

OPERA AMERICA'S
CONVERSATIONS

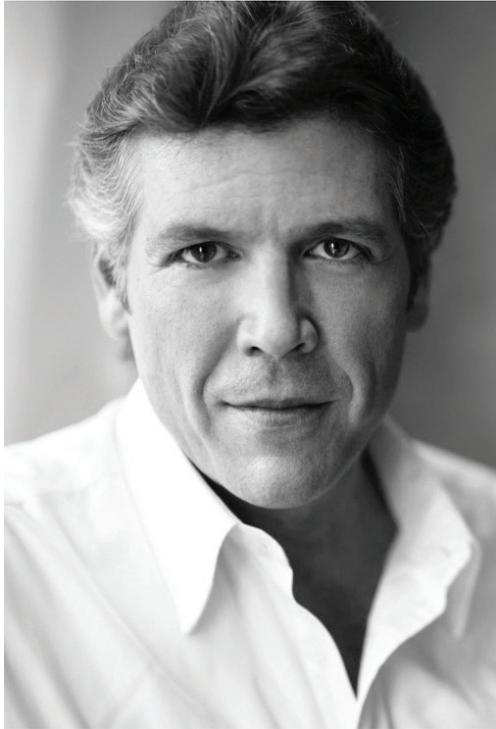
PRESENTS

**THOMAS HAMPSON,
BARITONE**

In conversation with
OPERA America President/CEO
Marc A. Scorca

The National Opera Center
Thursday, March 16, 2017 | 7:00 p.m.

THE NATIONAL OPERA CENTER
AMERICA



Thomas Hampson, one of America's foremost baritones, has received many honors and awards for his probing artistry and cultural leadership. Honored as a Met Mastersinger by the Metropolitan Opera Guild and inducted into both the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and Gramophone's 2013 Hall of Fame, Hampson is one of the most respected and innovative musicians of our time. Comprising more than 170 albums, his discography includes winners of a Grammy Award, five Edison Awards and the Grand Prix du Disque. He received the 2009 Distinguished Artistic Leadership Award from the Atlantic Council in Washington, D.C., and he was appointed the New York Philharmonic's first artist-in-residence. In 2010, Hampson was honored with a Living Legend award by the Library of Congress, where he has served as special advisor to the Study and Performance of Music in America. Furthermore, he received the famed Concertgebouw Prize and was named ECHO Klassik's "Singer of the Year" in 2011, for the fourth time in 20 years. Hampson was made honorary professor at the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Heidelberg and holds honorary doctorates from Manhattan School of Music, New England Conservatory, Whitworth College and San Francisco Conservatory, in addition to being an

honorary member of London's Royal Academy of Music. He carries the titles of Kammersänger of the Vienna State Opera and Commandeur dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres of the Republic of France, and he was awarded the Austrian Medal of Honor in Arts and Sciences.

Hampson enjoys a singular international career as an opera singer, recording artist and "ambassador of song," maintaining an active interest in research, education, musical outreach and technology. Through the Hampsong Foundation, which he founded in 2003, he employs the art of song to promote intercultural dialogue and understanding.

Marc A. Scorca joined OPERA America in 1990 as president and CEO. Under his leadership, the OPERA America membership has grown from 120 opera companies to nearly 2,500 organizations and individuals. The organization has also administered two landmark funding initiatives in support of North American operas and opera audiences, and in 2000 it launched an endowment effort to create a permanent fund dedicated to supporting new works and related audience development activities. In 2005, Scorca spearheaded OPERA America's relocation from Washington, D.C. to New York City and the subsequent construction of the National Opera Center, which opened in 2012. The Opera Center's recital hall was dedicated as Marc A. Scorca Hall in 2015 in honor of Scorca's 25th anniversary with the organization.

Scorca has led strategic planning retreats for opera companies and other cultural institutions internationally, and he has participated on panels for federal, state and local funding agencies, as well as for numerous private organizations. He also played an instrumental role in the founding of Opera.ca and Opera Europa, OPERA America's sister organizations. A strong advocate of collaboration, Scorca has led several cross-disciplinary projects, including the Performing Arts Research Coalition and the National Performing Arts Convention (2004 and 2008). He has served as a member of the U.S. delegation to UNESCO and currently serves as an officer of the Performing Arts Alliance, as a member of the Board of Overseers of the Curtis Institute of Music and on the Music Advisory Board of Hunter College (CUNY). Due in large part to Scorca's contributions to the organization, OPERA America was inducted into the American Classical Music Hall of Fame in 2013. Scorca attended Amherst College, where he graduated with high honors in both history and music.



JOIN US FOR THESE FUTURE EVENTS AT THE NATIONAL OPERA CENTER:

EMERGING ARTIST RECITAL SERIES | OPERA INDEX VOCAL COMPETITION WINNER SIMAN CHUNG, COUNTERTENOR

Tuesday, March 28, 2017, 7:00 p.m.

Countertenor Siman Chung, winner of Opera Index's 2015 Arthur E. Walter Memorial Award, will take the stage for a recital showcasing his artistry, joined by pianist Binna Hann. A native of Busan, South Korea, Chung recently made his debut with Korea National Opera in the role of Grifone in Vivaldi's *Orlando finto pazzo*.

CREATORS IN CONCERT | WILLIAM BOLCOM, COMPOSER

Thursday, April 6, 2017, 7:00 p.m.

William Bolcom, winner of the 1988 Pulitzer Prize for Music, will present excerpts from his vocal compositions and offer reflections on his creative process. A voracious eclectic, Bolcom has contributed substantially to the musical theater, cabaret and modern ragtime repertoire, and, with his wife, mezzo-soprano Joan Morris, has been a performer-advocate of American popular song.

WORLD PREMIERE OF FIERCE GRACE: JEANNETTE RANKIN

Friday, April 7, 2017, 6:30 p.m.

SPECIAL VENUE: Library of Congress, Thomas Jefferson Building (10 First Street SE, Washington, D.C.)

The Library of Congress and OPERA America co-present the world premiere of *Fierce Grace: Jeannette Rankin*, a song cycle about the first woman elected to Congress. The songs were composed by Kitty Brazelton, Laura Kaminsky, Laura Karpman and Ellen Reid, with a text by Kimberly Reed, and they will be performed by mezzo-soprano Heather Johnson and pianist Mila Henry.

Tickets are free but must be reserved online at events.operaamerica.org/FierceGraceLOC.

Register for future events at operaamerica.org/Onstage.

Speak to an OPERA America staff member if you have questions about any of our events



THE AMPHION
FOUNDATION, INC.

Onstage at the Opera Center is supported in part by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and by grants from the Amphion Foundation and NYC & Company Foundation.