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EUGENE OPERA RENEWS ARTISTIC DIRECTOR THROUGH 2027

*Andrew Bisantz to conduct *Rigoletto* and *Dark Sisters* for Eugene Opera's 2024-25 season*

Eugene, OR - The [Eugene Opera](#) Board of Directors has voted unanimously to extend Artistic Director and Chief Conductor Andrew Bisantz's contract through the 2026-27 season. In this role, Bisantz will continue to oversee all artistic aspects of the company, including programming, production, and casting, as well as musical leadership of the Eugene Opera Orchestra and all related musical activities. With this contract extension, he becomes the longest-serving conductor and artistic leader of the company in its history.

This year, Bisantz will conduct both of Eugene Opera's productions in its 48th season: Verdi's masterpiece *Rigoletto*, not seen on the Hult Center Stage in nearly two decades, and Nico Muhly's *Dark Sisters*, a deeply moving contemporary opera making its local premier.

Bisantz made his debut with Eugene Opera in 2008 conducting Offenbach's *Orphée aux enfers*. He was named the company's Music Director in 2010, and then Artistic Director in 2017. Under his visionary artistic leadership, Eugene Opera's repertoire has expanded greatly to include numerous works by living composers and less frequently performed works of the great operatic masters. During his tenure, the company has seen the premiers of *Nixon in China*, *Dead Man Walking*, *La fanciulla del West*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Turn of the Screw*, *Eugene Onegin*, *Little Women*, *María de Buenos Aires*, *As One*, *little match girl passion*, *Lucy*, and Eugene Opera's first-ever Baroque opera, Händel's *Acis and Galatea*.

"I'm thrilled to continue my relationship with this fantastic company," Bisantz says. "Eugene Opera has been my artistic home for 16 years, and I'm deeply humbled that I've been entrusted with a hand in the company's future. I look forward to working with our wonderful new Executive Director Kari Welch and the Board of Directors to ensure this company remains essential to its community – not only providing world-class opera for Eugene and Springfield, but also securing the future of this incomparable art form and its enduring stories for the next generation of opera lovers."

In his decades-long career, Bisantz has led over 80 productions with a repertoire spanning both the masterworks of the operatic canon as well as new works from contemporary voices. He has appeared regularly with Florida Grand Opera, Boston Lyric Opera, Virginia Opera, Savannah Opera and Voice Festival, and Glimmerglass Opera, among others. He is in demand as a symphonic conductor as well, having conducted the Buffalo and Rochester Philharmonic Orchestras, the Boston Landmarks Orchestra, and the Virginia Symphony. In 2023, he was appointed Principal Opera Conductor and Professor of Conducting at the Boston Conservatory at Berklee, a role he performs in conjunction with his duties in Eugene.