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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **OPERA COLUMBUS ANNOUNCES CANCELLATION OF *THE MIKADO***

[Columbus, OH]- Opera Columbus regretfully announces the cancellation of *The Mikado*, which was planned for June 2009.

"While we remain committed to bringing back locally-produced light opera in Columbus, it has become clear that it would not be fiscally responsible to do so this season," said Executive Director Press Southworth III. "*The Mikado* was planned as an expansion of our production offerings in 2008-2009, but unfortunately, the economic challenges we are all facing have made that expansion fiscally imprudent."

Like most arts organizations in Columbus and throughout the United States, Opera Columbus continues to struggle with decreased contributed income as a result of the current economic situation. In order to maintain its commitment to fiscal responsibility and to ensure the survival of the organization in light of ongoing economic challenges, Opera Columbus has undertaken a series of cost-cutting measures in addition to canceling *The Mikado*, including the termination of one full-time staff position and one-week rolling layoffs for all staff members.

"The Board of Trustees and the staff of Opera Columbus are working together to manage through these difficult times," stated President Joseph J. Kromalic. "With the continued support of our community, Opera Columbus will survive well into the future."

For patrons that purchased tickets for *The Mikado*, either as part of a subscription or as single tickets, **the purchase will be refunded in full**. For purchases made by cash or check, refund checks will be sent by the CAPA Ticket Office. Purchases made by credit card will be refunded to the card used in the original purchase. All refunds will be processed by April 10.

Opera Columbus is currently finalizing plans for the 2009-2010 season, which will be announced in the near future.

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Opera Columbus enriches Central Ohio, educating, enlightening, and entertaining people of all ages and backgrounds through the live music theatre experience by employing a diverse supply of creative talent, ideas, and artistic energies.