



Texas Foundation for the Arts
P. O. Box 667183
Houston, TX 77266-7183
713.529.0787

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kim Lykins
713-529-0787

**Texas Foundation for the Arts receives
\$25,000 grant from National Endowment for the Arts**

Funding allocated to Carlisle Floyd documentary film

HOUSTON, October 30, 2006—Texas Foundation for the Arts has received a \$25,000 grant from National Endowment for the Arts to support a documentary film in development detailing the music and life of America's preeminent opera composer, Carlisle Floyd.

Carlisle Floyd: American Opera's Southern Accent is being produced for PBS by Florida-based Infinite Communications in association with Texas Foundation for the Arts. The 60-minute program will explore how a young man of modest means from South Carolina became a significant contributor to the creation of the first real school of American opera, which emerged after World War II.

Maestro Floyd's remarkable journey will be shown from several angles: the man, the composer-librettist, the stage director and the mentor. The story will be told via interviews and conversations with internationally recognized professionals who are longtime personal friends of Maestro Floyd, including opera singers Placido Domingo, Samuel Ramey, Renee Fleming, Frederica von Stade, Denyce Graves and Phyllis Curtin, as well as Houston Grand Opera's music director Patrick Summers, general director Anthony Freud and former director David Gockley, now general director of the San Francisco Opera.

"Carlisle Floyd's music is performed around the world, but he has strong ties to Texas," said Kim Lykins, executive director of Texas Foundation for the Arts. "Houston Grand Opera staged the world premieres of his operas *Cold Sassy Tree*, *Bilby's Doll*, and *Willie Stark*. Also, Maestro Floyd taught composition at the University of Houston for many years."

Jane Matheny, executive producer of the project, believes bringing Floyd's story to television will inspire others by showing that perseverance and pursuing one's talents can make personal dreams come true. "Carlisle Floyd turned 80 this year," Matheny said, "and the time has come to document his incredible life, his work, and his contributions to our American culture."

#

The National Endowment for the Arts is a public agency dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts, both new and established; bringing the arts to all Americans; and providing leadership in arts education. Established by Congress in 1965 as an independent agency of the federal government, the Endowment is the nation's largest annual funder of the arts, bringing great art to all 50 states, including rural areas, inner cities, and military bases.

Texas Foundation for the Arts, founded in 2001, is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to promoting a positive environment for the growth of the visual and performing arts throughout the state of Texas and beyond. For more information on Texas Foundation for the Arts and its programs, please visit www.texarts.org.