



## Lyric Opera of Kansas City Executive Staff Bios

### **Evan R. Luskin**

#### ***General Director***

Evan R. Luskin became general director of the Company on July 1, 1998. Mr. Luskin had served as the company's managing director since 1986. Previous to his association with the Lyric Opera, he worked at Michigan Opera Theatre, Chattanooga Opera Association, and Tulsa Opera. Mr. Luskin holds an MBA with a specialization in Arts Management from the State University of New York at Binghamton. He is on the board of the Missouri Citizens for the Arts, has served on the touring panel of the Missouri Arts Council, and has served as an on-site evaluator for the National Endowment for the Arts.

### **Ward Holmquist**

#### ***Artistic Director and Conductor***

Ward Holmquist joined the Lyric Opera in 1998 as the second artistic director in the Company's history. His academic training includes degrees from Oberlin Conservatory, University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign (as student of acclaimed coach/accompanist John Wustman) and received a Fulbright study grant in conducting at the venerable Hochschule for Musik in Vienna, Austria. Mr. Holmquist has conducted numerous productions with the Company including the productions of *Hamlet*, *The End of the Affair*, *The Pearl Fishers*, *Julius Caesar*, *Norma* and the world premiere of *John Brown*.

Mr. Holmquist began his professional career at the Houston Grand Opera as a member of Texas Opera Theater, the company's touring entity. Subsequently he joined the main company as part of the Houston Opera Studio as an apprentice pianist/coach/conductor. Over time he rose to the position of Resident Conductor of the main company. During his eight years as a staff member he conducted productions or selected performances of more than 20 operas, and was involved in world premieres of contemporary works by Carlisle Floyd, John Adams and Philip Glass, among others. In January 1995 he received international acclaim for leading the world premiere of Stewart Wallace's *Harvey Milk*.

Mr. Holmquist's active guest conducting schedule has included productions with numerous regional American and Canadian opera companies, including organizations in Edmonton, Hamilton, Louisville, Memphis, Omaha, Raleigh-Durham, Salt Lake City and Tulsa, as well as summer engagements with the Opera Festival of New Jersey and the Utah Festival Opera. Mr. Holmquist continued his happy association with a former teacher, Carlisle Floyd, when he conducted performances of the composer's widely



acclaimed recent opus, *Cold Sassy Tree* (based on the bestselling novel by Olive Ann Burns) for Lyric Opera of Kansas City in May 2002.

**R. Keith Brumley**

***Director of Design and Technical Production***

R. Keith Brumley first designed for Lyric Opera of Kansas City in 1984 with a production of *Candide*. Mr. Brumley holds a BA in Theatre and Master of Arts in Theatre from the University of Missouri Kansas City where he worked as a graduate assistant in the scene shops for the Kansas City Repertory Theatre.

Mr. Brumley designed his first production in 1979. He was the Head Scenic Artist at Seattle Repertory Theatre from 1981 to 1984 and Head Scenic Artist at the Seattle Opera 1985 to 1991. Where he created and staffed the first fulltime paint and finish department for the Seattle Opera. Mr. Brumley joined the Lyric Opera of Kansas City as a full time resident designer in 1991 during which time he has designed numerous productions for the Company including the acclaimed productions of *Cinderella*, *The End of The Affair*, *Tosca*, *La bohème*, *Carmen* and the world premieres of *Coyote Tales* and *John Brown*.

Mr. Brumley has been a member of the United Scenic Artists since 1984. He was a resident designer at Des Moines Metro Opera from 1989 to 2001. He has designed around the country including at Tiffany's Attic Dinner Theatre, Indiana Repertory Theatre, Anchorage Opera, Alaska Repertory Theatre, Opera Carolina, Virginia Opera, Seattle Opera, American Heartland Theatre, and New Theatre Restaurant.