The **National Opera Trustee Recognition Program**, now in its 13th year, was established to honor opera company trustees for exemplary leadership, support and audience-building efforts within their communities on behalf of their respective opera companies across the country.

OPERA America’s commitment to recognizing excellence in governance stems from a core belief that the strength of an opera company is directly linked to the quality of governance demonstrated by its board members. It is OPERA America’s conviction that strong trustee commitment in the three key areas of leadership, support and audience-building is essential.

The National Opera Trustee Recognition Program:

- Highlights the tenets of good governance;
- Provides models of trustee and volunteer excellence;
- Amplifies the efforts of distinguished trustees to a national audience; and
- Strengthens the relationships between trustees and the companies and communities they serve.

Moreover, the National Opera Trustee Recognition Program offers OPERA America’s Professional Company Members an opportunity to demonstrate their gratitude and bring national attention to the leaders who play a pivotal role in charting the future of opera in America.

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**NOMINATION PROCESS AND ELIGIBILITY**

Nominations are due to OPERA America by **Wednesday, October 16, 2019, 8:00 p.m. EDT.**

Nominations must be submitted online at [operaamerica.org/TrusteeNomination](http://operaamerica.org/TrusteeNomination).

*A list of all nomination fields and questions can be found at the end of this document. A digital copy of these guidelines can be downloaded at operaamerica.org/TrusteeNominationGuidelines.*

Every U.S. Professional Company Member in good standing is invited to submit only one nomination. The nominated trustee must currently be serving on your board of directors. Companies may choose to re-nominate a previous nominee who was not selected for an award in a previous year. With special permission, a company may be permitted to nominate a recent trustee emeritus or a couple who both serve as trustees.

For questions, contact Melissa Walters, individual giving and membership manager, at 646.699.5248 or MWalters@operaamerica.org

**SELECTION PROCESS**

Honorees will be chosen by a selection committee comprising past recipients of National Opera Trustee Recognition Awards. At least four honorees will be selected, representing Budget 1, Budget 2, Budget 3 and Budget 4/5 companies. Notification of winners will be sent to companies and honorees in November.
SELECTION CRITERIA
The committee will evaluate the breadth and depth of each nominee’s involvement with the opera company according to the following six criteria:

1. **Demonstration of consistent and informed leadership**
   How has the nominee stood out as a true leader at the company?

2. **Responsiveness to specific opera company needs and goals**
   How has the nominee responded to the company’s needs and goals as they pertain to daily operations? How has he or she helped address a specific need, crisis or challenge (e.g., an endowment or capital campaign, year-end shortfall, etc.)?

3. **Financial or in-kind support**
   In what ways has the nominee gone above and beyond to make a meaningful contribution to the company?

4. **Involvement with audience development efforts**
   In what ways has the nominee advanced the company’s audience-building initiatives? How has the nominee personally and organizationally helped to develop new audiences?

5. **Advocacy on behalf of the company in the public and/or private sectors**
   What has the nominee done to bolster the company’s reputation, brand, visibility and product among sectors?

6. **Impact on the company’s trajectory**
   How has the nominee’s involvement and/or support had a transformational impact on the opera company (e.g., creation of a new facility, launch of an artistic initiative, significant long-term investment, etc.)?

HONOREE RECOGNITION
OPERA America will work closely with the opera companies of the selected honorees to highlight their achievements and contributions to the field in a national press release. Awardees will be featured in Opera America magazine and in the e-newsletter OperaLink. In addition, OPERA America will offer assistance to opera companies to coordinate media efforts in their local communities, as requested. All honorees will also receive a one-year membership to OPERA America, including a subscription to Opera America magazine and access to online resources and additional benefits.

NATIONAL OPERA TRUSTEE RECOGNITION AWARDS DINNER
Honorees are invited to attend the annual National Opera Trustee Recognition Awards Dinner, sponsored by Bank of America — this year on Friday, March 20, 2020, at the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, D.C. The event, which includes a reception, dinner, awards presentation and musical program, brings together company leaders and trustees from across the country with OPERA America’s Board of Directors, Bank of America leadership and guest artists.

Each honoree will receive two complimentary tickets to the evening; his or her general director will also receive two complimentary tickets. Additional tickets may be purchased for colleagues, family and friends. (Please note: The Awards Dinner is not a fundraiser and is not black tie; all additional tickets are priced at cost, and dress for the event is business attire.)

The Awards Dinner is a centerpiece of OPERA America’s annual National Trustee Weekend (March 18-21, 2020), which includes special events, outings and performances in the D.C. area. Honorees and their guests are invited to participate in other events throughout the weekend; additional costs apply.
PAST U.S. HONOREES OF THE NATIONAL OPERA TRUSTEE RECOGNITION PROGRAM
Listed alphabetically by year

2019
Elizabeth Hernandez, Opera Cultura
Charlie Schaffler, Opera Memphis
Stacey Hunt Spier, El Paso Opera
Maryanne Tagney, Seattle Opera
Robert Tancer, Arizona Opera

2018
Henry Fogel, Chicago Opera Theater
Carol F. Henry, Los Angeles Opera
John Serrage, Opera Maine
R. Jamison Williams, Michigan Opera Theatre

2017
Jerry Clack, Pittsburgh Festival Opera
R. Marsh Gibson, Opera Memphis
Carol Lazier, San Diego Opera
Holly Mayer, The Dallas Opera

2016
Michele S. Fabrizi, Pittsburgh Opera
Martha Rivers Ingram, Nashville Opera
Jeanette Lerman-Neubauer,
   The Metropolitan Opera
Jacqueline Badger Mars,
   Washington National Opera
Cynthia du Pont Tobias, Opera Delaware

