

SD OPERA Media Release

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***Alan E. Hicks will be the first
Joint SDSU-San Diego Opera Director of Opera Theatre
Shared position is the result of an innovative partnership***

San Diego, CA – San Diego Opera and the SDSU School of Music and Dance announce that Alan E. Hicks has been appointed as Director of Opera Theatre, a new, shared position between the two organizations.

The Director of Opera Theatre is a full-time, faculty position that will direct SDSU Opera's Fall production, teach acting and stage movement for singers, and then act as assistant director on San Diego Opera's mainstage productions in the Spring. Only three other programs of this type exist in the nation.

Hicks' first project will be to direct the November 2018 SDSU production of *Flight*, by Jonathan Dove.

"I'm thrilled about the creation of this shared position between San Diego Opera and SDSU, and about Alan Hick's appointment," shares David Bennett, San Diego Opera's General Director. "By combining resources and needs of both institutions, we are able to elevate the producing expertise of both the Opera and SDSU's opera program, and in ways we couldn't achieve alone. Alan's appointment signals a deepened relationship between the Opera and SDSU."

"In addition to the wise use of limited resources, this innovative position provides synergies and collaborations between two organizations with similar mission, that previously didn't exist. This is the first of its kind in the CSU system, but I suspect not the last, said Joyce Gattas, Dean of the SDSU College of Professional Studies and Fine

Arts. "A hallmark of the PSFA experience, is engagement with the community. This partnership with the Opera, and Alan, advances theory and application in the arts for SDSU students and provides the arts community with a world-class artist."

Alan E. Hicks has spent the past two decades in professional opera and theatre as a singer, teacher, and stage director. He has directed productions for organizations throughout the United States and in Europe including Minnesota Opera, Palm Beach Opera, Tulsa Opera, Opera Santa Barbara, Miami Music Festival, Green Mountain Opera Festival, Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, Franco-American Vocal Academy in Salzburg, Shenandoah Conservatory, the University of Houston, and the University of Texas at Austin. He has also served on the directing and production staffs of Central City Opera, Chautauqua Opera, Florida Grand Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Michigan Opera Theatre, New York City Opera, Seattle Opera, and Tulsa Opera. In 2013, he was appointed Director of the Emerging Artist Program at Green Mountain Opera Festival. Hicks is a member of Actors' Equity Association (AEA) and the American Guild of Musical Artists (AGMA).

In addition to his work with operatic performers such as as Renée Fleming, Stephanie Blythe, Silvia McNair, Spiro Malas, Greer Grimsley, and Thomas Hampson, as well as rising stars Lawrence Brownlee, Erin Morley, Kate Lindsey, Hannah Hipp, Brian Jagde, Amber Wagner, and Nadine Sierra, Hicks has assisted renowned opera directors Chris Alexander, Linda Brovsky, Peter Kazaras and Broadway veterans Susan Strohman and Sam Buntrock.

Hicks holds a Doctor of Musical Arts in Opera Directing from The University of Texas at Austin, 2009, a Master of Music in Vocal Performance from Rice University, and a Bachelor of Music Education from Mississippi State University.

About SDSU's School of Music and Dance

The School of Music and Dance provides specialized instruction and career development opportunities for students by creating a dynamic artistic environment based on the unique strengths and knowledge of our accomplished faculty. We emphasize high quality performance experiences for students, professional engagement, and applied practical training in music and dance. Each student's career aspirations are advanced under the supervision of a supportive and skilled faculty.

About San Diego Opera

The mission of San Diego Opera is to deliver exceptional vocal performances and exciting, accessible programs to diverse audiences, focusing on community engagement and the transformative power of live performance.

San Diego Opera Vision Statement

The San Diego Opera will be recognized internationally as a leading example of adaptability, innovation and sustainability in the operatic arts, promoting diversified programming and unique performance venues with world-class and emerging talent.

San Diego Opera Core Values Statement

Through excellence in innovative programming and education, SDO provides a lasting cultural service to the community.

- Our tradition of excellence in fully staged opera is augmented with new models of opera and venues. Our unique and deep commitment to the community propels us to explore ways of increasing affordability and accessibility.
- Through fiscal responsibility and nimble adaptation to the changing marketplace, we protect the future of San Diego Opera.
- Our educational and community involvement coupled with relevant programming will build the audience of the future.

www.sdopera.org
<https://music.sdsu.edu/>

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