



NATIONAL TRUSTEE WEEK ITINERARY AND REGISTRATION New York, NY | March 18–22, 2026

OPERA America invites its Patron Circle (\$500+) members, trustees from opera companies across the country, and guests to come together in New York City for National Trustee Week 2026.

National Trustee Week includes:

- National Trustee Forum
- OPERA America Salutes awards dinner
- Outings and performances around New York City

NATIONAL TRUSTEE FORUM

Wednesday, March 18, 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Thursday–Friday, March 19 and 20, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

For the past 20 years, OPERA America's National Trustee Forum has welcomed opera company trustees for a dedicated, multiday symposium on successful practices in board governance.

This year, the 2026 Forum will take on a topical focus, putting the opera business model under a microscope with sessions on audience building, endowment campaigns, board activation, and more. A special series of case studies — featuring the Lyric Opera of Chicago, Bregenz Festspiele in Austria, and Roundabout Theater on Broadway — will raise questions about whether opera companies should be less orthodox in producing for their communities.

The Forum offers a unique opportunity to build relationships with fellow trustees, expand your understanding of effective governance, and bring insights from other companies back to your company. Forum participants will also have the opportunity to meet with OPERA America's new President and CEO, Michael J. Bobbitt, in a roundtable discussion about the future of the field.

Ryan Taylor, general director of Minnesota Opera, joins Dan Cooperman, chief advancement officer of OPERA America, in co-facilitating the Forum, alongside a slate of expert speakers and special guests.

Featured sessions include:

- **Opening the Hood on Opera Company Budgets:** A close look at how different production models shape financial sustainability and artistic opportunity.
- **Case Studies in Innovation:** Examples from Europe to Broadway that are redefining opera production through innovative creative approaches.
- **Board Accountability:** A practical discussion on how boards can evaluate their own performance through self-assessment, clear leadership roles, and transparent collaboration with senior staff.
- **Building Financial Resilience:** Insights into the board's role in endowment campaigns and long-term fundraising to strengthen financial security and donor engagement.
- **Understanding Audience Behavior:** New research on audience trends with discussion on how companies are applying data to attract and retain the next generation of patrons.
- **Advocacy in Action:** An update on current cultural policy issues and a guide to how trustees can become more effective advocates at the federal, state, and local levels.

The National Trustee Forum is open to board members of OPERA America's Professional Company Members.

REGISTER BY FEBRUARY 27, 2026

For assistance, please contact 212.796.8627 or Membership@operaamerica.org.

OPERA AMERICA SALUTES

Friday, March 20, 6:00 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.
The Plaza Hotel | Business Attire

The OPERA America Salutes awards dinner brings together artists, producers, and advocates in a special tribute to some of the field's most accomplished figures. The unforgettable evening honors industry pioneers and supports the next generation of opera leaders.

OPERA America Salutes honors new classes of the Opera Hall of Fame and National Opera Trustee Recognition Awards. This special 2026 event also features a tribute and curtain call for longtime President and CEO, Marc A. Scorca, after 35 years of visionary leadership for the field.

Your support of the event sustains OPERA America's professional development programs, including Leadership Intensive, New General Director Roundtables, and Mentorship Programs.

Opera Hall of Fame

Donnie Ray Albert, baritone and teacher
Mark Campbell, librettist and teacher
Denyce Graves, mezzo-soprano and teacher
Christopher Hahn, arts leader and administrator
Susan F. and William C. Morris, philanthropists and advocates
Bernard and Barbro Osher, philanthropists and advocates
Francesca Zambello, arts administrator and director

National Opera Trustee Recognition Awards

Marc Chalifoux, Against the Grain Theatre
Jeffrey Cunard, Washington National Opera
Janet Farrell, IN Series
Erin Flannery, Experiments in Opera
Liz Kathman Grubow, Cincinnati Opera
Robert Milne, Pacific Opera Victoria
Mel Weingart, OPERA San Antonio

Tribute & Curtain Call

Marc A. Scorca, President/CEO, OPERA America

OUTINGS AND PERFORMANCES

Guests are invited to participate in a series of outings and performances throughout the week.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

Welcome Reception at Central Park Tower (5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.)

Join us for a welcome reception in Central Park Tower, the tallest residential tower in the world. Gather on the 100th floor to enjoy breathtaking 360-degree views of the city and beyond as we celebrate our time together in the Big Apple. Hosted by Stacey Hunt Spier, trustee of El Paso Opera.

Ragtime at Lincoln Center Theater in the Vivian Beaumont Theater (8:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.)

The Tony Award-winning musical *Ragtime*, with a book by Terrence McNally, music by Stephen Flaherty, and lyrics by Lynn Ahrens, chronicles three families' pursuit of the American Dream at the dawn of the 20th century. This bold revival stars Tony nominee Joshua Henry, Olivier and Grammy nominee Caissie Levy, and Tony Award winner Brandon Uranowitz. This is the season's must-see musical and an enduring, impactful depiction of a nation in transformation.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 19 – AFTERNOON

For Non-Forum Attendees

Lunch at The Standard Hotel: Standard Grill (12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.)

Gather with fellow guests for lunch at The Standard Grill, the chic, bistro-style restaurant at the trendy Standard Hotel. Enjoy a seasonal menu in a lively, welcoming setting.

For Non-Forum Attendees

Tour of the Whitney Museum of American Art Biennial 2026 (2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.)

After lunch, enjoy a private guided tour of the Whitney Museum of American Art's celebrated Biennial, the museum's signature survey of contemporary art in the United States. An expert guide will provide unique insights as they take us through one of the art world's most anticipated and debated exhibitions.

