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San Diego Opera Elects New Members to the Board of Directors

San Diego, CA – San Diego Opera is pleased to announce the addition of three new members to the Company’ Board of Directors bringing the current size of the board up to twenty-one. The new board members are **Jim Forbes, Richard Ulevitch, and Kevin Ahern**. Bios for each appear below.

“As San Diego Opera evolves into a year-round organization that engages audiences with new programming, such as the Shiley d etour Series, and explores new ways to support our community, like our partnership with the Glenner Alzheimer’s Family Center, having a strong and visionary board is essential to our long-term success,” shares David Bennett, San Diego Opera’s General Director. “The addition of Jim, Richard, and Kevin builds on the strengths of our dedicated and forward-thinking board and enables us to establish important long-term goals for the Company.”

Jim Forbes, Board Member

Jim Forbes has worked for more than 40 years as a successful executive with not-for-profit organizations. He concluded his professional career in June 2016 after creating a development program for the National Conflict Resolution Center. Prior to that, he enjoyed a successful tenure at San Diego Opera, directing a comprehensive individual gifts program. Jim has provided leadership for the growth of some of this country’s most important cultural organizations, including the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art (Kansas City), The Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, the Peabody Essex Museum (Salem, MA), and La Jolla Playhouse. Jim joined each of these organizations at a critical point in their development and advanced each financially, administratively, and programmatically. With expertise in marketing and fund development, Jim has directed programs that have cumulatively raised more than \$300 million. He has successfully directed five capital campaigns, created and developed annual operating programs, built membership, and increased community involvement. Throughout his career, Jim effectively partnered with boards by staffing governance committees, setting guidelines for accountability, writing organizational policies, even providing the guidance for changing the board composition to better meet organizational and community needs. Jim earned a Ph.D. in music history with supporting areas in art and intellectual history

(UNC-Chapel Hill), as well as an A.B. with honors in English literature (Lafayette College). Earlier in his career he was selected for leadership roles in national professional organizations, including the American Association of Museums, the Western Museums Association, and the Art Museum Development Association. Since moving to San Diego, Jim has contributed his experience and philanthropic support to the Boards of the San Diego Museum of Man, where for two years he served as Treasurer, and with the Scripps Whittier Diabetes Institute.

Richard Ulevitch, Board Member

Richard J Ulevitch received an A.B. from Washington and Jefferson College and a PhD in Biochemistry from the University of Pennsylvania. He resides in La Jolla, CA and is married to Susan Slesinger Ulevitch and has two children (Anne Ulevitch and David Ulevitch). He has been employed by The Scripps Research Institute since 1972. Richard J joined 5AM Ventures in February 2008 as a Venture Partner. Previously he was Chairman of the 5AM Scientific Advisory Board while serving as Professor and Chairman of the Department of Immunology at The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, California. He remains as Professor and Chairman Emeritus at The Scripps Research Institute (Department of Immunology) and is the Director of an NIH-funded Systems Biology/Forward Genetics Program now in its 3rd Five Year Funding Cycle. He has also served on the Board of Directors of the Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center and The La Jolla Playhouse. He currently serves as a Board Member of two Life Science companies, PhaseRx and Igenica (observer) and as a scientific advisor to Aravis Ventures, a European life science venture capital fund. He was also a Founding Advisor to the Lombard Odier Immunology Fund (Geneva Switzerland). Dr. Ulevitch also serves on the Scientific Advisory Boards of the following Life Science companies: Arvinas, Biodesy, Cleave, Ideaya and Igenica.

