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## THE KURT WEILL FOUNDATION FOR MUSIC TO EXPAND GRANT AND SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMS

### STAFF ADDITIONS SUPPORT NEW PROGRAMMATIC INITIATIVES

**New York, NY, July 30, 2014:** President and CEO **Kim H. Kowalke** today announced expanded programmatic initiatives for the **The Kurt Weill Foundation for Music**. Dr. Kowalke, who was invited to lead the Foundation by Lotte Lenya in 1981, described the present moment as “the beginning of a new phase in the Foundation’s history. The twelve-member **Board of Trustees** of the Foundation has made available the financial resources necessary to increase funding for grants and sponsorships substantially, expand existing programs, and embark upon new initiatives that will significantly advance the organization’s mission. Staff appointments will enhance the Foundation’s ability to respond to these new opportunities.”

#### New Program Initiatives:

Three program initiatives have recently been launched. Each advances a central goal in the organization’s mission, namely to “nurture talent, particularly in the creation, performance, and study of musical theater.”

- Sponsorship of a **Kurt Weill/Lotte Lenya Glimmerglass Young Artist**, which in its first year underwrites Lotte Lenya Competition Winner Ben Edquist’s residency at the 2014 Glimmerglass Festival, where he is performing a leading role in *Carousel*.
- A pilot program at the **Eugene O’Neill Theater Center’s 2014 National Music Theater Conference** underwrote orchestration mentors and contributed direct support to the two composer-librettist teams: composer Avi Amon and librettist Julia Gytri (*The White City*); and composer/lyricist Jim Bauer and librettist Ruth Bauer (*The War Dept.*).
- In collaboration with the **Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation’s Observership Program**, Kurt Weill Fellows were placed with Martha Clarke at the Atlantic Theater Company, New York City, and Matthew Gardiner at Signature Theatre, Arlington, Virginia, to observe the master directors preparing their stagings of *The Threepenny Opera*.

#### Staff Transitions:

The launch of the initiatives coincides with the retirement of longtime Foundation **Director and Vice President, Carolyn Weber**, effective August 31, 2014. Kim Kowalke spoke of Ms. Weber’s impact during her years at the Foundation: “Having joined the Foundation in 1998, Carolyn has been a key member of our team, playing a leadership role in the Kurt Weill centenary celebrations and many major initiatives

thereafter, nurturing the growth of the Lotte Lenya Competition into an international event with ongoing influence on the career development of winners, overseeing the expansion of the grant program to include sponsorships and mentorships, interacting dynamically and productively with our publishing partners and producing organizations, handling complex licensing questions and business affairs—all with an integrity and ease of manner that concealed the prodigious commitment and effort she gave to these varied and sundry responsibilities. Her contribution has been enormous.” Reflecting on her tenure, Carolyn Weber said, “It has been a great joy to work alongside my colleagues and the Board of the Kurt Weill Foundation over the past 16 years. I’ve loved collaborating with arts organizations and academic institutions on Weill projects and encouraging the growth of young artists through the Lenya Competition and related activities. With the excellent staff now in place, the Foundation is poised to expand these exciting new ventures.”

In the newly-created position of **Director of Programs and Promotion, Janice L. Mayer** will spearhead the grants, prizes, and sponsorship programs, oversee the Lotte Lenya Competition and the career development program for previous winners, as well as such new endeavors as sponsored observerships for young directors, and support for creators of new musical theater. In welcoming her to the Foundation this month, President Kowalke said: “Janice Mayer’s wide-ranging and distinguished background in arts administration makes her the ideal Director of Programs as we seek broader impact in our collaborations with artists and producing organizations on both sides of the Atlantic.” Ms. Mayer responded, “I am delighted to have the opportunity to foster the appreciation and visibility of the work of composers Kurt Weill and Marc Blitzstein. I have deep admiration for the work of the Board of Trustees and staff of the Foundation and look forward to furthering the mission on a daily basis as part of the administrative team.”

