

# MICHIGAN OPERA THEATRE

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## Michigan Opera Theatre Announces National Search for Artistic Director

*David DiChiera to remain as Artistic Director Emeritus*

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**Detroit, Feb. 18, 2016** - Michigan Opera Theatre (MOT) announced today that it has formed a committee to identify a successor to the company's founder and current artistic director, **David DiChiera**, who previously announced his intention to step down at the end of the 2016-2017 season. At that point, Dr. DiChiera will assume the role of **Artistic Director Emeritus**.

"As our founder and visionary for so many years, David is virtually irreplaceable. He has been a giant for this company and this community for decades," said **R. Jamison Williams, MOT Chairman**. "But we're excited to have the opportunity to bring new talent and new thinking to MOT while David's still here. In his emeritus status, David will serve as an advisor to the recently established resident artist program, Michigan Opera Theatre Studio."

"This is a definitive moment for me," said DiChiera. "After all the years of running at full throttle and achieving all we've been able to achieve at Michigan Opera Theatre, I'm looking forward to having time to do the things I love most, writing and composing. I'm also excited to continue working closely with the talented young artists in our Studio Artist training program. Regardless of what I'm doing, the continued growth and success of Michigan Opera Theatre and the wonderful people I've worked with there will never be far from my mind."

The nine-member succession committee will be chaired by MOT board member Barbara Kratchman, former president of ArtServe Michigan. Dr. DiChiera will serve as an advisor to the committee which will conduct a national search with a goal of naming a new artistic director this fall.

"There's an enormous amount of new thinking and new talent in the opera world and this search will give us an opportunity to look beyond ourselves and beyond Detroit to find the best talent available for this position," said **MOT's President and Chief Executive Officer, Wayne Brown**. "Michigan Opera Theatre is in a solid financial position. We have a beautiful theater with a versatile stage and programming, a dedicated and growing audience, and a city that's becoming a mecca for artistic and creative talent. We're confident this search will attract some of the best and brightest to answer our call. It's an exciting opportunity for MOT, our community and the successful artistic successor."

Michigan Opera Theatre will launch its 2016-2017 season in the coming weeks, marking 45 years since DiChiera formed the organization in 1971.

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### **About Michigan Opera Theatre**

Michigan Opera Theatre (Wayne S. Brown, President and CEO; Dr. David DiChiera, Founder and Artistic Director), one of the nation's most vibrant nonprofit arts organizations, is committed to presenting opera and dance of the highest artistic caliber. Founded in 1971, the company's mission is to serve as a major cultural resource to the state of Michigan and the city of Detroit. Visit the website at [www.michiganopera.org](http://www.michiganopera.org).