Marc A. Scorca joined OPERA America in 1990 as President and CEO. Since that time, the OPERA America membership has grown from 120 opera companies to nearly 2,500 organizations and individuals. An additional 13,000 subscribers now receive a variety of free and fee-based services.

Under his leadership, OPERA America has administered three landmark funding initiatives in support of the development of North American operas and opera audiences which, together, have awarded more than $11 million to opera companies and their partners. A permanent endowment, The Opera Fund, was created in 2000 to support new work activity in perpetuity and, today, has grown to more than $6 million. At the same time, numerous new programs have been introduced to support the career development of singers, composers and librettists, and stage directors and scenic designers.

OPERA America’s relocation from Washington, D.C. to New York City in December 2005 – the first step in the construction of a National Opera Center scheduled to open in September of 2012 – has increased communication and collaboration with and among members both locally and nationally. The Opera Center will provide a number of unique facilities and related services for organizations and artists that have never before been available under one roof. The campaign for the National Opera Center has a goal of $14 million of which nearly $11 million already has been committed.

A strong advocate of collaboration, Scorca has led several cross-disciplinary projects, including the Performing Arts Research Coalition and both the 2004 and 2008 National Performing Arts Conventions. Working with members in the host cities of Pittsburgh and Denver, respectively, he raised over $4.5 million for these events. The 2008 Convention represented the collaborative involvement of 30 national service organizations and engaged almost 4,000 administrators and artists in four days of programming. He is on the Board of Directors of the Performing Arts Alliance, a national advocacy organization located in Washington, D.C., and has served the organization as an officer for nearly 20 years.

Scorca has led strategic planning retreats for opera companies and other cultural institutions internationally, and has participated on panels for federal, state, and local funding agencies, as well as for numerous private organizations. He also appears frequently in the media on a variety of cultural issues. He is currently a member of the US delegation to UNESCO, and serves as a member of the Board of Overseers of the Curtis Institute of Music, as well as on the Music Advisory Board of Hunter College (CUNY). He has previously served on the Arts Advisory Committee for the Salzburg Seminar and as a member of the Board of Visitors for the North Carolina School of the Arts.

Scorca was born and raised in Rockville Centre, New York and attended Amherst College where he graduated with high honors in both history and music. After an internship at the Metropolitan Opera that
lasted for the duration of his college years, Scorca held positions at the Opera Company of Philadelphia, New York City Opera and Chicago Opera Theater before assuming joining OPERA America.