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VIRGINIA OPERA APPOINTS PEGGY KRIHA DYE AS ORGANIZATION'S NEW GENERAL DIRECTOR AND CEO



NORFOLK, VA (September 9, 2020) — Today, the Statewide Board of Directors of **Virginia Opera**, *The Official Opera Company of the Commonwealth of Virginia*, is very pleased to announce the appointment of **Peggy Kriha Dye** as the organization's new **General Director and CEO**. Kriha Dye officially steps into the role, succeeding retiring current **Virginia Opera President and CEO, Russell P. Allen**, on October 18, 2020. The appointment comes after a months-long national search process.

Paul Winslow, chairman of the Opera's Statewide Board of Directors said, "We are extremely excited to welcome Peggy to our Virginia Opera family, my fellow board members and I are confident her vision will launch our organization into what will be a new, innovative era as we

approach our 50th anniversary in the 2024-2025 Season. We believe Peggy to be the right person not only to maintain our high artistic standards, but also to successfully attract new audiences to our beloved musical form.”

A native of Minnesota, **Peggy Kriha Dye** received her BA in Music Education from Saint Cloud State University (MN) and pursued her graduate studies at Manhattan School of Music and The Juilliard Opera Center. As a soprano, she performed on more than 100 stages in over 40 productions throughout the world from 1992–2017, originating the role of Stella in *A Streetcar Named Desire*, written and conducted by André Previn at the San Francisco Opera, and reprising the role with the Pittsburgh Symphony and Washington National Opera. Her other significant roles include Musetta in *La Bohème* with the San Francisco Opera and Shanghai Opera House, among others. Her final performances were in the title role of *Medea* in Toronto and Versailles (2017).

In 2011, Kriha Dye turned her focus to her administrative career at **Opera Columbus (OC)**, a company with whom she served successfully for nearly a decade, beginning as Director of Education and Community Programming (2011–2014), Artistic Director (2014–2017), and, finally, General and Artistic Director + CEO (2017–2020). Under her leadership, OC has become renowned for skillfully and sensitively combining visionary new artistic programming and commissioned works—2018-2019 saw the world premiere of *The Flood*, OC’s first new work in nearly 20 years and winner of the Greater Columbus Arts Council’s Excellence Award—with traditional operatic ones. Under her leadership, OC continually achieved balanced budgets and operating surpluses, expanded fundraising opportunities, and fostered critically lauded community and creative partnerships at national and international levels.

In addition to her former organizational oversight of Opera Columbus, Kriha Dye continues to serve on the **Board of Trustees of Opera America**, is involved in the **Women’s Opera Network** and is past recipient of such accolades as ***Musical America’s 2018 Professionals of the Year/“Movers and Shakers” Edition*** award.

Of her appointment as General Director and CEO of Virginia Opera, Kriha Dye said: “It is an honor to be chosen to lead the Virginia Opera in the next exciting chapter of its statewide history. I am humbled and excited to join its valuable leadership, staff, artists and creative partners and Artistic Director, Maestro Adam Turner, as we collectively look toward the Virginia Opera’s 50th Anniversary Season. To be certain, as the challenges for the performing arts we love and hold so close continue in the months ahead, it is with equal certainty that I know we will meet and prevail in those challenges. Together, we will continue to joyfully build a stronger, inclusive, diverse, and successful Virginia Opera. Our best moments are yet ahead. I look forward to beginning the journey in October.”

Virginia Opera 2020-2021 Production Overview

***La Voix Humaine* – Francis Poulenc**

***Gianni Schicchi* – Giacomo Puccini**

DOUBLE BILL: Norfolk - FEB 5, 7 & 9, 2021 | Fairfax - FEB 13 & 14, 2021 | Richmond - FEB 19 & 21, 2021

***The Marriage of Figaro (Le nozze di Figaro)* – W.A. Mozart**

Norfolk - MAR 12, 14 & 16, 2021 | Fairfax - MAR 20 & 21, 2021 | Richmond - MAR 26 & 28, 2021

***The Pirates of Penzance* – W.S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan**

Norfolk – APR 16, 18 & 20, 2021 | Richmond - APR 23 & 25, 2021

Subscription Information

Subscription tickets for all 3 productions are on sale now for performances in Norfolk and Richmond starting as low as \$56.25. Subscriptions for performances at George Mason University's Center for the Arts will go on sale later this fall. Subscription tickets and ticket information at:

The Edythe C. and Stanley L.
Harrison Opera House
Norfolk, VA
866.673.7282
vaopera.org

George Mason
University's
Center for the Arts
Fairfax, VA
703.993.2787
cfa.gmu.edu

The Carpenter Theatre at
Dominion Energy Center
Richmond, VA
866.673.7282
vaopera.org

About Virginia Opera

Virginia Opera Association, Inc., was founded in 1974, is known and respected nationwide for the identification and presentation of the finest young artists, for the musical and dramatic integrity of its productions, and for the ingenuity and variety of its education and outreach programs. Mainstage performances in three markets across the Commonwealth reach nearly 50,000 attendees annually. In March of 1994, by unanimous vote of the Virginia General Assembly, Virginia Opera was named "The Official Opera Company of the Commonwealth of Virginia" in recognition of the organization's contribution to the state as well as to the world of opera. For tickets and information visit vaopera.org or call 866.673.7282.

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