

OPERA AMERICA'S
CONVERSATIONS

PRESENTS

JAMIE BARTON

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

The National Opera Center
December 8, 2016 | 7:00 p.m.

THE NATIONAL OPERA CENTER
AMERICA

Jamie Barton appears courtesy of the Metropolitan Opera.



American mezzo-soprano **Jamie Barton** has been described by *The Guardian* as “a great artist, no question, with an imperturbable steadiness of tone and a nobility of utterance that invites comparison not so much with her contemporaries as with mid-20th-century greats such as Kirsten Flagstad.” The Grammy-nominated singer won the 2015 Richard Tucker Award, the 2014 Marian Anderson Award, the 2014 International Opera Award in the Young Singer category, and both the Main and the Song Prizes at the 2013 BBC Cardiff Singer of the World Competition. She was also a winner of the 2007 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions.

Barton’s 2016–2017 season offers many chances for fans to hear her sing the lush melodies of Wagner, Verdi, Mahler and Dvorak. She opened the season with Mahler’s Third Symphony with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, followed by a U.S./U.K. recital tour with pianist James Baillieu, culminating in her Wigmore Hall recital debut. She made another much-anticipated debut with her hometown Atlanta Symphony Orchestra in Elgar’s *Sea Pictures*, a work she also performed with the Florida Orchestra.

This winter, Barton returns to the Metropolitan Opera in New York for her role debut as

Ježibaba in *Rusalka*, opposite Kristine Opolais in the title role. The new production will be simulcast to cinemas around the globe via the Met’s *Live in HD* series, as will Barton’s house role debut as Fenena in *Nabucco*. This season she also sings her first Princess Eboli in *Don Carlo* in her Deutsche Oper Berlin debut, makes her New York Philharmonic debut as Fricka in *Das Rheingold*, and returns to Houston Grand Opera as Waltraute and the Second Norn in *Götterdämmerung*. In November, Delos Music released Barton’s first solo album, *All Who Wander*, featuring songs by Mahler, Dvorak and Sibelius.

Barton’s recent operatic performances include Adalgisa (*Norma*) at the Metropolitan Opera, Los Angeles Opera and San Francisco Opera; Giovanna Seymour (*Anna Bolena*) at the Metropolitan Opera and Lyric Opera of Chicago; Fricka (*Das Rheingold*, *Die Walküre*) at Houston Grand Opera; Waltraute and the Second Norn (*Götterdämmerung*) at Washington National Opera; Cornelia (*Giulio Cesare*) at Oper Frankfurt; and Fenena at Seattle Opera and the Royal Opera House Covent Garden. Future projects include returns to Houston Grand Opera, San Francisco Opera, Washington National Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago and the Metropolitan Opera.



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 dedicated as Marc A. Scorca Hall in 2015 in honor of Scorca's 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:

NEW OPERA SHOWCASE

Friday, January 13, 2017, 8:00 p.m.

Special venue: The Town Hall (123 W 43rd Street, New York City)

OPERA America will present orchestral readings of five new operas at the historic Town Hall in Times Square, featuring SONOS Chamber Orchestra and Choral Chameleon. Hear portions of works by Michelle DiBucci, Randall Eng and Donna Di Novelli, Julian Grant and Mark Campbell, Wang Jie, and Rene Orth and Jason Kim.

EMERGING ARTIST RECITAL SERIES | HOUSTON GRAND OPERA STUDIO ARTISTS

Thursday, March 2, 2017, 7:00 p.m.

Hear the future of opera in recital when young artists from Houston Grand Opera Studio take the stage. Founded in 1977, the Studio allows emerging opera professionals to pursue an intense, individualized study program alongside world-renowned artists, directors and conductors.

CONVERSATIONS | THOMAS HAMPSON, BARITONE

Thursday, March 16, 2017, 7:00 p.m.

Thomas Hampson will sit down with OPERA America President/CEO Marc A. Scorca to discuss his singular career as one of America's foremost baritones. In addition to his life on stage, Hampson is the founder of the Hampsong Foundation, which employs the art of song to promote intercultural dialogue and understanding.

Register for future events at operaamerica.org/Onstage. 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.

Be a part of the conversation.

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