



For Immediate Release

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OPERA.CA ANNOUNCES RECIPIENT OF THE 2019 NATIONAL OPERA DIRECTORS RECOGNITION AWARD

DR. LYDIA WINGATE OF PACIFIC OPERA VICTORIA

Toronto, ON – Opera.ca, the national association for opera in Canada, is proud to honour an outstanding opera company board member, Dr. Lydia Wingate of Pacific Opera Victoria, as the 2019 recipient of the Opera.ca National Opera Directors Recognition Award.

Now in its eleventh year, the National Opera Directors Recognition Award highlights the tenets of good governance, celebrates models of volunteer excellence, and raises the bar for board director commitment.

“Board members of opera companies are so important to the success of their company, and Dr. Wingate’s contributions to Pacific Opera Victoria are exemplary, enabling the company to build a community presence in the Baumann Centre, and leveraging increased philanthropy critical to the establishment of its Artistic Excellence Fund,” stated Christina Loewen, Executive Director of Opera.ca. “In bestowing this honour on Dr. Lydia Wingate, we celebrate her and the meaningful contribution she has made to Pacific Opera Victoria.”

Dr. Lydia Wingate joined the board of Pacific Opera in 2005 and has served as Vice-President since 2009. In this capacity, and in her role as Chair of the President’s Circle Committee for more than a decade, she has provided exemplary leadership, sharing Pacific Opera’s artistic philosophy and mission with donors and patrons, guiding the company’s donor stewardship efforts, serving as an eloquent and welcoming ambassador for opera, and leading through example with her own outstanding personal philanthropy, which has included lead gifts to establish Wingate Studio at the Baumann Centre and to support Pacific Opera’s 40th Anniversary Campaign. Lydia is a recognized community advocate for the arts in the Capital Region and was the recipient of the 2014 Unforgettable Award for Outstanding Service to the Arts in Victoria. She is a familiar face at Opera.ca sector events including colloquia and annual meetings.



In nominating her, Carey Newman, OBC, member of the board of Pacific Opera Victoria, stated, “Lydia epitomizes what it means to be a volunteer, an ambassador for the arts, a proponent of good governance, and a philanthropist.” Timothy Vernon, Artistic Director of Pacific Opera Victoria added, “Lydia is an especially passionate and articulate advocate for opera in general and Pacific Opera Victoria in particular. Her support has been generous, her commitment unwavering.”

Opera.ca’s commitment to recognizing excellence in governance is shared with sister association OPERA America through their National Opera Trustee Recognition Award, in which a single honouree is chosen from each of the four OPERA America budget categories. In 2019 OPERA America is pleased to honour Maryanne Tagney, Seattle Opera, Robert Tancer, Arizona Opera, Charlie Schaffler, Opera Memphis, Stacey Hunt Spier, El Paso Opera, Elizabeth Hernandez, Opera Cultura.

About Opera.ca

Opera.ca is the national association for opera companies and professionals in Canada. It seeks to create and sustain an environment that makes opera central to Canadian life. It works with members across the country to advance the interests of Canada’s opera community and create greater opportunity for opera audiences and professionals alike.

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Dr. Lydia Wingate

Originally from the United Kingdom, Lydia Wingate enjoyed a fulfilling career in medicine and academia before retiring to Victoria in 2003 with her husband Martin. Career highlights included positions as Dean and Professor in the College of Health Professions at Weber State University, Utah; and as Association Director of Interdisciplinary Programs, Dean of the School of Allied Health, and Professor in the Department of Preventative Medicine at Kansas University Medical Center. She served as Professor and Director of the Post-Professional Program at Massachusetts General Hospital Institute of Health Professions. She was Professor and Director in the Division of Physical Therapy and was then appointed

Associate Vice President of the Brooklyn Campus of Long Island University.

In addition, she was Research Consultant in Rehabilitation Medicine at New York Hospital Cornell Medical Center. She served as Associate Chair of Physical Therapy and as a Professor in the Department of Rehabilitation at the State University of New York at Buffalo and was Director of Physical Therapy at Children's Hospital and Rehabilitation Center, Buffalo.

Lydia holds a Ph.D. in Cancer Epidemiology from State University of New York, a Masters of Science degree in Community and Preventative Medicine from Albany Medical College of Union University, and Certification in Physical Therapy from the University of Pennsylvania. She has published 21 articles in scientific referred journals and conducted over 50 presentations or workshops at state, national, and international professional meetings.