

## Opera names artistic director

### Post staff report

As the Cincinnati Opera celebrates the final weekend of its 85th Anniversary Summer Festival, General Director and CEO Patricia K. Beggs today announced that Evans Mirageas has been named artistic director of the nation's second oldest opera company.

Mirageas will assume artistic leadership of the company effective Sept. 1.

Widely considered one of the most talented and respected artistic leaders in the classical music industry today, Mirageas brings to Cincinnati Opera a broad range of experience in both opera and symphonic music, as well as a long history of successful partnerships with many of the world's leading singers and conductors, including Seiji Ozawa, Renée Fleming, Angela Gheorghiu, Cecilia Bartoli, Luciano Pavarotti, and Sir Georg Solti among numerous others.

According to Trustees Cathy Crain and Boris Auerbach, co-chairs of the Artistic Director Search Committee, the appointment concludes an extensive 10-month search process that reviewed a field of more than 120 candidates from around the world.

"Evans was clearly the top choice to lead Cincinnati Opera to even greater heights of artistic excellence in the future," said Crain. "We are thrilled to have someone with his extraordinary vision, talent, and experience to help define the next artistic era of this great company," added Auerbach.

Mirageas succeeds Artistic Director Nicholas Muni, who announced in September 2004 his decision to pursue his stage directing career and other interests following eight seasons with Cincinnati Opera.

The company's association with Mirageas began in January when Beggs invited him to join an interim advisory team to plan the 2006-2007 seasons and facilitate the transition to new artistic leadership.

The appointment marks Mirageas's first artistic directorship of an opera company, building on his extensive experience as a casting director, recording producer, and artistic advisor with many of the leading opera and recording companies in the U.S. and Europe. He has led successful projects with Los Angeles Opera, the Lincoln Center Festival, the Brooklyn Academy of Music, the Handel and Haydn Society in Boston, the Decca Record Company Ltd., and many others.

"I am consistently hearing from a wide range of industry leaders that Evans has impeccable taste in singers and conductors," said Beggs. "Not only is he highly respected in the field, he is a trusted advisor to many of the greatest artists in the world, and he has an encyclopedic knowledge of operatic repertoire as well as emerging and established artists."

Mirageas said he was delighted by his selection.



**ZOOM** Courtesy of the Cincinnati Opera  
Evans Mirageas is considered one of the most talented and respected artistic leaders in the classical music industry today.

ADVERTISEMENT

RELATED STORIES

### Related articles

- 22.07 [Strong leads stand out in 'Rigoletto' first night](#)
- 30.06 ['Margaret Garner': Opera cast tours Maplewood Farm](#)
- 24.06 [Rossini's 'Barber of Seville' meets surrealist Magritte](#)
- 17.06 [Puccini's 'La Boheme' provides a grand opening night at opera](#)
- 14.06 [2005 is a season of opera favorites and a first](#)
- 14.06 ['La Boheme' opens opera season](#)
- 09.05 [Highly-anticipated story of runaway slave's sacrifice](#)
- 09.05 [Opera to be staged in Cincinnati in July](#)
- 17.03 ['Nixon,' 'Tales' and 'Tosca'](#)

"Cincinnati Opera has earned its place as one of America's most exciting summer festivals with innovative programming featuring world-class artists and productions, the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, an excellent chorus, and beautiful Music Hall. This season has been a tremendous success, a true home run, with an ideal mix of operas including the company's first co-commission 'Margaret Garner.'

"It will be an honor to build on that tradition and bring great operatic experiences to our audiences in the seasons to come."

Marc Scorca, executive director and CEO of OPERA America, praised the company's selection.

"This is an extraordinary hire for Cincinnati Opera. Evans Mirageas is one of the most sought-after producers in the industry today," Scorca said.

Mirageas, who divides his residence between Minneapolis and London, will reside part-time in Cincinnati (full-time during the summer season) and will continue his work as an artistic advisor for select clients.

Working in close partnership with Mirageas will be Marcus Kuchle, who was promoted from artistic administrator to director of artistic operations concurrent with Mirageas's appointment. Kuchle also led the company's artistic planning process for the 2006 and 2007 seasons working closely with Beggs and Mirageas.

Born in Ann Arbor, Mich., and a graduate of the University of Michigan, Mirageas's varied career in classical music has included record retail, radio production with the nationally renowned WFMT radio station in Chicago, and Artistic Administrator to Seiji Ozawa at the Boston Symphony. In addition, he is an award-winning record producer, lecturer, interviewer, presenter and awards panelist.

---

[Print](#) | [Go back](#) | Copyright 2005, *The Post*