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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – May 5, 2016 – Walnut Creek, CA

Festival Opera's 25th Anniversary Season is Out of This World

Festival Opera is pleased to announce its collaboration with the **Oakland Symphony** for the August 5-9, 2016 main stage production of W.A. Mozart's *Abduction From the Seraglio*, which was Festival Opera's debut production in 1991. Instead of the original setting, a Turkish harem, this production is set in space as a parody of the original *Star Trek* series, celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2016. Its mission: "to boldly go where no man has gone before." It's still Mozart, but with a *slightly* revised libretto — in English — by stage director **Josh Shaw**, artistic director of Pacific Opera Projects and the creative mind behind the re-imagining of Mozart's classic. Maestro **Michael Morgan** will conduct the **Oakland Symphony Orchestra**, with **Lynne Morrow** directing members of the **Festival Opera Chorus** and the **Oakland Symphony Chorus**. The ensemble of vocal artists features tenor **Brian Cheney** as Captain James T. Belmonte, soprano **Shawnette Sulker** as Lt. Constanza, tenor **Robert Norman** as Mr. Pedrillo, and soprano **Sara Duchovnay** as Blondie. Bass **Kevin Thompson** is Osmin, the grumpy Klingon overseer of the seraglio.

Festival Opera's free **Opera in the Park** summer concert will be presented June 26, 2016, in collaboration with The City of San Ramon in their Central Park. Featured artists: **Shawnette Sulker** and **Zachary Gordin**, with emcee conductor **John Kendall Bailey** and accompanist **Chun Mei Wilson**.

In October 2016, Festival Opera will present a workshop of excerpts and discussion of a new chamber opera in development with composer in residence **Wang Jie**. Her opera *Rated R for Rat* will make its world debut at Festival Opera in 2017, in collaboration with the respected new works incubator, American Opera Projects.

Festival Opera's production of *Abduction From the Seraglio* will be presented Friday, Saturday and Monday, August 5, 6 and 8 at 8:00 p.m., and on Tuesday, August 9 at 2:00 p.m. in the Regents' Theater at the Valley Center for the Performing Arts on the campus of Holy Names University in Oakland, CA. For more information, visit www.FestivalOpera.org. All artists and programs subject to change.

About Festival Opera

Festival Opera has emerged as one of the most respected opera companies in the San Francisco Bay Area and one of the top professional performing arts companies based in Walnut Creek. Founded in 1991, the non-profit organization provides opportunities for emerging artists, including San Francisco Opera Adler Fellows and Merola Program artists. Festival Opera strives to make opera accessible to a diverse audience.