Nine-year veteran **Brady Sansone** has been promoted to **Associate Director for Business Affairs and Record Management** effective September 1, 2014. He will be responsible for licensing, royalty monitoring and collection, human resources, and data management. Kim Kowalke spoke of Brady Sansone’s promotion: “Brady has proven himself a devoted team player and a quick study, now indispensable to our accelerated activities in several arenas.” Brady Sansone commented, “Having worked closely with Carolyn for a number of years, I feel well prepared to assume greater responsibility in the Foundation’s business affairs, while my graduate degree in Library and Information Science will allow for state-of-the-art systems of records management, retention, and retrieval.”

As of August 15, 2014, **Eric Joseph Meyer** will round out the team as **Program Administrator and Office Manager**. “Eric Meyer will bring expertise in social media, Internet outreach, and technical support, as well as a master’s degree in composition and a profound interest in musical theater,” stated Dr. Kowalke.

### **About the Kurt Weill Foundation for Music:**

Established in 1962, The Kurt Weill Foundation for Music is a not-for-profit, private foundation chartered to preserve and perpetuate the legacies of composer Kurt Weill (1900-1950) and actress-singer Lotte Lenya (1898-1981), as well as to promote the newly acquired works of Marc Blitzstein.

Mission: The Kurt Weill Foundation for Music administers, promotes, and perpetuates the legacies of Kurt Weill and Lotte Lenya. It encourages broad dissemination and appreciation of Weill’s music through support of performances, productions, recordings, and scholarship; it fosters understanding of Weill’s and Lenya’s lives and work within diverse cultural contexts; and, building upon the legacies of both, it nurtures talent, particularly in the creation, performance, and study of musical theater in its various manifestations and media. ([www.kwf.org](http://www.kwf.org))

## **About the Key Staff Members in Transition**

### **Janice L. Mayer**

Janice Mayer joins The Kurt Weill Foundation for Music from Musica Sacra of New York, where she was Executive Director of the professional chorus. Ms. Mayer has held positions of responsibility with the New York City Opera, The Shubert Organization, The Metropolitan Opera, the Van Cliburn Foundation, and Classical Action: Performing Arts Against AIDS. She was a Vice President at Columbia Artists Management, Inc., and founded and directed Janice Mayer & Associates LLC., an international artist management firm based in New York, for eleven years. Janice Mayer has been engaged as a consultant by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, ML Falcone Public Relations, The Harlem School of the Arts, Caminos del Inka, Inc., and The Copyright Society of the USA, among other organizations. She was honored to be the first artist manager elected to the Board of Directors of OPERA America, serving for six years. Janice Mayer holds a Master of Public Administration degree with a specialization in Arts Administration from New York University and a Bachelor of Arts from Connecticut College.

### **Eric Joseph Meyer**

A pianist and composer, Eric Joseph Meyer holds a Master of Music degree in Music Composition from New York University and a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Mr. Meyer joins the Foundation from NYU's Network Tech Department where he worked throughout his graduate studies. Prior to his position at NYU, he was the Education Tour Coordinator & Production Assistant at Florentine Opera in Milwaukee and the Student Services Manager at Wisconsin Conservatory of Music.

### **Brady Sansone**

Over the course of his nine years at the Foundation, Brady Sansone has assumed increasing responsibility in the areas of licensing and royalty management, skills that he initially developed in the television royalty department of ASCAP. A native of Salem, Oregon, Mr. Sansone attended Hofstra University in New York where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Music Business and Pratt Institute where he completed a Master of Library Science degree. Building on early studies in piano and violin, he now plays mandolin, bass guitar, and ukulele.

### **Carolyn Weber**

Before joining the staff of the Foundation, Carolyn Weber managed classical artists and touring orchestras as a Vice President and Manager at Columbia Artists Management, Inc. (CAMI). Responsibility for the management of the annual Mostly Mozart Festival tour to Tokyo fueled her love of travel and interest in Japanese prints—areas she intends to fully explore in her next chapter along with activities in support of NYC theater. After receiving a master's degree in voice and opera from Manhattan School of Music, Ms. Weber pursued a professional career as a singer/actress in Europe and the United States before moving into the field of arts administration.

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