

**GENOVESE VANDERHOOF & ASSOCIATES**  
Cultural Management Consultants

## **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

### **Opera Columbus Columbus, Ohio General Director/Chief Executive Officer**

#### **The Position:**

Opera Columbus is seeking applications for the position of General Director/Chief Executive Officer. Reporting to the Board of Trustees, the General Director/CEO provides for the overall leadership of the company, with ultimate responsibility for all creative and operational aspects of administration and production.

The General Director is the primary leader in fund-raising and building relationships with individuals and organizations in the community, establishing high standards of quality and excellence, while increasing Opera Columbus's financial support and institutional stability.

#### **The Organization:**

Founded in 1981, Opera Columbus brings the full grandeur of opera to Columbus stages with lush main stage productions and creative education and community engagement programs. Under the vision of current General Director/CEO Peggy Kriha Dye, the company redefined the very concept of regional opera, with original productions that celebrated emerging talent, fresh perspectives, and modern technology, engaging a new, diverse audience.

Opera Columbus is proud to be a leader in Columbus's highly collaborative arts community. Innovative collaborations contribute to the vibrancy of Opera Columbus's programming, all garnering rave reviews, capacity audiences, and nationwide attention. Partners have included Apollo's Fire Baroque Orchestra (Cleveland), Ballet Met, Capital University, Columbus Symphony, and the Columbus Museum of Art, among many.

Opera Columbus and ProMusica Chamber Orchestra were honored in 2019 by the Greater Columbus Arts Council with the Columbus Makes Art Excellence Award for its production of THE FLOOD, composed by Korine Fujiwara with a libretto by Stephen Wadsworth. Its co-production of ORPHEE by Gluck/Berlioz with Against the Grain Theatre (Toronto), the Banff Centre for the Arts and Creativity, and Company XIV (New York) was nominated for twelve Dora Mavor Moore Awards (Canada's Tony Award).

Opera Columbus is especially proud of its artistic collaboration with the Artist Diploma for Opera Studies program (ADOS) at The Juilliard School. Launched in 2016-2017, this unique collaboration is bringing exceptional Juilliard ADOS artists to perform in principal roles in Opera Columbus's main stage productions.

In addition to fulfilling Opera Columbus's mission to support and develop emerging talent, this innovative relationship with Juilliard also benefits its local audiences, bringing extraordinary artists to the Columbus stage, often in their role debuts.

The popular K-12 education programs have included in-school Children's Opera performances and workshops, Southern Theatre tours, Student Discount Tickets, Concerts in the Classroom, and Opera Rehearsals.

Plans for the 2021 season include Ryan Speedo Green in concerts and productions of LA BOHEME and DON GIOVANNI, as well as the Cooper-Bing Competition. The annual budget of Opera Columbus is approximately \$1.1 million. The company produces in a variety of venues in the city, including two restored historic theatres.

Opera Columbus describes itself this way: "For many generations, the drama, thrill, and exhilaration of Opera have been the exclusive domain of too few. At Opera Columbus, we seek to refresh – to breathe new life – into the way Opera is performed and presented. Gone are the days of formality and unspoken rules. We strive to create an open, innovative, fun, and unexpected form of entertainment that reflects the young, vibrant, and diverse city in which we live and play."

Peggy Kriha Dye assumes the position of General Director/Chief Executive Officer of Virginia Opera in October of 2020. Opera Columbus would like to have its new General Director in place by January of 2021.

#### **Columbus Association for the Performing Arts (CAPA):**

CAPA is a not for profit facilities and administrative management corporation. It manages a number of performing arts venues in the Columbus. Its unique shared service business model, offers personalized back office services to local arts organizations. While each agreement is tailored to fit each organization's needs, some of these services include marketing, ticketing, management, operations, finance, publicity, human resources, IT, and development. It is known nationally for its restored historic theatre properties. Since 2011 CAPA has provided Opera Columbus support in the areas of development, ticketing, and IT.

#### **The City:**

Columbus, Ohio's state capital, is a thriving city of 900,000, ranking at the 16<sup>th</sup> largest city in the United States. Home to the nation's second largest university (Ohio State), it is a charming historic community with a broad cultural life and a thriving downtown. The city and its 11-county region pop up regularly on "Best" lists for high quality hospitals, safety, business opportunities, It is a diverse and growing place, home to the world's largest independent scientific research center, a number of Fortune 500 company headquarters, with a low cost of living. It has been described as "artsy, food-loving, and family friendly."

Columbus has a generally strong and diverse economy based on education, insurance, banking, fashion, defense, aviation, food, logistics, steel, energy, medical research, health care, hospitality, retail, technology, and the arts.

**Candidate Profile:**

The successful candidate will have senior management experience in the opera field. The new general director must demonstrate the ability to balance the traditional operatic repertoire with more contemporary works, as well as a commitment to emerging opera artists, to community partnerships, and to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Other required skills include experience in long-term multi-year budget and repertoire planning, management of operational budgets, knowledge of marketing, fund-raising, artistic operations, and educational programming, and competence in strategic problem solving. The Board of Trustees seeks someone who inspires enthusiasm, has a track record of expanding audiences, and who is interested in growing a company over a number of years.

A strong track record in fund-raising is essential, as well as the ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with artists, board members, other volunteers, artist managers, foundations, corporate and individual donors, the media, the university community, and the audience. A strong contact network throughout the opera industry is vital.

Training in opera/music and/or arts management is desirable.

Salary commensurate with experience.

**How to Apply:**

Please send resume and cover letter with salary requirements and a list of references by **Friday, November 13, 2020** to:

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For additional information: [www.OperaColumbus.org](http://www.OperaColumbus.org), [www.genovesevanderhoof.com](http://www.genovesevanderhoof.com), [www.experiencecolumbus.com](http://www.experiencecolumbus.com), [www.gcac.org](http://www.gcac.org)

*Opera Columbus does not discriminate against any person based on race, color, gender identify or expression, sexual orientation, religion, age, familial or marital status, veteran status, non-job related disability or any other basis protected by applicable federal, state, or local laws.*