



SARASOTA OPERA

Victor De Renzi

CELEBRATING VICTOR DE RENZI'S
40TH SEASON

SATURDAY
MARCH 26, 2022

SARASOTA OPERA HOUSE

WELCOME TO THE CELEBRATION!
VICTOR DERENZI'S 40TH SEASON AT SARASOTA OPERA

THE GALA COMMITTEE

Audrey Robbins, Chair

Carol English | Frances D. Fergusson | Carol Lackey | Carla Koeffler | Elizabeth Moore

5:00 pm

THE GRAND RECEPTION

Grand Tent, Donna Wolf Steigerwaldt Courtyard Portico

General Audience Reception

Donna Wolf Steigerwaldt Courtyard

6:15 pm

THE JUBILEE CONCERT

William E. Schmidt Opera Theatre

7:45 pm

THE GALA DINNER

Grand Tent

Champagne Toast

Live Auction

Dancing

The Scott Blum Band

Guests who are only attending the Jubilee Concert are invited to enjoy a cash bar in the Donna Wolf Steigerwaldt Courtyard prior to the concert.

All guests are invited to create a memento of the evening in the photo booth set up in the Marie Hoffberg Lobby.

WELCOME MESSAGE FROM MAESTRO

Sarasota Opera has changed in so many ways that it doesn't seem as if I've had the same position for 40 years.

My first encounter with the company was through a friend of a friend of a friend. I had heard there was an opening for Artistic Director. I was interested because even though the company had been producing opera for some years, the second year of my contract would be in the recently purchased Sarasota Opera House, and we would have the possibility of doing a festival season. The idea of an opera festival had always interested me because of the sense of community it creates.

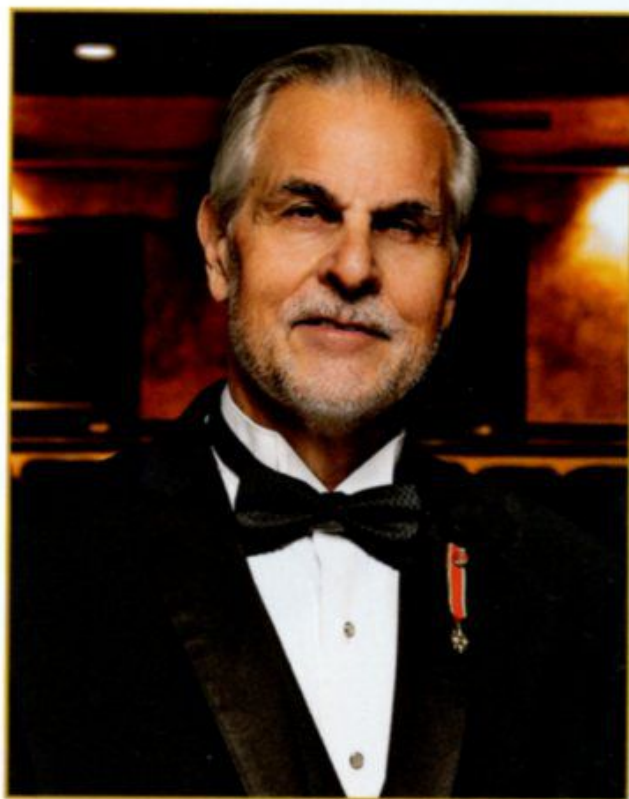


Photo by Matt Holler

After a series of interviews, I signed my contract in April of 1982. I had been conducting for 12 years and our daughter was not yet four months old.

The city would be unrecognizable to anyone who has been away since then. The Opera and Sarasota grew together. There were few people coming downtown in those days, but the growth in the arts has brought growth to the city: new housing, new restaurants, more stores, and more traffic.

The addition of the Apprentice Program during my first season and the Studio Program a few years later gave us one of the best opera choruses in the country and a base of talent to train for the future. Over the years those programs have given the industry many singers and administrators who have gone on to important careers. Establishing the Sarasota Opera Orchestra in 1991 raised the overall quality of the performances, and the quality of our work was compared to major theaters.

There certainly have been ups and downs over the years, but for me even in the worst of times there has always been the operas themselves. I discovered operas that were new to me, delved more deeply into works I knew peripherally, and I returned to works I have known since I first fell in love with opera. The more I studied, the greater these works showed themselves to be. Familiarity does not breed contempt with works of true genius.

Most importantly opera is about people. Unlike painting, it is an art form that must be relayed by performers to an audience, and over the years I have met many people because of Sarasota Opera. Hundreds of singers, instrumentalists, technical people, and administrators. I have also come to know and become friends with many patrons and audience members. Those people have worked with me and made opera happen in the theater. One thing you learn as a conductor is that you need other people with you to be part of the re-creation of an opera.

I would like to thank all our full time administrative and artistic staff that have been with the company over the years, and especially our General Director, Richard Russell, whose history with Sarasota Opera goes back over 30 years and whose love for opera and the company is evident to anyone who knows him. It is that love and his skills along with his empathy that make him special to all of us. I also want to thank my wife, Stephanie, and our daughter, Francesca. Their constant love and support throughout my life have been meaningful to me beyond words.

