

Pittsburgh Opera NEWS RELEASE

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PITTSBURGH OPERA GENERAL DIRECTOR MARK WEINSTEIN TO JOIN WASHINGTON NATIONAL OPERA

Pittsburgh, PA...Pittsburgh Opera announced today that General Director Mark Weinstein has accepted Placido Domingo's invitation to join him at the Washington National Opera in the position of Executive Director.

According to John Traina, President of Pittsburgh Opera's Board of Directors, "Pittsburgh Opera has never been stronger financially and artistically. Mark's prestigious new appointment is testimony to the excellence of Pittsburgh Opera and our standing in the opera community. I know I speak for the whole board when I say how grateful we are for Mark's leadership over the past ten years. He leaves the company poised for even greater things ahead."

Traina continued, "Our current season got off to a tremendously successful start with *Madama Butterfly*, and we're eagerly looking forward to the rest of the Italian masters this year. Our planning for subsequent seasons is also well underway.

"Given the company's excellent reputation, we are certain to attract an exciting slate of candidates. Mark will provide consultation and support to the board through the transition."

Mark Weinstein joined Pittsburgh Opera in 1997 at a time when the company faced a large accumulated deficit. Under his leadership, the deficit was quickly erased, and the company's assets grew rapidly from \$4 million in 1997 to an anticipated \$25 million by the end of this season. With the appointment of Christopher Hahn as Artistic Director and more recently, Antony Walker as Music Director, Weinstein inaugurated "the Bold New Voice," a period of artistic experimentation and excellence.

According to Weinstein, "I leave Pittsburgh Opera with tremendous gratitude for the extraordinary people I have been privileged to work with. Our board's leadership and generosity is legendary. My artistic colleagues continue to surpass themselves in opera productions at the highest level. I will always treasure memories of revelatory new repertoire like *Dead Man Walking* and *Billy Budd* as well as stunning productions of traditional works like our recent success with *Madama Butterfly*. I am honored to have played a role in this great company's history."

According to Pittsburgh Opera Board Chair Michele Fabrizi, "This is truly an auspicious time for Pittsburgh Opera. The company is moving into a spectacular new home soon

and our team of artistic leaders, Artistic Director Christopher Hahn and Music Director Antony Walker, bring international stature to the company. With our deeply committed board, staff, and audience, Pittsburgh Opera looks forward to great things ahead!”

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