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**IU Jacobs School of Music, Butler University, and Indianapolis Opera to Present
2016-2107 Metropolitan Opera Council National Auditions**

Indianapolis – IU Jacobs School of Music, Butler University, and Indianapolis Opera announced today they would join together to present the 2016-2107 Indiana District Metropolitan Opera Council National Auditions.

The Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions is a program designed to discover promising young opera singers and assist in the development of their careers. Starting with the Auditions of the Air in the 1930s and continuing today, the Auditions have been a defining step in the careers of our nation's greatest opera stars.

The public will be able to view the auditions on Sunday, October 16, at the Schrott Center for the Performing Arts on the campus of Butler University (610 W. 46th Street). Tickets will be available beginning September 1 for \$20 for adults and \$10 for students with valid student ID. Times for the auditions will be released at a later date.

Laurie Burns McRobbie, IU's First Lady and honorary chair of the Indiana District Auditions is excited to see the partnership with Indianapolis Opera grow to include Butler University.

"Butler and Indiana University share in the goal of providing our students with a foundational liberal arts education. By joining together, with Indianapolis Opera, as hosts we will attract students, alumni, and surrounding singers who recognize our renowned music programs. These auditions are a springboard for opera careers, and we're sure to draw premier talent that will move on and perform on prominent stages in the future," she said.

Ronald Caltabiano, DMA, Dean of the Jordan College of the Arts at Butler University said, "We're delighted to join with IU Jacobs School of Music and Indianapolis Opera in welcoming the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions to Butler's campus. Important events such this underscore Butler University's position as a hub for arts and culture in our region."

How to Get an Audition

Persons interested in obtaining an audition should visit:

<http://www.metopera.org/About/Auditions/nationalcouncil/National-Council-Auditions-/or>
contact Auditions coordinator Sarah J. Slover, at indianamonc@gmail.com or contact her at 812-855-1059. Audition applications will be available in August 2016. Only the first 35 complete applications received will be accepted. All application materials including payment must be received by *Sunday, September 25, 2016*.

About the Metropolitan Opera National Council

The Metropolitan Opera National Council was founded in 1952 by Mrs. August Belmont to increase national interest in and support for the Metropolitan Opera. The contributions of the National Council membership provide direct support for the National Council Auditions program. Volunteers and National Council members administer the National Council Districts and Regions across the

country. Each District and Region raises money locally for holding their auditions and for award money for their singers.

About the Indiana District Auditions

For most of its history, the Indiana District Auditions took place on the Musical Arts Center Stage in Bloomington and in 2014, were moved to Indianapolis in order to provide a more centrally located opportunity for Indiana singers.

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