



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 22, 2021

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**Images:** <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/4aqczazj2x39qvo/AACNPO9VGwsYCUdeRzf4I6OWa?dl=0>

## **Sarasota Opera Board of Trustees Elects 2021-22 Officers**

**Sarasota, FL** – Sarasota Opera has announced the election of new officers to its Board of Trustees. Waldron “Wally” Kraemer has been elected Chair for a two-year term, succeeding Syble Di Girolamo who served from 2019 to 2021. Mr. Kraemer has served on the board since 2014, most recently as Vice Chair. Of Counsel with the firm of Kraemer Burns, P.A. in Springfield, New Jersey, Kraemer is a graduate of Harvard Law School and has served as Chairman of the New Jersey Board of Bar Examiners and President of the Essex County (NJ) Bar Association.

Rosanne Martorella has been selected as Vice Chair, while Arthur Siciliano continues as Treasurer. Katherine Benoit has been elected Secretary. These officers have been elected for one-year terms.

Sarasota Opera General Director Richard Russell stated, “I look forward to collaborating with these dedicated leaders as we advance the mission of Sarasota Opera and plan for our post-COVID future.” Mr. Kraemer said, “I look forward to working closely with General Director Richard Russell, Artistic Director Victor DeRenzi, and my exceptional colleagues on the board, to continue bringing great opera to our community.”

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## **ABOUT SARASOTA OPERA**

Sarasota Opera recently completed its 62nd Season of bringing world-class opera to Florida's Gulf Coast. The company was launched in 1960, when a touring chamber opera company came to the historic 320-seat Asolo Theater on the grounds of Sarasota's Ringling Museum of Art and the Asolo Opera Guild was formed to present the season. By 1974 the Asolo Opera was mounting its own productions at the theater. Recognizing the need for a theater more conducive to full-scale opera, the company purchased the former A.B. Edwards Theater which in 1984 (as the Sarasota Opera House) became home to the newly renamed Sarasota Opera. The building underwent a \$20 million renovation and rehabilitation in 2007 enhancing audience amenities, while updating the technical facilities including increasing the size of the orchestra pit. The theater, which reopened in March 2008, has been called "one of America's finest venues for opera" by Musical America.

Since 1983, the company has been under the artistic leadership of Victor DeRenzi and administrative leadership of Executive Director Richard Russell since 2012. Sarasota Opera has garnered international attention with its Masterwork Revivals Series, which presents neglected works of artistic merit, as well as the Verdi Cycle, completed in 2016, that made Sarasota Opera the only opera company in the world to present all of Verdi's works. Recognizing the importance of training, Maestro DeRenzi founded the Apprentice and Studio Artist's programs. Sarasota Opera also maintains a commitment to education through its "Explorations in Opera" performances for local schools and the industry-leading Sarasota Youth Opera program.

Sarasota Opera is sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Arts Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Programs are supported in part by an award from the Tourist Development Tax through the Board of County Commissioners, the Tourist Development Council and the Sarasota County Arts Council. Additional funding is provided by the City of Sarasota and the County of Sarasota.



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