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GENERAL DIRECTOR

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PORTLAND OPERA CELEBRATES ARTS IN EDUCATION WEEK WITH SPECIAL SYMPOSIUM

Portland, Ore -- Portland Opera will add to the many events in Oregon and throughout the nation that celebrate "Arts in Education" week (September 12-18) with a special symposium designed to focus on the importance of arts in the lives of children **and** its powerful effect on the adults those children become.

Kicking off the symposium will be Portland Public School Board member David Wynde and PGE Foundation Director Carole Morse who will both share their personal reflection on "How the Arts Affected My Adult Life."

"It has been extremely painful for all of us in the arts to watch the steady erosion of arts education over the last few challenging years," commented Portland Opera General Director Christopher Mattaliano. "The Opera, like many of its sister arts organizations, has attempted to remedy that with a host of robust arts education and outreach efforts, even in what are extremely difficult budgetary times for us. This symposium is designed to add a slightly different focus, highlighting the importance of a solid arts education in the creation of interesting and effective adults who drive our country, its economy and its culture forward."

The symposium will also feature entertainment by Portland Opera Studio Artist Daryl Freedman, pianist Tom Webb, and flautist Sydney Carlson. Portland Opera's Education & Outreach Manager, Alexis Hamilton, will host the event. The symposium has been sponsored in part by the Portland Opera Guild.

Where: Portland Center for the Performing Arts Rotunda

When: Noon-1:00pm, Friday, September 17

Free to the public

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