



Executive Director Tehvon Fowler-Chapman to Leave WCO



January 11, 2022 -- Washington Concert Opera announced today that Executive Director Tehvon Fowler-Chapman will resign, effective the end of March, to accept a position as Executive Director of the Debbie Allen Dance Academy in Los Angeles.

Melissa Rhea, President of Washington Concert Opera, said, “We have greatly benefited from Tehvon’s steady hand, which guided us through the difficult early months of the pandemic and enabled the enhancement of our on-line presence. We also appreciate his spearheading our strategic planning initiative, with its emphasis on increased visibility and community engagement. We wish him all continued success in his new position.”

Fowler-Chapman commented: “It’s been an honor to serve as Concert Opera’s Executive Director at a pivotal time for the organization. This season of opera and community building was especially fulfilling as we brought live music back to D.C., and I’m looking forward to seeing what’s next in WCO’s future.”

Washington Concert Opera returned to the live stage on November 21, 2021, after a long covid shutdown with a performance of Rossini’s *Maometto II* at Lisner Auditorium. Two additional operas are scheduled for performance in the spring: Berlioz’ arrangement of Gluck’s *Orphée*, starring a WCO favorite, mezzo Kate Lindsey, on April 24, 2022, and Delibes’ *Lakmé*, featuring noted soprano Erin Morley in her WCO debut, on May 22, 2022.

Now celebrating its 35th season, WCO was founded in 1986 by the late Stephen Crout with the mission of presenting seldom performed operas in concert form with full orchestra and chorus. Crout was succeeded by Australian-born conductor Antony Walker during the 2002-03 season. Walker remains the company’s Artistic Director. Together the two maestros have conducted nearly 60 operas, representing a wide range of seldom heard masterpieces, and assembled stellar casts with both international stars and emerging artists. The Washington Post has referred to WCO as “integral to the musical fabric of the city” and Opera News has written that its performances are “of the highest order.”

Walker commented: “As we work toward reengaging our loyal fans and expanding our reach, I want to emphasize that our mission remains constant: to present rarely performed operatic masterpieces to DC area audiences at the highest artistic standard possible. By affirming that ‘It’s all about the music,’ we continue to let the music speak for itself through passionate concert performances with the finest available array of vocal and orchestral talent.”

An executive search process has commenced, with more details to follow.

For more information, please contact Alexander Crary, Vice President of Washington Concert Opera, at 202-338-4667.



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