



Thursday, June 30, 2016
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Jill Vandegriff, 317.283.3531

**INDIANAPOLIS OPERA ANNOUNCES CAST FOR WORLD PREMIERE OPERA
-- *HAPPY BIRTHDAY, WANDA JUNE* DEBUTS SEPTEMBER 16-18 --**

INDIANAPOLIS – The nine cast members for the world premiere of the Kurt Vonnegut opera *Happy Birthday, Wanda June* were announced today by Indianapolis Opera General Director Kevin Patterson.

Happy Birthday, Wanda June is the last revised work of Hoosier author-turned-librettist Kurt Vonnegut and will have its World premiere September 16-18 and be the season opening performance for Indianapolis Opera.

Artist	Roll	Notes
Hanna Brammer	Penelope	
John Cudia	Dr. Norbert Woodley	2010 Starred on Broadway role in “Phantom”
Brett Sprague	Herb Shuttle	IO debut in 2016 Mansfield Park
Jake Gardner	Harold Ryan	
Branch Fields	Looseleaf Harper	
Galen Bower	Major Von Koenigswald	IO concert celebrating Verdi’s 200th
Stephanie Feigenbaum	Wanda June	Former IO resident artist & Mansfield Park
Kristin Gornstein	Paul	Former IO resident artist
Jill Gardner	Mildred	

About *Happy Birthday, Wanda June*:

Happy Birthday, Wanda June was a joint project between Vonnegut and Butler University’s Director of Instrumental Activities Richard Auldon Clark. The pair worked on the piece for some years in Vonnegut’s New York brownstone. Vonnegut handed off his final libretto two weeks before his death in April 2007.

Indianapolis Opera will engage Metropolitan Opera Stage Director Eric Einhorn to direct this important premiere. Eric and his team of set designer Cameron Anderson, lighting designer Stuart Duke and costume designer Candida Nichols know intimately the importance of delivering a compelling narrative to audiences.

Indianapolis Opera is pleased to celebrate the Hoosier state’s bicentennial with a work by one of its greatest citizens. The work has received the endorsement of the Indiana Bicentennial Commission as a Legacy Project.

IO announced its season and subscription campaign on January 28. New subscription sales began Monday, May 2, followed by single ticket sales on Monday, August 1. Besides *Happy Birthday, Wanda June*, IO will also produce two other shows during the 2016-17 season and perform in two different venues during the season. Those shows include the *Barber of Seville* and *The Jewel Box*.

Indianapolis Opera / Page 2
IO Announces Cast for World Premiere

Happy Birthday, Wanda June will be performed at The Schrott Center for the Arts, 610 W. 46th Street, Indianapolis on September 16, 17 & 18 with curtain times at 8:00 p.m., 7:30 p.m., and 2:30 p.m. respectively.

Happy Birthday, Wanda June began life as a play by Kurt Vonnegut in October 1971 at New York's Theater de Lys. The play was Vonnegut's first attempt at a stage work. Written to protest the Vietnam War in 1970, the play blends the sacred and the profane to produce off-the-wall and strangely funny satires. Wanda's plot is based loosely on the Greek legends of Odysseus and Penelope – it involves the unexpected return of a mercenary career soldier/hunter named Harold Ryan and his wife, Penelope. When Harold left Penelope, she was a ditzy carhop; when he returns after eight years lost in the Amazon, he finds that she has gone to college, majored in English lit and changed her attitude about the macho man she married.

About Indianapolis Opera

Since 1975, Indianapolis Opera has delivered the passion, excitement and art of opera throughout Indiana with compelling educational, cultural and community activities. The Indianapolis Opera Resident Artist program reaches 30,000 children and adults statewide each year, with additional performances in Michigan, Illinois and Kentucky. Indianapolis Opera re-emerged in 2015 under the leadership of General Director Kevin Patterson, a Hoosier native and veteran arts leader. Under Patterson's leadership, Indianapolis Opera has embraced a production and collaboration vision seeking to engage the community.
www.IndyOpera.org