2015
Susan Bienkowski, Long Beach Opera
Frank Kuehn, Opera Southwest
Capt. James H. McCoy, Hawaii Opera Theatre
John Nesholm, Seattle Opera

2014
Michael and Noémi Neidorff,
   Opera Theatre of Saint Louis
Ruth W. Orth, M.D., Pensacola Opera
Kenneth G. Pigott, Lyric Opera of Chicago
Robert L. Roschel, M.D., Opera Lancaster

2013
Lisa Erdberg, San Francisco Opera
Patricia A. Richards,
   Utah Symphony | Utah Opera
Cherie Shreck, Des Moines Metro Opera
Timothy J. Wagg, Opera North

2012
Elizabeth Eveillard, The Glimmerglass Festival
Joseph and Judy Liff-Barker, Nashville Opera
Susan F. Morris, The Santa Fe Opera
William C. Morris, The Metropolitan Opera
Dr. George R. White,
   Opera Theater of Pittsburgh

2011
Eleanor “Ellie” Caulkins, Opera Colorado
Jackie Lockwood, Dayton Opera
John I. (Jack) Riddle, PORTopera
Lynn Wyatt, Houston Grand Opera

2010
Jeffrey A. Evershed, Portland Opera
Benjamin Keaton, Long Leaf Opera Company
Fred and Eve Simon, Opera Omaha
Marc I. Stern, Los Angeles Opera

2009
James T. Cody Jr., The Dallas Opera
Richard Holland, Opera Omaha
Beth Ingram, Lyric Opera of Kansas City
C. Guy Rudisill III, Piedmont Opera

2008
Betty W. Healey, Opera Birmingham
Sally S. Levy, Opera Theatre of Saint Louis
Jane A. Robinson, Florida Grand Opera
G. Whitney Smith, Fort Worth Opera
NATIONAL OPERA TRUSTEE RECOGNITION PROGRAM
NOMINATION FORM QUESTIONS

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Wednesday, October 16, 2019, 8:00 p.m. EDT
Nominations must be submitted online at operaamerica.org/TrusteeNomination.

You may save your trustee nomination draft in the online form and return to it later.

CONSIDERATIONS WHEN PREPARING YOUR NOMINATION

- The selection committee can only consider what they receive in your written nomination. Your
nominee likely excels in all six evaluation areas. Make sure your nomination makes that clear and
convincing.
- Be specific. Provide concrete examples to illustrate how your nominee has impacted the company.
- Help the committee understand the magnitude of your nominee’s impact by qualifying any numerical
data; for instance: “Jane tripled the endowment when she raised $8 million in the campaign” or “Fred
recruited nearly half of the 150 people who attend our annual gala.”
- The selection committee will look for evidence that your nominee has played an active role in the
advancement of the company. The accomplishments of your company under your nominee’s board
tenure are less important than how your nominee helped achieve them.

For questions, contact Melissa Walters, individual giving and membership manager, at 646.699.5248 or
MWalters@operaamerica.org.

1. NOMINATING COMPANY

- Company*

COMPANY ADDRESS

- Address*
- Address 2
- City*
- State*
- ZIP Code*

COMPANY INFORMATION

- Budget Category (1–5)*
  - Budget 1 ($15 million or more)
  - Budget 2 ($3 to 15 million)
  - Budget 3 ($1 to 3 million)
  - Budget 4 ($250,000 to $1 million)
  - Budget 5 (Under $250,000)
- To the best of your knowledge, is your
company in good standing with OPERA
America? (Yes/No) (A company is in good
standing if it has completed the 2018
Professional Opera Survey and is current
with dues)*

GENERAL DIRECTOR

- Title (Mrs./Ms./Mr./Mx./Dr./Prof.)*
- First Name*
- Last Name*
- Professional Title*
- E-mail*
- Phone*

STAFF CONTACT

- Title (Mrs./Ms./Mr./Mx./Dr./Prof.)*
- First Name*
- Last Name*
- Professional Title*
- E-mail*
- Phone*

(continue on next page)
2. NOMINATOR

- Did someone other than the general director or a staff member at the opera company prepare the nomination? (Yes/No)*

  IF YES:
  - Title (Mrs./Ms./Mr./Mx./Dr./Prof.)*
  - First Name*
  - Last Name*
  - Relationship of the Nominator to the Nominee*
  - Board Position (if applicable)
  - Mailing Address*
  - Address 2
  - City*
  - State*
  - ZIP Code*
  - E-mail*
  - Phone*

3. NOMINEE

- Title (Mrs./Ms./Mr./Mx./Dr./Prof.)*
- First Name*
- Middle Initial
- Last Name*
- Suffix
- Nickname
- Professional Title and Employer/Affiliation*
- Board Position(s)*
- Mailing Address*
- Address 2
- City*
- State*
- ZIP Code*
- E-mail*
- Phone*

BOARD HISTORY AND ROLE
- In what year did the nominee first join the board?*
- How many years total has the nominee served on the board? (Do not include years of rotation off the board.)*
- In a short list, please provide the nominee’s current and recent board/committee roles, including duration of service. (1,250 character maximum)*
- If available, please provide a short, professional biography of the nominee. (1,250 character maximum)

NOMINATION INFORMATION
- OPERA America encourages companies to re-nominate strong nominees who were not selected in previous years. Has the nominee been nominated previously? (Yes/No)*
- If your nominee is not selected for the award this year, would you like OPERA America to send a letter of commendation? (Yes/No)*

NOMINATION QUESTIONS
- How has the nominee made a transformative impact on the company through his/her/their gifts of time, treasure and/or talent? (2,500 character maximum)*
- How has the nominee served as a responsive and informed leader, especially in relation to other board members and staff? (2,500 character maximum)*
- How has the nominee supported the company’s commitment to audience building, community engagement and/or civic practice? (2,500 character maximum)*

*indicates a required field