

OPERA America presents
CONVERSATIONS

Sondra Radvanovsky

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

The National Opera Center
March 3, 2016 | 7:00 p.m.



Soprano **SONDRA RADVANOVSKY** is a globally celebrated artist. The sincerity and intensity that she brings to the stage as one of the most prominent

sopranos of her generation have won her accolades from critics and loyalty from passionate fans.

Though known as one of today's premier Verdi sopranos, Radvanovsky has recently expanded her repertoire to include such bel canto roles as Norma and Donizetti's "three queens," the leading soprano parts in his Tudor dramas. In recent seasons, she has mastered the title roles in *Anna Bolena* and *Maria Stuarda* and the role of Queen Elizabeth in *Roberto Devereux*, and this season, in a feat never before undertaken by any singer in Metropolitan Opera history, Radvanovsky performs all three queens in a single season. Other season highlights include *Manon Lescaut* and *Tosca* at the Deutsche Oper Berlin, *Tosca* at the Bayerische Staatsoper, and *Aida* at the Opéra national de Paris. She also sings recitals in Toronto and Oman and performs at the Grand Opera Gala in Aid of the Deutsche AIDS-Stiftung and the fall gala at the Park Avenue Armory.

Radvanovsky has performed in every major opera house in the world, including the Royal Opera House, Opéra national de Paris, Teatro alla Scala and numerous others. Her home theater is the Metropolitan Opera, where she began her training in the late 1990s. After performances in smaller roles there, Radvanovsky caught the attention of critics as Antonia in *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* and was singled out as a soprano to watch. Her recordings include *Verdi Arias* and a CD of Verdi opera scenes with her frequent artistic partner Dmitri Hvorostovsky. She also stars in a Naxos DVD of *Cyrano de Bergerac* alongside Plácido Domingo and in transmissions of *Il trovatore* and *Un ballo in maschera* for the wildly popular *Met: Live in HD* series.

**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:

CREATORS IN CONCERT | JAKE HEGGIE, COMPOSER

Tuesday, March 15, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

"From prelude to curtain, he draws you to the edge of your seat with a theater artist's deft hand," *Opera News* wrote of Jake Heggie, one of today's most prolific composers of operas, songs, and chamber, choral and orchestral works. Hear Heggie discuss his creative process and present live excerpts from his vocal compositions.

MASTERS AT WORK: CRAFTING AN OPERA WITH CARLISLE FLOYD

Friday, March 18, 2016, 1:00 p.m.

Composer Carlisle Floyd explores 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 March discussion, the fourth of five, will focus on the opera's design and creative team. Join the conversation via the interactive live stream with questions led by OPERA America President/CEO Marc A. Scorca. *The final discussion in the series will take place April 15.*

CONVERSATIONS | ISABEL LEONARD, MEZZO-SOPRANO

Thursday, April 7, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

Mezzo-soprano Isabel Leonard, known equally for her "wide range, coloratura agility and striking physical beauty" (*Chicago Tribune*), has performed internationally in both opera and concert with companies such as Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the New York Philharmonic, the Metropolitan Opera, Wiener Staatsoper and Opéra national de Paris. Leonard recently won a Grammy Award for Best Opera Recording for Thomas Adès' *The Tempest*.

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.



The *Conversations* series is generously supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.