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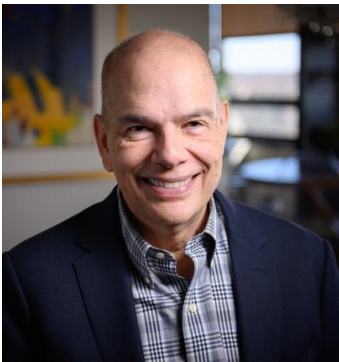
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Opera Baltimore appoints five new members to Board of Directors

Baltimore, MD - July 26, 2022 -- Johns Hopkins and University of Maryland medical professionals, a Towson management and economics professor, a developmental psychologist, and a seasoned philanthropist are the newest additions to the Board of Directors at Opera Baltimore, the arts organization shares today.



Bart Debicki, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor in the Department of Management and International Business in the College of Business and Economics at Towson University. His areas of expertise include management strategy and family business. Dr. Debicki shares, “I admire Opera Baltimore’s commitment to offering the people of Baltimore extraordinary musical experiences, fueling the city’s vibrant art scene, and engaging with the community to enhance the life-quality in our region. The world needs more art, beauty, and positivity, and I am thrilled to be a part of an organization that fosters such activities and values.”



Francis Mondimore, M.D. joins the Opera Baltimore board after a decade in the audience as a dedicated subscriber and fan. An Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Dr. Mondimore has published five books on mental health issues with the Johns Hopkins University Press. With his deep ties to the Baltimore community, Opera Baltimore is thrilled to welcome Dr. Mondimore onboard. He writes, “Opera had been a passion of mine since I saw my first opera (Carmen) in high school and Opera Baltimore is Baltimore’s hometown opera company. Great music, terrific singers, gorgeous venues. What’s not to love?”



Baltimore-native **Laura Nattans** is dedicated to the greater community. She has served on the committee and danced in the first Alzheimer’s Association Memory Ball, co-founded the John Mackey Fund raising funds for the FTD association, served as RBPL board member and is the proud parent of a future student athlete. Mrs. Nattans shares, “As a granddaughter of an opera enthusiast I was exposed to opera at a young age and grew to appreciate it and everything it has to offer; storytelling, drama, music, glamour! Opera is the “whole package” and so is Opera Baltimore. In a city where the arts have taken a punch the past couple of years Opera Baltimore has brought about a renaissance in the performing arts in Baltimore. Given its focus on diversity Opera Baltimore attracts a much larger audience and is on its way to becoming the future of opera in our city. I love Opera Baltimore and look forward to seeing it continue to grow.”



Erin Rada, M.D. is an Assistant Professor of Plastic Surgery at the University of Maryland Medical Center and St. Joseph Medical Center. Of Opera Baltimore, Dr. Rada writes, “I am thrilled to enjoy world class opera right here at home! Opera Baltimore has created a community around opera where lifelong opera lovers and newcomers alike can enjoy incredible music in a variety of settings.” Opera Baltimore is thrilled to welcome Dr. Rada, a Maryland native, to the board.



Stevie Schein, Ph.D is Senior Training and Technical Assistance Manager for Healthy Steps (a program of Zero to Three). Dr. Schein is a veteran of the company community, having sung in the chorus of multiple concert operas. She shares, “Opera Baltimore really celebrates the pure beauty of the human voice and the operatic form, in gorgeous Baltimore venues. The company provides a wonderfully nurturing, inclusive, and artistically fulfilling experience for those both onstage and in the audience. Whether you're coming to the opera for the first time or the hundredth time, there's something for everyone to enjoy!”

“On behalf of Opera Baltimore, I am thrilled to welcome Bart Debicki, Francis Mondimore, Laura Nattans, Erin Rada and Stevie Schein to our board of directors,” said Julia Cooke, Artistic and General Director. “Each new member excels in his or her profession, bringing vital experience to our board. Their commitment to the Greater Baltimore community, and to bolstering opera in our region are integral to ensuring Opera Baltimore’s success now and in the future.”

The new board members will serve renewable three-year terms.

About Opera Baltimore: Founded in 2009 as Baltimore Concert Opera, the newly renamed Opera Baltimore invites both long-time opera enthusiasts and future opera fans to revel in the timeless music and stories of opera that bring us all together. Inspired by the beauty of our venues and legendary music from across the centuries, we achieve our ultimate goal: our artists and audiences leave moved, entertained, and enriched. All performances at our home venue are through the auspices of the Garrett-Jacobs Mansion Endowment Fund and its Artists in Residence program which is part of its community outreach mission. For more information about Opera Baltimore, to make a tax-deductible donation please visit www.OperaBaltimore.org.

Opera Baltimore is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. We are deeply grateful for the support of the William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund, the Maryland State Arts Council, the Citizens of Baltimore County, OPERA America, the Baltimore National Heritage Area, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the John J. Leidy Foundation, the T. Rowe Price Foundation and the Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts.

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