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## Richard Russell Appointed General Director of Opera New Jersey



John Salapatas, Chairman of Opera New Jersey's board of trustees, announced today that Richard Russell, currently the director of marketing at Sarasota Opera, has been appointed as the company's next general director, effective April 26, 2010. Russell will be only the second general director in Opera New Jersey's eight-year history.

"After a career as an artist, in finance, and as an opera administrator, I am extremely excited about taking the leadership role with this company as it enters a new phase of its history," said Russell, who holds bachelor's and master's degrees in performance and choral conducting from Indiana University. Russell also has management experience from time spent working as the vice-president and global webmaster for the emerging markets sales and trading division of the financial conglomerate Citigroup.

Russell's appointment follows last October's announcement that Opera New Jersey co-founders Scott and Lisa Altman intended to vacate their roles with the company at the end of the 2009 calendar year, following Scott Altman's appointment as the general director of Arizona Opera. The Princeton-based Opera New Jersey was founded in 2002.

Russell takes over in time for the company's 2010-summer-season in July and August, which includes performances of *Don Giovanni*, *Faust* and *Don Pasquale*. □

More information can be found at [Opera New Jersey \(http://www.opera-nj.org/\)](http://www.opera-nj.org/).