



## Press Release

### **MANDELA TRILOGY TO COME TO DUBAI OPERA**

**Dubai UAE 17<sup>th</sup> April 2017:** Dubai Opera will host the award-winning and critically acclaimed Mandela Trilogy from 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> November 2017; the story of one of the world's most iconic figures, Nelson Mandela, brought to the stage in an epic and original musical tribute.

Cape Town Opera's celebration of Mandela's life is a spectacular portrait of a man who touched hearts and minds around the world. Presented by a cast of over 30 performers, with three different incarnations of Mandela, the contrasting phases of his journey are recreated through strikingly divergent styles of music including traditional Xhosa choral music, the jazz and jive dancing of the 1950s township music halls, struggle songs of the 1980s and the liberation music of the 1990s.

Mandela Trilogy celebrates the vibrant variety of South African music while dramatizing the defining moments that shaped Mandela's life. From tribal initiation rites on the banks of the Mbashe River and heady and rebellious jazz-fuelled days in Sophiatown, to incarceration and reflection on Robben Island and finally freedom.

Written by prize-winning South African author Michael Williams, with music from Péter Louis van Dijk and Mike Campbell, Mandela Trilogy was created to be a part of Cape Town Opera's season which coincided with South Africa hosting the FIFA World Cup in 2010. Whilst Nelson Mandela could not attend a live performance, he was given a recording and since his passing on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2013, the production has toured to Cardiff, Munich, London, Southampton, Dublin, Manchester and Birmingham, continuing the legacy of the former President of South Africa who remains a global icon.

A three-movement opera, the first part takes place in the Transkei, the second in Sophiatown and then the final part tackles Mandela's famous 27-year incarceration across three prisons; Robben Island, Pollsmoor and Victor Verster before ending with his victorious release. Praise from critics across the globe has frequently recognised the creative team's ability to balance a true-life political subject with musical theatre to result in a highly entertaining experience.

The score embodies the "melting pot" of South African music which, along with the award-winning Cape Town Opera chorus, has left audiences in the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, Spain, Kenya, Argentina, The Netherlands, Norway, Israel, Ireland, Italy, the United States and Australia spellbound.

Dubai Opera's Chief Executive, Jasper Hope, commented: "I'm delighted Dubai Opera is able to collaborate with the fantastic Cape Town Opera to share the story of Nelson Mandela's heroic and inspirational life, presented in this brilliantly colourful production with its



intoxicating mix of opera, jazz and Xhosa sounds and rhythms”.

Tickets for Mandela Trilogy will go on sale at **9am on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017**.

For more information, please sign up to the mailing list on the [Dubai Opera website](#), where all members will be informed regarding all ticket sales.

**-ENDS-**

### **Note to Editors**

#### **About Dubai Opera:**

Dubai Opera is a truly unique venue and the city’s first purpose built multi-format performing arts theatre, situated in the heart of Downtown Dubai. With an iconic dhow shaped design rooted in Emirati heritage, Dubai Opera offers the ultimate flexibility of a proscenium arch theatre, an acoustic concert hall and a 2000m2 flat floor event space, and is the definitive destination for quality entertainment productions and performances. Dubai Opera's stage will host an incredible array of world-class talent, with opera, ballet and classical music concerts and productions at the core, Dubai Opera will also stage musical theatre, fashion shows, jazz, comedy, family shows and a full range of live entertainment.

[www.dubaiopera.com](http://www.dubaiopera.com)