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**ILLINOIS ARTS COUNCIL AWARDS \$1,600
GRANT TO OPERAMODA**

Chicago's Newest Opera Company to Apply Funds to 2005-06 Season

Chicago, IL – OperaModa, Chicago's youngest opera company, is delighted to announce the receipt of a \$1,600 grant from the Illinois Arts Council. The money will be used for the company's 2005-06 season, which includes a full mainstage production of Mark Adam's *Little Women* at Chicago's 1,000-seat Athenaeum Theatre and a radio production of Vittorio Rieti's comic 1-act *The Pet Shop*.

"We are thrilled to have been chosen as an Illinois Arts Council grant recipient," said Genevieve Thiers, co-founder and Executive Director of OperaModa. "We are dedicated to bringing contemporary opera alive for modern audiences, and the recognition and support of the Council will help us continue reaching that goal in 2005-06."

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OperaModa is dedicated to providing young Chicago musicians with quality performance opportunities through the production of modern and infrequently performed operas. Founded in 2004 to showcase the best young talent, both vocal and instrumental, that Chicago has to offer, the company's roster of productions to date includes Mechem's *Tartuffe*, Menotti's *The Telephone*, and Moore's *Gallantry*. More information on OperaModa and its exciting 2005 season, featuring a full mainstage production of Adamo's *Little Women*, can be found at www.operamoda.com.

For over 35 years, the **Illinois Arts Council** (IAC) has been instrumental in supporting Illinois' highly acclaimed and diverse cultural community. Thousands of partnerships throughout the IAC's history have helped to maintain the highest standards of excellence in the arts while expanding the accessibility of this artistic wealth to children and adults in every corner of the state. The IAC recognizes and supports not-for-profit arts organizations, community programs, schools, universities and individual creative artists through grant programs, technical assistance, workshops and special initiatives every year. More information is available online at <http://www.state.il.us/agency/iac>.