Kevin Ahern, Board Member

Kevin Ahern was born in San Antonio, Texas and moved with his family to El Centro, California in 1962. He graduated in 1978 from the University of California Los Angeles, majoring in History. After graduating, Kevin spent a year studying politics and economics at the University of London. He met his wife, Sherry, in La Jolla in 1985, where they have lived and brought up their two children, Brianna & Brendan. While at UCLA, Kevin joined the Sigma Nu Fraternity where he met many of his life-long friends. Since graduating, Kevin has been a member of the Sigma Nu Alumni Association as well as a lifetime member of the UCLA Alumni Association, & has continuously supported both. With a love for both reading & writing poetry, he has been a member of the Academy of American Poets since college. In 1981, Kevin & his father, Joseph Ahern, founded Ahern International, Inc. (now Ahern Agribusiness), where he is the current Chairman and CEO. Ahern Seeds develops and markets vegetable seeds and provides grower customers variety specific crop advice. In 1993, Kevin founded Ahern Internacional de Mexico. Throughout the years, Ahern Seeds has grown to know the people and the plants of Mexico better than most any other company in the world. That knowledge, combined with expertise in plant genetics and crop management, has made Ahern one of the larger vegetable seed & agricultural technology companies in North America. Kevin went on to create several other companies. He co-founded Genescape

LLC, of California, & Geneplanta S.R.L., of Italy (a tomato breeding company). He is also the Founder & Owner of Ahern Ag Tech LLC & Ahern Racing Stables LLC. Kevin is a member of many professional organizations, including: the International Seed Federation, the American Seed Trade Association, the Mexican Seed Trade Association, the California Seed Association, the United Fresh Produce Association, the Produce Association of the Americas, the International Horticulture Society, the Otay Chamber of Commerce, the National Onion Association, NFIB, Coparmex, & the California Thoroughbred Owners Association. Throughout his life, Kevin has been consistently dedicated to giving his time and money to many charities. Some of the organizations closest to his heart include: Mary Star of Sea, Father Joe’s Villages, Covenant House, Nativity Prep Academy, Salvation Army, City of Hope, Diabetes Research Connection, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Special Olympics, and most recently the San Diego Opera. In 2000, Kevin’s son, Brendan, was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes. Kevin & his wife quickly got involved in the diabetes community. Kevin served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Scripps Whittier Institute for Diabetes. Working with his wife, who served on the Development Board, Kevin helped raise money for research towards a cure of type 1 diabetes. Following the Whittier, Kevin served on the Board of Advisors of the Pediatric Diabetes Research Center at UCSD & of the Diabetes Research Connection. He and his wife continue their efforts to find a cure. In his free time, Kevin enjoys reading, writing, golf, racquetball, swimming, hiking, politics, winemaking, watching sports, horse racing, poetry, opera, and travel.

The 2016-2017 International Season

<i>Piotr Beczala in Recital</i>		September 17, 2016
<i>La Cenerentola (Cinderella)</i>	Gioachino Rossini	October 22, 25, 28 and 30 (mat), 2016
<i>Soldier Songs</i>	David T. Little	November 11, 12 and 13 (mat), 2016
Falstaff	Giuseppe Verdi	February 18, 21, 25 and 26 (mat), 2017
<i>La Tragédie de Carmen</i>	Georges Bizet/Peter Brook	March 10, 11 and 12 (mat) 2017
<i>La traviata</i>	Giuseppe Verdi	April 22, 25, 28 and 30 (mat), 2017

San Diego Opera Mission Statement

The mission of San Diego Opera is to deliver exceptional vocal performances and exciting, accessible programs to diverse audiences, focusing on community engagement and the transformative power of live performance.

San Diego Opera Vision Statement

The San Diego Opera will be recognized internationally as a leading example of adaptability, innovation and sustainability in the operatic arts, promoting diversified programming and unique performance venues with world-class and emerging talent.

San Diego Opera Core Values Statement

Through excellence in innovative programming and education, SDO provides a lasting cultural service to the community.

- Our tradition of excellence in fully staged opera is augmented with new models of opera and venues. Our unique and deep commitment to the community propels us to explore ways of increasing affordability and accessibility.
- Through fiscal responsibility and nimble adaptation to the changing marketplace, we protect the future of San Diego Opera.
- Our educational and community involvement coupled with relevant programming will build the audience of the future.

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