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## **Guest Artists Announced for “The Long and Short of It”**

*Milwaukee, WI (Dec. 23, 2009)* ... Fourteen guest artists will appear with Paula and Colin Cabot in *The Long and Short of It: A Night with Colin and Paula Cabot*, presented by the Skylight Opera Theatre. The limited-run revue opens with a special sold-out New Year’s Eve performance and runs through January 10, 2010, at the Studio Theatre of the Broadway Theatre Center.

The show pays homage to 50 years of artistry, entertainment and hijinks at the Skylight Opera Theatre, where the Cabots met, performed and worked for many years. Paula and Colin promise a combination of personal memories and widely loved music to mark the Skylight’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season. Each of the 10 performances will have a different twist, and a different mix of performing artists from the Skylight’s past.

The guest artists are: Elaine Parsons-Herro, Ray Jivoff, Mark-David Kaplan, Pam Kriger, Kathy Magestro, Norman Moses, Kurt Ollmann, Ellie Quint, Molly Rhode, Carol Greif Schuele, Kay Stiefel, Chase Stoeger, Bill Theisen, and Jack Forbes Wilson.

Collectively, Paula’s and Colin’s guests span four of the Skylight’s five decades and have appeared in dozens of productions, from *The Fantasticks* in 1972-73 through shows scheduled for the current season. Theisen, who got his start in the chorus of the Skylight’s 1981-82 production of *The Mikado*, is now the company’s Artistic Director and is also directing this revue. Jivoff, whose first Skylight performance was in 1990’s *Girl Crazy*, is Associate Artistic Director.

As Colin Cabot, who with Paula has run a farm in New Hampshire for the past 12 years, quipped about his guests: “Old theater friends never die, they just recombine.”

Paula Cabot made her Skylight debut as Paula Dewey in the title role of *Oh Kay!* She went on to appear in numerous Skylight productions, among them Polly in *The Threepenny Opera*, Josephine in *H.M.S. Pinafore*, the ingénue in *The Cocoanuts*, and Amalia Balash in *She Loves Me*. Her stage work has taken her across the globe, including the Body Politic Theatre in Chicago and the York Theatre and Musical Theatre Works in New York, among many others.

Colin Cabot began his association with the Skylight Opera Theatre in 1974, as assistant to Managing Director Clair Richardson. In 1977 he worked with Gian Carlo Menotti at the Festival dei Due Mondi in Spoleto, Italy. He returned to the Skylight as Managing Director the following year, when he devoted his time to planning and raising money for the creation of the Broadway Theatre Center. Colin’s family gave the lead gift that named the theatre which opened in the fall of 1993. Colin remained as Managing Director until 1989 and also served as Interim Artistic Director for two months in 2009.

“I don’t think there is a better way to celebrate the Skylight’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary than with Colin and Paula on stage once again,” Theisen said. “They are two of the most talented people I know and an integral piece of this company’s history. Hearing Colin tell his hilarious stories of Clair Richardson and the old days at the Skylight, and listening to Paula not only sing gorgeously but also share her

remarkable interpretations of songs ranging from Harold Arlen to Stephen Sondheim, makes *The Long and Short of It* the must-see event of both 2009 and 2010!"

### **Schedule and Prices**

*The Long and Short of It* opens December 31, 2009 and runs through January 10, 2010. The Dec. 31 performance is sold out. There are give additional evening shows and four matinee performances. Tickets are \$35.50.

### **Special Events & Notes**

After the Thursday, Jan. 7, performance, Theater Critic Damien Jaques will conduct a live interview with the artists. The second in the "Skylight Bar & Grill 'Em" series, it will be held in the Skylight Bar & Bistro on the second floor of the Broadway Theatre Center. It is free and open to ticket holders and non-ticket holders alike.

Show photos and review tickets are available. Please inquire with Laura Russart, Marketing Project Manager, [laurar@skylightopera.com](mailto:laurar@skylightopera.com) or (414) 299-4951.

*The Long and Short of It* is sponsored by Michael, Best and Friedrich, and John E. Holland and Konrad Kuchenbach.

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Skylight Opera Theatre is a nationally recognized producer of the full-spectrum of Music Theatre.

The Skylight is proud to be a cornerstone member of the United Performing Arts Fund, which provides major annual financial support. Through community support of the United Performing Arts Fund, UPAF Member and Affiliate Groups are able to provide education and outreach to over 400,000 children, provide over 2,000 live performances and reach over 1,000,000 people every year. When everyone supports the arts through UPAF, they help our local economy, improving education and strengthening outreach programs to the disabled and elderly - all while adding culture to their own life. Support of UPAF is critical to Member Groups' ability to continue to offer exceptional live performances, award-winning education and outreach programming and substantial economic impact to our region. To learn more about UPAF or to donate, go to [www.upaf.org](http://www.upaf.org).

The Skylight is supported in part by grants from the NEA, Wisconsin Arts Board, the City of Milwaukee Arts Board, and CAMPAC. The Skylight is a member of OPERA America; Visit Milwaukee; Historic Third Ward Association; Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Wisconsin; Theatre Wisconsin; and a cultural partner of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra's Arts in Community Education (ACE) Program. This theater is an equal opportunity employer. Except in plays where race itself is an issue, casting is decided based on ability, not race.

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