

Arts Critic Lawrence Johnson wrote, "Victor DeRenzi is simply the finest, most idiomatic Verdi conductor I've ever heard, and I'm not forgetting some much more celebrated names."

The 2015-2016 Season marked Maestro Victor DeRenzi's 34th year as the Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of Sarasota Opera, in Sarasota, Florida. He has produced over 100 different operas and conducted almost 700 performances for the company. He has devoted much of his career to building Sarasota Opera while continuing to conduct nationally and internationally.

Maestro DeRenzi has appeared across the United States with Lyric Opera of Chicago as well as at the St. Louis, Toledo, and New Orleans and New York City operas. Internationally he has worked in Nice, Edmonton, Québec City, Winnipeg, Hamilton, and at L'Opéra du Montréal. He was also a frequent visitor to opera companies in Hong Kong and the Canary Islands.

Maestro DeRenzi's artistic vision has garnered the company international attention as a place to experience rarely performed operatic works. He initiated Sarasota Opera's Masterworks Revival Series, which produces neglected operas of significant artistic merit, and the American Classics series dedicated to producing 20th Century operas by American composers. Most notably, however, is Sarasota Opera's Verdi Cycle, the company's 28 year commitment to performing the entire canon of works by Giuseppe Verdi due to complete on March 20, 2016.

This growth in artistic reputation has been matched in many other areas as well. Under Maestro DeRenzi's leadership, Sarasota Opera has created important educational and outreach activities. The Sarasota Youth Opera program, currently the most comprehensive youth opera program in the United States, offers unique musical experiences ranging from community concerts to fully staged annual Youth Opera productions. In addition, Maestro DeRenzi founded Sarasota Opera's Apprentice and Studio Artists program. Chosen from national auditions, the participants make up the chorus for the main stage productions, perform community outreach programs, understudy principal roles as well as perform secondary roles on the mainstage.

The City of Sarasota has recognized Maestro DeRenzi on three separate occasions for service to the community. He was also featured on the cover of the March 2007 issue of Sarasota Magazine, which has twice recognized him as one of Sarasota's 100 Most Powerful People. Maestro DeRenzi is a member for the Advisory Board of the American Institute for Verdi Studies. He is a citizen of the United States as well as the Italian Republic

