

THE NATIONAL OPERA CENTER
AMERICA

OPERA America presents
CONVERSATIONS

Isabel Leonard

In conversation with
OPERA America President/CEO
Marc A. Scorca

The National Opera Center
April 7, 2016 | 7:00 p.m.



Mezzo-soprano
ISABEL LEONARD
 comes to OPERA
 America for a behind-
 the-scenes conversation
 with OPERA America
 President/CEO Marc A.

Scorca, discussing what it means to be a 21st-century opera icon. Recently featured in Jennifer Higdon's *Cold Mountain*, she is one of the most sought-after stars of her generation.

Highly acclaimed for her "passionate intensity and remarkable vocal beauty," Leonard continues to thrill audiences both in the opera house and on the concert stage. In repertoire spanning Vivaldi to Mozart to Thomas Adès, she has graced the stages of the Metropolitan Opera, Vienna State Opera, Paris Opera, Salzburg Festival, Bavarian State Opera, Glyndebourne Festival, Lyric Opera of Chicago, The Santa Fe Opera and San Francisco Opera. Her roles have included Rosina in *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, Angelina in *La Cenerentola*, Cherubino in *Le nozze di Figaro*, Dorabella in *Così fan tutte*, Blanche de la Force in *Dialogues des carmélites*, the title roles in *Griselda*, *La Périhole* and *Der Rosenkavalier*, and Sesto in both Mozart's *La clemenza di Tito* and Handel's *Giulio Cesare*. She has appeared with some of the foremost conductors of her time — James Levine, Valery Gergiev, Charles Dutoit, Gustavo Dudamel,

Esa-Pekka Salonen, Franz Welser-Möst, Edo de Waart, James Conlon, Andris Nelsons and Harry Bicket — and with ensembles such as the Cleveland Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra of the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia and Vienna Philharmonic, among others.

Leonard is in constant demand as a recitalist and is on the board of trustees at Carnegie Hall. She is a recent Grammy Award winner for Thomas Adès' *The Tempest* (Best Opera Recording) and the recipient of the 2013 Richard Tucker Award. She recently joined the supporters of the Prostate Cancer Foundation to lend her voice in honor of her father, who died from the disease when Leonard was in college.

**MARC A. SCORCA**

joined OPERA America in 1990 as president and CEO. Under his leadership, the OPERA America membership has grown from 120

opera companies to nearly 2,500 organizations and individuals. The organization has also administered two landmark funding initiatives in support of North American operas and opera audiences, and in 2000 it launched an endowment effort to create a permanent fund dedicated to supporting new works and related audience development activities. In 2005, Scorca spearheaded OPERA America's relocation from Washington, D.C. to New York City and the subsequent construction of the National Opera Center, which opened in 2012. The Opera Center's recital hall was recently dedicated as Marc A. Scorca Hall in honor his 25th anniversary with the organization.

Scorca has led strategic planning retreats for opera companies and other cultural institutions internationally, and he has participated on panels for federal, state and local funding agencies, as well as for numerous private organizations. He also played an instrumental role in the founding of Opera.ca and Opera Europa, OPERA America's sister organizations. A strong advocate of collaboration, Scorca has

led several cross-disciplinary projects, including the Performing Arts Research Coalition and the National Performing Arts Convention (2004 and 2008). He has served as a member of the U.S. delegation to UNESCO and currently serves as an officer of the Performing Arts Alliance, as a member of the Board of Overseers of the Curtis Institute of Music and on the Music Advisory Board of Hunter College (CUNY). Due in large part to Scorca's contributions to the organization, OPERA America was inducted into the American Classical Music Hall of Fame in 2013. Scorca attended Amherst College, where he graduated with high honors in both history and music.

JOIN US FOR THESE FUTURE EVENTS AT THE NATIONAL OPERA CENTER:

MASTERS AT WORK: CRAFTING AN OPERA WITH CARLISLE FLOYD

Friday, April 15, 2016, 1:00 p.m.

Composer Carlisle Floyd explores the genesis of his new opera, *Prince of Players*, in this discussion series following the work's premiere at Houston Grand Opera. Next Friday's discussion, the final of five, will focus on the opera's rehearsal and performance. Join the conversation via the interactive live stream with questions led by OPERA America President/CEO Marc A. Scorca.

EMERGING ARTIST RECITAL SERIES: JENSEN FOUNDATION COMPETITION WINNER, JOHN BRANCY, BARITONE

Thursday, May 5, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

Baritone John Brancy, winner of the 2015 Jensen Foundation Vocal Competition, was recently seen onstage at the National Opera Center as a winner of the 2013 Music Academy of the West Marilyn Horne Song Competition. He has performed with Oper Frankfurt, Gotham Chamber Opera, OPERA San Antonio and Opera Saratoga. In the 2015–2016 season, Brancy sings Malatesta in *Don Pasquale* with the Glyndebourne Festival Opera Tour, Harlekin in *Ariadne auf Naxos* at Opera Theatre of Saint Louis and Demetrius in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Pacific Opera Victoria.

Register for future events at operaamerica.org/Onstage. All events will also be streamed live at operaamerica.org/Live. Speak to an OPERA America staff member if you have questions about any of our events or if you are interested in becoming a member.



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