**NEWS RELEASE**Contact: Sandra Bent  
Weitzenhoffer Family College of Fine Arts  
University of Oklahoma  
(405) 325-5321, sbent@ou.edu

**Four Musical Events to Celebrate “Galileo’s World”**

(Norman, Oklahoma, Oct. 15, 2015)— Four interrelated events, all open to the public, are planned this month and next by the University of Oklahoma School of Music as part of the university-wide *Galileo’s World* exhibition.

*Galileo’s World* features 20 uniquely themed exhibits across seven locations on all three OU campuses, plus events and programs throughout the year.

The first of the three events will be an illustrated lecture by Eugene Enrico, Reaugh Professor of Musicology, titled “The Galileos and the Birth of Opera.**”** The lecture, which is presented as part of the school’s Norton Lecture Series, is set for 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 28 in the Pitman Recital Hall of Catlett Music Center, 500 W. Boyd St. In this lecture, Enrico will explain the connections between both Galileo and his father, Vincenzo, in creating the new artistic form known as “opera.” No admission charge for the lecture.

Enrico is one of the leading scholars on Vincenzo Galilei, Galileo’s father. One of the contributing factors to the development of the exhibition was the acquisition of this work: https://galileo.ou.edu/exhibits/dialogue-ancient-and-modern-music, by the OU Athletics Department. *Galileo’s World* acknowledges the role of the arts in Galileo’s scientific discoveries and illustrates the expertise on our own campus, made part by this and other gifts to the OU Libraries’ History of Science collections.

The second event – a showing of Enrico’s 2010 public television program “Culture Wars of Venice and the Birth of Public Opera,” will begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 5 in the Pitman Recital Hall. Immediately following the film at 8 pm, guest artist Lyle Nordstrom, one of America’s leading lute players, will present a lecture entitled “The New Music, Monteverdi and Opera in the Early 17th Century.”

As the grand finale of the series, the Accademia Filarmonicawill performMonteverdi’s first great opera*Orfeo*, as part of the Sutton Concert Series. The concert set for 3 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 8, in the Paul F. Sharp Concert Hall of the Catlett Music Center, will be led by Enrico, Nordstrom, and violinist Dr. Gregory Lee, OU professor of violin at OU, co-artistic director of the Accademia Filarmonica and concertmaster of the Oklahoma City Philharmonic Orchestra.

The cast will feature OU voice professors Joel Burcham as Orfeo, Donna Mitchel Cox as Musica and Euridice, Mark McCrory as Caronte, Kim Josephson as Pluto, Leslie Flanagan as Apollo, contralto Rebekah Ambrosini as both Messagiera and Proserpina and soprano Nicole Robertson as Speranza.

The concert will also feature members of the OU Collegium Musicum singing additional roles: the OU Mens’ Glee Club, directed by David Howard, OU Associate director of Choral Activities, and the OU Chorale, conducted by Richard Zielinski, OU director of Choral Activities, co-artistic director of the Accademia Filarmonica, and artistic director of the Classical Music Festival in Eisenstadt, Austria.

All Sutton Series performances are held in Catlett Music Center. Advance purchase tickets are $9 for adults and $5 for students, faculty, staff and senior adults. Tickets purchased at the door are $10. For tickets and up-to-date information call the Fine Arts Box Office at (405) 325-4101. This concert is supported by the Norman Arts Council through the Norman Hotel Fund and by the *Galileo’s World* exhibition.

For more information about the *Galileo’s World* exhibition, please visit galileo.ou.edu.  
  
Many School of Music concerts are scheduled for live stream via Internet, to see a schedule visit music.ou.edu/calendar. Please visit music.ou.edu/ for a full calendar of events and performances at the School of Music. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please call the box office at (405) 325-4101.