

**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Center City Opera Theater Adds New Managing Director

Ellen Frankel joins administrative staff as Managing Director

Philadelphia, Pa. - (November 29, 2011) - Andrew Kurtz, General and Artistic Director of Center City Opera Theater, is pleased to announce a new addition to CCOT's administrative staff. Ellen Frankel, librettist for the company's newest opera work, *Slaying the Dragon*, will be joining the Center City Opera Theater as Managing Director, overseeing day-to-day operations of the company.

Ellen Frankel received her B.A. from the University of Michigan and her Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from Princeton. For eighteen years, Frankel served as Editor in Chief and CEO of The Jewish Publication Society, the only nondenominational and oldest nonprofit publisher of Jewish works in English. Upon her retirement in 2009, she was named its first Editor Emerita.

Frankel is also the author of ten published books and has been writing libretti for the past ten years. She collaborated with Philadelphia composer Andrea Clearfield in the production of *The Golem Psalms* which premiered at the University of Pennsylvania in 2006 and has been performed at many other universities since.

"I'm delighted to be joining the staff of Center City Opera Theater, not only because I enthusiastically support its mission of developing new opera works, but because as a new librettist, I appreciate what CCOT has done in helping me launch my new career," Frankel said.

Frankel first worked with CCOT administratively as an adviser for the marketing campaign of *Slaying the Dragon*. Her managerial experience and impact working with the CCOT staff demonstrated a further realization of CCOT's mission of presenting new opera works, and led to her consideration for the position as Managing Director.

"If through my work at CCOT, I can help other artists - composers, librettists, and singers - find and express their own voices, then I will have in part repaid my debt to the company and its visionary director, Andrew Kurtz. Can there be anything more exciting than introducing a new work of art to the world?!"

Andrew Kurtz, General & Artistic Director of Center City Opera Theater, is pleased with his decision to add Frankel to his staff and excited for the company's future:

"Center City Opera Theater is thrilled to be able to add someone with the qualifications, experience, and background as significant as Ellen has to our management team. We are very fortunate to have found someone like her to be able to put her stamp on the opera company's daily operations."

Slaying the Dragon by composer Michael Ching and librettist Ellen Frankel will premiere with CCOT June 7 at the Prince Music Theater. For more information about Center City Opera Theater, visit www.operatheater.org.

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Center City Opera Theater's mission is to present opera productions of the highest professional quality with a focus on new work and education, recruiting new audiences through intimacy and affordability of performances and providing opportunities for emerging opera professionals. Now in its 13th season, CCOT remains the only professional opera company in the United States whose primary mission is the development and production of new opera works.

PRESS RELEASE SUMMARY

WHAT: Ellen Frankel - New addition to administrative staff at CCOT

WHO: Center City Opera Theater

WHEN: Immediately

WHERE: Center City Opera Theater main offices - 600 Chestnut Street

Tickets available online by visiting www.OperaTheater.org

For additional information and materials regarding this press release, as well as requests for interviews, quotes, or full season press kit, contact Marketing Associate Eric Brower: **610.547.3476** or eric@operatheater.org