THURSDAY, MARCH 19 – EVENING

Dinner at Bocca di Bacco (5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.)

Savor a pre-performance dinner at Bocca di Bacco, where rustic Italian flavors are served with modern flair in a warm setting.

Dudamel & David Lang's *the wealth of nations* at the New York Philharmonic (7:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.)

Pulitzer Prize-winning composer David Lang offers a daring new musical response to Adam Smith's classic 1776 text. The work explores the intersection of economy, society, and human values in our time. Gustavo Dudamel conducts the New York Philharmonic in this world-premiere performance, joined by an ensemble of vocal soloists whose voices illuminate Lang's poignant and provocative score.

FRIDAY, MARCH 20

OPERA America Salutes Awards Dinner (6:00 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.)

See above for details.

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

***Tristan und Isolde* at The Metropolitan Opera (12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.)**

Superstar soprano Lise Davidsen takes on the towering role of Isolde, opposite tenor Michael Spyres as Tristan. This new production of Wagner's masterpiece of love and destiny is directed by Yuval Sharon in his Met debut, with music director Yannick Nézet-Séguin conducting. The cast also includes Ekaterina Gubanova as Brangäne, Tomasz Konieczny as Kurwenal, and Ryan Speedo Green as King Marke.

The performance is now sold out. Please reach out to membership@operaamerica.org to be put on the waitlist.

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

Laffont Grand Finals Concert at The Metropolitan Opera (3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.)

Discover the most promising young singers from across North America as they compete in the final round of The Metropolitan Opera's Eric and Dominique Laffont Competition. Backed by the Met Orchestra, each finalist will deliver two show-stopping arias — a rare chance to hear extraordinary new talent at the very beginning of international careers.

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TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATIONS

Guests are responsible for arranging their own travel to/from and accommodations in New York City. OPERA America encourages guests to stay at the Kimpton Hotel Eventi (851 Sixth Avenue, between 29th and 30 Streets) or a nearby property. Consult the Kimpton website (HotelEventi.com or 866.993.8396), other booking sites, and OPERA America member deals (operaamerica.org/PartnerBenefits) for best rates.

For events where transportation is provided, buses will pick up from and drop off at the Kimpton Hotel Eventi. Details and timing will be distributed in advance of the weekend.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Activities and schedules may change. OPERA America will distribute a detailed itinerary with times and locations by email in early March, approximately two weeks prior to the start of activities in New York.

Suggested dress for daytime events is business casual, and for evening events is business attire.

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NATIONAL TRUSTEE WEEK

REGISTRATION FORM Register by Friday, February 27, 2026

ATTENDEE 1

Full Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP Code _____

Cell Phone* _____ Email _____

Opera Company Affiliation** _____

Dietary Restrictions _____

Recognition (for program listing for premium OPERA America Salutes ticket purchasers)

I/We would like to be recognized as _____

ATTENDEE 2

Full Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP Code _____

Cell Phone* _____ Email _____

Opera Company Affiliation** _____

Dietary Restrictions _____

**Please provide a cell phone number for each guest at which they can be reached while in New York.*

***Please provide your affiliation as you would like it displayed on meeting nametags for the National Trustee Forum.*

PAYMENT METHOD

☐ CHECK

Payable to
"OPERA America"

☐ CREDIT CARD

Card No. _____

Exp. Date _____ CVV _____ ZIP Code _____

Signature _____

Select your activities on the next page. Then return this form, along with your payment, to:

MAIL OPERA America, Attn: National Trustee Weekend, 330 Seventh Avenue, New York, New York 10001

E-MAIL Membership@operaamerica.org

PHONE 212.796.8627

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PROGRAM REGISTRATION

Please indicate your selections and totals for each person listed above.

	EVENT	PRICE	ATTENDEE 1	ATTENDEE 2	TOTAL
National Trustee Forum	<i>For opera company trustees who are individual members of OPERA America.</i>	MEMBER \$475			
	<i>Non-member rates include a one-year membership including either a digital or print subscription to Opera America Magazine.</i>	NON-MEMBER \$555 (digital magazine) \$575 (print magazine)			\$
Evening Activities	Welcome Reception (Wednesday)	<i>Complimentary</i>			
	<i>Ragtime</i> at Lincoln Center Theater (Wednesday)	\$175			\$
	Dinner at Bocca di Bacco (Thursday)	\$165			\$
	<i>the wealth of nations</i> at NYPhil (Thursday)	\$165			\$
	OPERA America Salutes* (Friday)	GENERAL TKT. \$500 ADVOCATE TKT. \$750 SUPPORTER TKT. \$1,500			\$
	<i>Tristan und Isolde</i> at The Met (Saturday)	<i>Sold Out</i>			\$
	Laffont Grand Finals Concert at The Met (Sunday)	\$95			\$
Daytime Activities (For Non-Forum Attendees)	Lunch at The Standard Grill (Thursday)	\$145			\$
	Whitney Biennial Museum Tour (Thursday)	\$80			\$
				TOTAL	\$

* More ticket levels available at operaamerica.org/OASalutes

Activities are subject to change and availability. OPERA America reserves the right to cancel any tour prior to departure for any reason, in which case there will be a full refund. In the event that the participant cancels, the following cancellation fees apply: Cancellations less than 15 days before departure will not be refunded. Performance ticket cancellations are subject to the policies of The Metropolitan Opera, New York Philharmonic, and Lincoln Center Theater.

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