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### Contract Extended for General Director & CEO, Larry Desrochers

Manitoba Opera announced today that the Board of Trustees has extended the contract for Larry Desrochers, General Director & CEO, for another three years, expiring June 30, 2015. Mr. Desrochers has held the senior administrative and artistic position with the company since November 2000.

"We're delighted that Larry will continue in his role as General Director & CEO of Manitoba Opera. It was the unanimous feeling of the Board of Trustees that Manitoba Opera had the best chance to succeed under Larry's continued leadership, particularly in these rapidly changing times," said Jennifer Snyder, Chair of the Board of Trustees. "In Larry, we have an experienced CEO who is not only respected locally for his work at a number of arts organizations, but nationally for his contribution to the field of opera."

Under Desrochers' leadership, Manitoba Opera has balanced its budget 10 times in the last 12 seasons. During this time, the company also experienced record-breaking attendance levels at a number of shows; box office revenue broke the \$650,000 mark for the first time in 2009/10 with \$657,863; community outreach and educational programs have been expanded; a free ticket program for social service groups was created; and attendance at Student Night at the Opera has increased. Fundraising has also increased significantly under Desrochers' guidance with *Transit of Venus* receiving unprecedented financial support including two of the largest single-sum donations (\$250,000) ever received by Manitoba Opera.

On the artistic side, since joining the company, he has commissioned the world premiere of *Transit of Venus*; presented the North American premiere of *Jason and Hanna*; and regularly attracted internationally acclaimed Canadian artists such as Russell Braun, Tracy Dahl, Judith Forst, Phillip Ens, Wendy Nielson, and Richard Margison.

"I'm very honoured that the Board of Trustees has extended my contract for another three years," commented Desrochers. "Running an opera company in one of the smallest markets in the country has its challenges, but every challenge we face is made worthwhile when 2,000 people jump to their feet after a thrilling performance or when school children send us thank you notes after a classroom visit. It's hard not to like working for an organization that brings joy to people's lives."

In June, Mr. Desrochers was awarded the 2012 "Making a Difference Award" from the Winnipeg Arts Council.