

A GRAND SALUTE TO DAVID DiCHIERA

MAY 19, 2017



MICHIGAN
OPERA
THEATRE

THE KRESGE FOUNDATION

The Kresge Foundation had the honor in 2013 of announcing David DiChiera as that year's Eminent Artist. It remains an honor to sing his praises for the immeasurable contributions to the community and to the art form he has championed.

Would Detroit have grand opera without David DiChiera? Hopefully, we would. Yet, it's hard to imagine that it would be so well established artistically and institutionally. It's hard to imagine that it would be so well connected to a supportive community. It's hard to imagine that it would have so daringly pursued diverse casting and the extension of this centuries-old art with contemporary works. It's hard to imagine it would be in a home so fitting, so utterly resplendent as the Michigan Opera Theater.

In other words, *if* we can imagine opera in Detroit without our beloved impresario, it's impossible to imagine it being anywhere near so grand. The thought of opera in our town without David baffles the imagination.

This is not intended to down play or ignore David's myriad contributions to the community of opera creators and lovers across the nation and around the world. They, too, have been touched by his passion, his creativity and his unrelenting drive toward to the future.

But it's here that David's work will be felt most profoundly for generations. He is our hometown hero, our community treasure. And we have no shame in exercising our right to brag.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rip Rapson". The signature is stylized with large, overlapping loops and a cursive script.

Rip Rapson
President & CEO, The Kresge Foundation