

OPERA AMERICA'S
CONVERSATIONS

PRESENTS

JOYCE DIDONATO

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

The National Opera Center
Monday, December 7, 2015 | 7:00 p.m.

THE NATIONAL OPERA CENTER
AMERICA



Winner of the 2012 Grammy Award for Best Classical Vocal Solo, Kansas-born **Joyce DiDonato** entrances audiences across the globe, and she has been proclaimed “perhaps the most potent female singer of her generation” by *The New Yorker*. With a voice “nothing less than 24-carat gold,” according to the *Times*, DiDonato has soared to the top of the industry both as a performer and as a fierce advocate for the arts, gaining international prominence in operas by Handel and Mozart, as well as through her wide-ranging, acclaimed discography. She is also widely praised for the bel canto roles of Rossini and Donizetti — the critic of the *Financial Times* judging her recent performances as Elena in *La donna del Lago* as “simply the best singing I’ve heard in years.”

Much in demand on the concert and recital circuit, DiDonato has recently held residencies at Carnegie Hall and at London’s Barbican Centre, toured extensively in South America, Europe and Asia, and appeared as guest soloist at the BBC’s Last Night of the Proms. Recent highlights in opera have included the title role in *Maria Stuarda* at the Metropolitan Opera, The Royal Opera and the Liceu in Barcelona; the title role in *Alcina* on tour with The English Concert and Harry Bicket; and Marguerite in

La damnation de Faust with the Berlin Philharmonic under Sir Simon Rattle.

DiDonato’s 2015–2016 plans include Donna Elvira in *Don Giovanni* with The Royal Opera on tour to Japan, her first Charlotte in *Werther* for The Royal Opera, Arden Scott in the world premiere of Jake Heggie’s *Great Scott* at The Dallas Opera and a return to the Metropolitan Opera for Elena in *La donna del lago*.

An exclusive recording artist with Erato/Warner Classics, DiDonato recently recorded *Tony & Joyce Live at Wigmore Hall*, which has been selected as “le choix de France Musique.” Other recordings include *Stella di Napoli*, a sumptuous bel canto banquet including little-known gems alongside music by Bellini, Rossini and Donizetti. Her Grammy Award-winning recording *Diva Divo* comprises arias by male and female characters, celebrating the rich dramatic world of the mezzo-soprano. The following recording, *Drama Queens*, was exceptionally well-received, both on disc and on several international tours. A retrospective of her first 10 years of recordings entitled *ReJoyce!* was released last year. Other honors include the Gramophone Artist of the Year and Recital of the Year awards, three German Echo Klassik Awards as Female Singer of the Year, and an induction into the Gramophone Hall of Fame.

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 audition 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, January 15, 2016, 1:00 p.m.

Composer Carlisle Floyd will explore the genesis of his opera-in-progress, *Prince of Players*, in this discussion series leading up to and following the work's premiere at Houston Grand Opera. The January discussion, the third of five, will focus on the opera's orchestration. Join the conversation via the interactive live stream with questions led by OPERA America President/CEO Marc A. Scorca.

Other upcoming dates: March 18 and April 15

NEW OPERA SHOWCASE

Monday, January 18, 2016, 8:00 p.m.

Special venue: Trinity Church, 75 Broadway, New York, NY 10006

Join OPERA America and NOVUS NY orchestra for an evening of new opera. Held in conjunction with OPERA America's New Works Forum, this performance features excerpts from four operas currently in development: *Beowulf* by Hannah Lash; *Dream of the Red Chamber* by Bright Sheng and David Henry Hwang; *Invention of Morel* by Stewart Copeland and Jonathan Moore; and *A Thousand Splendid Suns, the Opera* by Sheila Silver and Stephen Kitsakos.

EMERGING ARTIST RECITAL SERIES | THE GLIMMERGLASS FESTIVAL YOUNG ARTISTS

Thursday, February 25, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

Since its founding in 1988, the Young Artist Program at The Glimmerglass Festival has been an important component of the company's mission to promote an artistically challenging environment for young performers. Young Artists receive opportunities to perform and cover appropriate roles in all four mainstage productions, in addition to participating in master classes and performing in concerts.

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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