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For immediate release

Calgary Opera Welcomes Talisman Energy as Education Sponsor

Calgary AB... At an event announcing details of the 2009-2010 Opera Season, **Talisman Energy**, a long-time production sponsor of Calgary Opera, was announced as the overall **Education Sponsor**, pledging \$500,000 over the next five years in support of Calgary Opera's education programs.

"Talisman Energy has been a long-time sponsor of Calgary Opera and we are thrilled to continue our relationship with them at an even higher level as our overall Education Sponsor," says Calgary Opera General Director and CEO W.R. (Bob) McPhee. "Whether it's one of the programs that enriches the lives of thousands of young people, or one of the many programs that enhance adults' appreciation of opera, education programs are integral to our operation. Now, more than ever, it is important for non-profit arts organizations to partner with the corporate sector to ensure the highest quality cultural and intellectual experiences are available in our city. Talisman Energy has demonstrated its commitment to the quality of life in our community and we are thrilled to have their generous support of our education programs for the next five years."

Reg Manhas, Talisman Energy's Vice-President, Corporate Responsibility and Government Affairs, said: "The Calgary Opera has promoted talent in Calgary and Canada since 1972. Talisman is pleased to support the Calgary Opera's education programs that are helping the Calgary Opera connect with the community more than ever before."

From the thousands of discounted tickets offered to students at our *For Students Only Dress Rehearsals* to the transformative hands-on participation that is experienced by hundreds of students each year through our *Let's Create an Opera* program, Calgary Opera education programs ensure that opera is accessible to as many young people as possible. In addition, a variety of adult learning opportunities, such as *Taste of the Opera*, *Sunday Opera Brunches*, *Pre-Show Chats*, *Opera Look-In*, *Community Symposium Events* and *On-Line Journals* and *podcasts* extend the opera experience to anyone who wants to learn more about the art form. These various education programs engage thousands of people of all ages, at the Jubilee Auditorium, at a variety of other venues in Calgary and beyond, and even from the comfort of peoples' own homes.

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For further information, please contact:

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