Date: March 25, 2010
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OPERA COLUMBUS HOLDS 2010 IRMA M. COOPER OPERA COLUMBUS VOCAL COMPETITION

(Columbus, OH)

ORGANIZATION: Opera Columbus

EVENT: Irma M. Cooper Opera Columbus Vocal Competition

DATES & TIMES: Saturday, March 27, 2010: 11a – 5:30p
Sunday, March 28, 2010: 2p – 5p

VENUE: Weigel Hall
The Ohio State University School of Music
1866 College Rd.
Columbus, OH 43210

DESCRIPTION: 22 opera singers from across the country will compete for one of seven cash prizes and the opportunity to sing at an upcoming Go Wild! for Opera at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium. This competition gives community members the opportunity to hear opera singers of today, often before they receive large-scale, international attention. Irma M. Cooper co-founded Opera Columbus in 1981 and launched the vocal competition in 1983, only 2 years after the company's inception. The competition was designed by Ms. Cooper to offer young singers exposure to, and constructive feedback from, well-respected and seasoned panelists from the opera industry. The competition has helped to launch the careers of many

well-known singers, including world-renowned mezzo-soprano Denyce Graves, and Metropolitan Opera artists Dina Kuznetsova, Richard Paul Fink, Lucas Meachem, Nichole Heaston, Richard Zeller, Susan Foster, and Alyson Cambridge. The competition was renamed in honor of Ms. Cooper after her death in 2002.

This year's judges include: William Florescu, General Director of Florentine Opera Company; Gayletha Nichols, Director of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions; Dr. Karen Peeler, Professor of Voice and Voice Pedagogy at The Ohio State University

TICKET PRICES:

The preliminary round (Saturday) is free and open to the public. Tickets for Sunday's final round of the competition are $10 each. The Irma M. Cooper Opera Columbus Vocal Competition is free to 2009-2010 Opera Columbus Season Subscribers.

WHERE TO PURCHASE:

Tickets for Sunday's final round of the competition may be purchased at the door on the day of the competition.