

FRESNO GRAND OPERA

DAN MARTIN FAMILY FOUNDATION GIVES \$25,000 CHALLENGE GRANT

The Dan Martin Family Foundation will match individual gifts up to \$25,000

Fresno, California – October 12, 2016

Fresno Grand Opera is pleased to announce that the Dan Martin Family Foundation has awarded a \$25,000 challenge grant to the Company to support a fundraising campaign to kick off the 2016/17 season. The Foundation will match individual contributions up to \$25,000 to support FGO's 2016/17 season, with a deadline of December 31, 2016.

Fresno Grand Opera is on the road to recovery after a challenging period of financial struggle that almost saw the Company close its doors in early 2014. A combination of strict financial management, wider and more diverse programming and the regional partnership with the opera company in Modesto have made it possible for Fresno Grand Opera to continue operating while the board of directors and management have stabilized the Company's turbulent finances.

Matthew Buckman, General Director of Fresno Grand Opera, said: "We are incredibly grateful to the Dan Martin Family Foundation for giving this generous gift to our Company. Our focus for this year is rebuilding the financial foundation of Fresno Grand Opera, and this gift, when matched by contributions of other opera supporters in our community, will put us in a very strong position for the rest of the year. We can't thank the Foundation enough."

To join this campaign and have your contribution matched by the Dan Martin Family Foundation, please contact General Director Matthew Buckman at 559.442.5699 or mbuckman@fresnogradopera.org. More information can be found at www.FresnoGrandOpera.org.

About Fresno Grand Opera

Fresno Grand Opera was founded in 1999 by Fresno native Edna Garabedian after a successful career as an opera singer and stage director. The Company quickly established a reputation for high quality performances of the standard opera repertoire and concert performances by legendary artists, including Jose Carreras, Placido Domingo, Andrea Bocelli, Josh Groban, Sarah Brightman, Renée Fleming, Kristin Chenoweth, Marcello Giordani, Juan Diego Florez, and Audra McDonald.

Beginning with the 2014/15 season, Fresno Grand Opera entered into a groundbreaking artistic partnership with Townsend Opera of Modesto that has the two companies co-producing each season for performances in both communities. With the appointment of Townsend Opera General Director Matthew Buckman as the second General Director of Fresno Grand Opera, the two companies commenced with a full artistic and management partnership that is quickly changing the opera landscape in the California's Central Valley and garnering national attention from the opera industry.

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