

OPERA AMERICA'S  
**CONVERSATIONS**

PRESENTS

**RENÉE FLEMING,  
SOPRANO**

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

The National Opera Center  
Tuesday, April 25, 2017 | 7:00 p.m.

THE NATIONAL OPERA CENTER  
AMERICA



**Renée Fleming** is one of the most acclaimed singers of our time. In 2013, President Obama awarded her America's highest honor for an artist, the National Medal of Arts. Winner of the 2013 Grammy Award (her fourth) for Best Classical Vocal Solo, Fleming has sung for momentous occasions — from the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony to the Diamond Jubilee Concert for Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace. She brought her voice to a vast new audience in 2014, as the first classical artist to sing the national anthem at the Super Bowl. An earlier distinction came in 2008 when she became the first woman in the 125-year history of the Metropolitan Opera to solo headline an opening night gala.

Fleming's 2017 tour schedule includes concerts in New York, London, Vienna, Paris, Tokyo and Beijing. She is currently appearing at the Metropolitan Opera as the Marschallin in a new production of Strauss' *Der Rosenkavalier*, having premiered this production in December at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. She is soon to be heard as the singing voice of Roxane, played by Julianne Moore, in the film of Ann Patchett's best-seller *Bel Canto*.

In January, Decca released Fleming's most recent album, *Distant Light*, which features Barber's *Knoxville: Summer of 1915*, *The Strand Settings* (composed for Fleming by Anders Hillborg) and songs by Björk in new orchestral arrangements. The recipient of 14 Grammy nominations to date, Fleming has recorded everything from complete operas and song recitals to indie rock, jazz and the movie soundtrack of *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*.

Among her awards are the Fulbright Lifetime Achievement Medal, Germany's Cross of the Order of Merit, France's Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur, and honorary doctorates from Harvard University, University of Pennsylvania, Duke University, Carnegie Mellon University, Eastman School of Music and The Juilliard School.

**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 25<sup>th</sup> 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.



DARIO ACOSTA

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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.**

**#OAOnstage**



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