In the last 40 years Sarasota Opera has done almost 1,400 performances of 120 different operas in seven languages. In doing those works we have always stayed true to our mission of producing opera faithful to the composer's vision.

Thank you all for joining me tonight, and for being part of Sarasota Opera and a meaningful part of my time here.



Victor DeRenzi
Artistic Director and Principal Conductor

THE JUBILEE CONCERT PROGRAM

Jesse Martins, piano | Richard Russell, host

Carmen

Habanera

Georges Bizet

Lisa Chavez

Orphée aux enfers

Fly Duet

Jacques Offenbach

Anna Mandina, Joshua Benaim

Cavalleria rusticana

"Addio alla madre"

Pietro Mascagni

Jonathan Burton

La traviata

"Di provenza il mar, il suol"

Giuseppe Verdi

Joshua Benaim

Turandot

"Tu che di gel sei cinta"

Giacomo Puccini

Anna Mandina

L'amore dei tre re

"Son quarant'anni"

Italo Montemezzi

Kevin Short

THE JUBILEE CONCERT PROGRAM

L'Arlesiana

"Esser madre è un inferno"

Lisa Chavez

Francesco Cilea

Faust

"Vous, qui faites l'endormie "

Kevin Short

Charles Gounod

Andrea Chenier

"Nemico della patria"

Joshua Benaim

Umberto Giordano

Aida

"Celeste Aida"

Jonathan Burton

Giuseppe Verdi

La Wally

"Ebben! ne andrò lontana"

Anna Mandina

Alfredo Catalani

Rigoletto

"Un di, se ben rammentomi"

Anna Mandina, Lisa Chavez, Jonathan Burton, Kevin Short

Giuseppe Verdi

Nabucco

"Va pensiero"

Artists and Audience

Giuseppe Verdi

OPERA HOUSE

**JUBILEE CONCERT
ARTISTS**

JUBILEE CONCERT ARTISTS



Joshua Benaim, baritone
New York, New York
Sarasota Opera Debut: 2000,
Apprentice Artist



Jonathan Burton, tenor
Portsmouth, Ohio
Sarasota Opera Debut: 2013,
Calaf Turandot



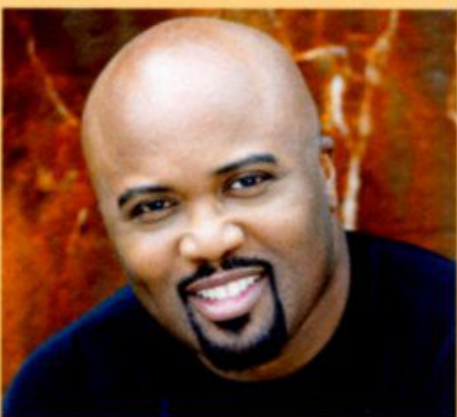
Lisa Chavez, mezzo-soprano
Oakland, California
Sarasota Opera Debut: 2017, *Madame de Croissy Dialogues of the Carmelites*



Anna Mandina, soprano
Kansas City, Missouri
Sarasota Opera Debut: 2017,
Apprentice Artist



Jesse Martins, piano
Sapiranga, Brazil
Sarasota Opera Debut: 2011,
Youth Opera Music Director



Kevin Short, bass
Washington, D.C.
Sarasota Opera Debut: 1991,
Méphistophélès Faust



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SARASOTA OPERA

CELEBRATING VICTOR DERENZI'S 40TH SEASON

Victor DeRenzi

SARASOTA OPERA GALA STAFF

Victor DeRenzi, Artistic Director

Richard Russell, General Director

Artistic Staff

Artistic Administrator

Marco Nisticò

Company Manager

Katharine Gunnink

Music Administrator

Jesse Martins

Technical Staff

Director of Production

Scott Keclik

Technical Director

Todd Edwards

Lighting Designer

Michael Pasquini

Production Stage Manager

Francesca MacBeth

Facilities Operations

Director of Facilities Operations

Jeremie Guglielmi

Director of Theater Operations

Jim Reid

House Manager/Volunteer

Coordinator

Jo Ann Whitehead

House Engineer

Eden Francois

Development

Director of Development

Scott Guinn

Senior Development Officer

Melissa Voigt

Corporate and Special Events Officer

Michael Ayres

Donor Relations Officer

Stacy Ridenour

Individual Giving Officer

Brenda Tamm

Development Intern

Nicholas Martorano

Marketing

Director of Marketing

Stephen Baker

Communications Officer

Lana Mullen

Marketing Coordinator

Aidee Rodriguez

Patron Services

Director of Patron Services

Susan Ashcraft

Assistant Manager of Patron Services
and Group Sales

Travis Rogers

Box Office Supervisor

David Sorrells

Patron Services Representatives

Riccardo Didlick, Maureen Martin,

Nicholas Martorano, Mary Sultana

*Gala program designed by McKinley Griffen Design &
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www.sarasotaopera.org