

## THE ARTS

# Daniel Lipton picked to lead Opera Tampa

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Just a day after Opera Tampa's Anton Coppola conducted his final performance of "Aida" for the company, Judy Lisi, president and CEO of the David A. Straz Jr. Center for the Performing Arts, announced the replacement for the founding director, who is retiring after 17 years.



Maestro Daniel Lipton, formerly with Opera Ontario in Canada, is already in Tampa and has begun to plan for the artistic future of the company, said Lisi.

"He is a world-class talent with an amazing breadth of artistic experience," she said. "I am confident that he will continue and expand upon the great work the company has done during the Maestro Coppola dynasty."

Lipton has a long and impressive résumé and has enjoyed international acclaim for his performances of opera and concert repertoire.

Under his innovative direction Opera Ontario has enjoyed financial success, audience growth and artistic acclaim. He presented the Canadian premieres of Giordano's "Andrea Chenier," Verdi's "I Due Foscari" and Massenet's "Portrait de Manon," as well as introducing the popular annual POPERA galas.

Lipton has been music director and chief conductor of the Anhaltische Philharmonie and general music director of the opera company in Dressau, Germany.

Before his time in Ontario, he led the Orquesta Sinfonica de Colombia in Bogota, rebuilding the symphony orchestra and creating a national opera company. While artistic director of the Opera de Colombia, he produced 30 operas.

In the past, Lipton has also served as music director for the Houston Grand Opera and artistic director of the San Antonio Festival; he has also held positions with the Zurich Opera, the Teatro Communale in Bologna and Florence, American Ballet Theatre and the Denver Symphony Orchestra.

Lipton expressed his admiration for and gratitude to Coppola and the entire Opera Tampa team.

"In my short time here, I've seen that high-caliber work is of the first order, and it is apparent that all involved with Opera Tampa are passionate and dedicated to this splendid art form. I look forward to continuing this very rich and thriving tradition."

Opera Tampa is the resident company of the Straz Center. When Coppola announced his retirement in September he told the Herald-Tribune, "I thought that after 95 years, it's about time." He turned 95 last month.

He said it wasn't about age or health. "Frankly, I think it's just about time for me to move aside and let somebody else do it. I'm perfectly able to go on."

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