid for in part by Sarasota County Tourist Development Tax revenues. Sarasota Opera • 61 N. Pineapple Avenue • Sarasota, FL 34236 • (941) 366-8450 • SarasotaOpera.org