

**Darren K. Woods, General Director
Fort Worth Opera**

Darren K. Woods became general director of Fort Worth Opera in July 2001. Under his leadership, Fort Worth Opera has increased both subscription and donor bases while establishing a reputation for high-quality, dynamic productions. In May 2007, Fort Worth Opera changed its format to a spring festival season and mounted its first mainstage commissioned work – *Frau Margot* composed by Thomas Pasatieri on a libretto by Frank Corsaro. Within only four years, Fort Worth Opera also produced Jorge Martin’s *Before Night Falls* as its second world premiere, and *Opera News* hailed the Fort Worth Opera Festival as one of the best in the country. Demonstrating Mr. Woods’ dedication to young artists, the Fort Worth Opera Studio launched in 2002, which has now expanded to include four main young artists beginning their professional careers and four apprentice artists currently in the midst of their college training. In 2011, Mr. Woods was appointed vice chairman for the board of Opera America, the national service organization for the art form. He serves on the finance and information services committees for the board, and he chairs the artist services committee.

Mr. Woods was appointed general director of the Seagle Music Colony in the summer of 1996 and continues as artistic director today. Since that time, Seagle Colony has expanded from nineteen young artists, a faculty of seven, and two productions to thirty-two artists selected from over 1,000 applicants, six productions, and a faculty of seventeen. The Colony recently expanded to include the new Frank and Dorothy Shames rehearsal studio and new construction continues to expand the campus. Past Seagle Colony artists have had recent debuts at the Metropolitan Opera, New York City Opera, Santa Fe Opera, and even on Broadway.

Mr. Woods is in great demand as an adjudicator of vocal competitions. In recent seasons, he served as a panel judge for the Richard Tucker Foundation, the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, the Lieber Competition, the Denver Opera Guild Competition, the Dallas Opera Guild Competition, and the Marguerite McCammon Competition.

Prior to his appointment in Fort Worth, he was the general director of the Shreveport Opera in Louisiana. While in Shreveport, Mr. Woods founded *Shreveport Opera Express*, or *SOX*, a touring, arts-in-education program that involved schoolchildren working with professional artists in the schools.

Before becoming an opera administrator, Mr. Woods performed as a professional operatic tenor for twenty years in such venues as New York City Opera, Carnegie Hall, Washington Opera, L’Opera Madrid, Opera Trieste, Seattle Opera, Dallas Opera, Baltimore Opera, Santa Fe Opera, and many others.