

Board Member, 2 year term:

Myra D. Merritt received her bachelor's degree from the Peabody Conservatory of Music and master's degree from the Catholic University of America; made her Metropolitan Opera debut in 1982 as the Shepherd Boy in Wagner's Tannhäuser; other roles at the Met include Musetta in La Bohème, Antonia in Les Contes d'Hoffmann, Bess in Porgy and Bess and Zerlina in Don Giovanni; featured on the 1983 Metropolitan Opera Centennial Gala performance; has performed with the Houston Grand Opera, National Opera of Finland, Theatre des Westens in Berlin, Budapest National Opera, Summer Opera Theater Company in Washington, D.C.; has sung in Vienna, Bregenz, Moscow, Ekaterinburg and Italy; performed at Wolf Trap Farm, Ford's Theater, the Smithsonian Museum Concert Series; presented her debut recital at the Kennedy Center with the Washington Performing Arts Society; can be heard on the Grammy Award-winning RCA recording of Porgy and Bess and Deutsche Grammophon's live from the Metropolitan Opera video recording of Carmen, and L'Italiana in Algeri with Marilyn Horne; awards include grants from the National Opera Institute, Sullivan Foundation and the D.C. Commission of the Arts and Humanities; winner in the Beethoven Society Competition for Opera Singers and the Catholic University of America's Alumni Achievement Award in Music; featured in publications such as Metropolitan Opera Encyclopedia, Glamour Magazine, Famous African American's Encyclopedia and Washington View Magazine.

Her students have performed with such leading opera companies as San Francisco Opera, Washington National Opera, Michigan Opera Theatre, and Opera for the Young in Madison, Wisconsin, Toledo Opera and have performed as soloists in concert halls at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Carnegie Hall and in concert halls throughout the U.S. Her students have been successful in numerous major opera apprenticeship programs across the country, including Central City, Chicago Opera Theatre, and Dayton Young Artist Program. Her studio claims the winners of several competitions such as first place gold Laureate winner of the Rosa Ponselle Vocal Competition, first place winners in the Tuesday Musical Vocal Competition; Lima Symphony Orchestra Vocal Competition; the Metropolitan Opera Auditions; Voices of Canton; and in the annual Buckeye NATS auditions. Ms. Merritt can be seen on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6DICKWf2MxE>.