

The Dallas Opera Names Ian Derrer as General Director and CEO



The Dallas Opera (TDO) has selected Ian Derrer as its eighth General Director and CEO, following an executive search process supported by Arts Consulting Group (ACG). He will begin his tenure in July 2018.

A lifelong opera lover, he has worked professionally as a singer, Assistant Stage Manager, Stage Manager, and Director at influential regional and national companies, including Santa Fe Opera, The Atlanta Opera, Opera Carolina, Opera Pacific, and Washington National Opera. Mr. Derrer obtained international experience at the Institute of Vocal Arts in Chiari, Italy, before taking on his first administrative position at New York City Opera in 2004. He later accepted a position as Rehearsal Administrator for Lyric Opera in Chicago. During his eight-year tenure, he rose through the ranks to serve as Director of Production and Head of the Rehearsal Department. For two years, Mr. Derrer served as TDO's Artistic Administrator, where he worked on casting, production, and

programming details; oversaw budgets for the artistic staff, principal artists, orchestra, and chorus; and acted as the point of contact between The Dallas Opera and the national unions on issues related to collective bargaining agreements.

Most recently, Mr. Derrer served as General Director at Kentucky Opera, earning praise from *Opera News* magazine as a "creative force" in the industry. He demonstrated his commitment to diversity by hiring women directors to stage all three mainstage productions in the upcoming 2018-2019 season. Under his leadership, he also expanded opportunities for young artists as a direct result of creative community outreach efforts and exciting partnerships and collaborations throughout the Greater Louisville area. Mr. Derrer holds a degree in voice performance from Meadows School of the Arts at Southern Methodist University. He holds additional degrees in opera production and performing arts management from Northwestern University and Brooklyn College.

In making the announcement, Dallas Opera Chairman Holly Mayer said, "There is a definite air of excitement about this appointment. Ian is well loved and greatly respected by our board members, TDO staff, and the opera world. And, he returns to a place where he already has deep roots, along with a host of friends and admirers. However, familiarity doesn't outweigh managerial skills and experience. The reason Ian was selected to be The Dallas Opera's next general director and CEO," she adds, "is because, by the end of the selection process, it was clear to myself and other members of the search committee that, among a very impressive field of contenders, Ian stood out."

"Congratulations to The Dallas Opera on naming Ian Derrer as its new General Director and CEO," said Dr. Bruce D. Thibodeau, ACG President. "Mr. Derrer's experience and education in arts management and his passion for opera make him an excellent choice to lead TDO. As an internationally-recognized innovator dedicated to the advancement of the operatic art form, we wish Mr. Derrer and TDO all the best."

Photo Credit: Robert Hart