

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Townsend Opera partners with a new international vocal competition

Townsend Opera is pleased to announce a new partnership with the first annual Phyllis Osterhout International Vocal Competition. The competition, which takes place February 1, 2010, is intended to recognize and promote the development of promising vocalists from California as well as emerging talent from mainland China and South Korea.

The top prize for the competition, offered by Townsend Opera, is a professional, paid contract to perform a leading or secondary role in a future Townsend Opera production. The prize will only be awarded to an outstanding singer that meets the artistic standards of Townsend Opera. Matthew Buckman, Executive Director, and Dr. Joseph Wiggett, Artistic Director of Townsend Opera, are both members of the judging panel.

Matthew Buckman, Executive Director of Townsend Opera, said, “We are pleased to partner with the first annual Phyllis Osterhout International Vocal Competition. Townsend Opera continues to reach out and work with other entities in our community to raise the profile of the arts in our region. This is an exciting next step for our organization.”

The Phyllis Osterhout International Vocal Competition is hosted by the Department of Music at CSU Stanislaus. Over 50 participants from China and South Korea are joining NUMBER participants from the Central Valley in the one-day competition. While in the United States, competition participants from China and South Korea will tour San Francisco and Los Angeles, and will attend a performance of *The Merry Widow* at the Gallo Center for the Arts.

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