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M. A. Henry Consulting, LLC Partners with Lyric Opera of Kansas City in Curriculum Development for Opera's World Premiere

ST. LOUIS, MO – April 1, 2007 – M. A. Henry Consulting, LLC, the St. Louis area's leading evaluator of externally funded education projects, has been signed as the education curriculum writer for Lyric Opera of Kansas City's 75th Anniversary Production, the world premiere of Kirke Mechem's *John Brown*.

Both the company and composer are strongly committed to making the most of the educational opportunities afforded by the opera's subject matter, especially given their direct relevance to Kansas, Missouri and U.S. history. John Brown's time living in western Kansas, his travels through Missouri, his leadership with the Underground Railroad, and the ways in which his family's experience led to his subsequent actions at Harper's Ferry all offer points of connection with students' class work at every grade level.

Martha A. Henry, Ed.D. and Keith Murray of M. A. Henry Consulting will lead the curricular development. Working closely with Kirke Mechem and members of the company, they will assure that the opera's lesson plans touch not only on historic and civics issues, but will cross into math and the sciences in natural and novel ways. The curriculum will reside on the company's web site (www.kcopera.org) and will be available both for stand-alone use and for integration into class work that culminates in a performance of the opera. Work will be completed well in advance of the premiere of *John Brown* at the Lyric Opera of Kansas City on May 3, 2008. ###