

Detroit Opera

Yuval Sharon, Gary L. Wasserman Artistic Director
Christine Goerke, Associate Artistic Director

Technical Director

Work Schedule: Schedule varies during the performance season, this position regularly works weekends and night-time events.

How to Apply: Qualified applicants should submit their resume and cover letter to employment@detroitopera.org

Position Summary:

The Technical Director (TD) is the leader of a three-person technical direction team responsible for the planning, supervision and management of productions and events at the Detroit Opera House (DOH), ranging from opera and dance performances produced by Detroit Opera (DO) to Broadway touring musicals and professional networking events hosted in the DOH. The position reports to the Director of Production (DP) and drafts plans for DO opera and dance productions, and is responsible for supervising stage crews and managing various show paperwork. The TD is responsible for all technical aspects of all productions at Detroit Opera and leads all stage crews and technical staff.

Specific Responsibilities:

- Function as part of the Production staff to plan, schedule and coordinate various departments and production staff for opera season and all other Detroit Opera events.
- Directly supervise all technical elements of production and rentals throughout the year, including maintenance of all equipment and systems.
- Ensure all technical aspects of production are completed within budget and schedule
- Assist the Director of Production in the recruitment and hiring of necessary IATSE crew and seasonal staff.
- Serve as main contact with IATSE, and act as supervisor for all IATSE stage crew departments.
- Participate in collective bargaining with IATSE.
- Ensure compliance with laws and regulations regarding licensing, permits, certificates and relevant documentation regarding the technical and production aspects of performances including federally mandated safety programs and risk assessment.
- Implement and monitor safety protocols, procedures, and training programs for routine stage operations as well as specific operations related to performance, e.g., aerial performances, special effects, work at height, etc.
- Produce and maintain drafting in Vectorworks and appropriate technical paperwork/supporting documents including floor plans, sections, elevations, hanging plots, and hang schedules.
- Supervise the assembly, storage, and maintenance of scenery and the construction of props for all operas. Facilitate these projects by purchasing materials and supplies as needed and supervising the crew during the build process.

Required Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in theater or related field.
- Three or more years of experience as a technical director or related role.
- Outstanding leadership ability.
- Experience dealing with and leading union crews.
- Strong Knowledge of scenic automation, rigging systems, theatrical construction techniques, carpentry, metalworking, and engineering.
- Proficient in CAD Drafting (Vectorworks preferred).
- Proficient in MS Office software; highly proficient in Excel.
- Knowledge of industry safety standards.
- Proficient in setting up basic AV systems (projectors/ portable audio system).
- Demonstrated excellent communication skills. This position communicates with clients, vendors, and the public.
- Ability to drive 26' box truck.
- Ability to understand diverse perspectives and acknowledge the significance of differences and complexities in background, cultures, values and viewpoints as the foundation for an inclusive environment.

Essential functions/physical demands:

- The person in this position routinely moves materials weighing up to 50 pounds.
- The person in this position remains in a stationary position for periods of time.
- The person in this position occasionally ascends/descends ladders.
- The person in this position occasionally moves throughout the building to access equipment.

Application Deadline:

Job openings are posted for a minimum of seven calendar days. This job may be removed from posting boards and filled anytime after the minimum posting period has ended. Applications will be reviewed as received throughout the posting period and continue until the position is filled.

Additional Information:

Detroit Opera is committed to recruiting and retaining a diverse workforce and encourages all employees to fully incorporate their diverse backgrounds, skills, and life experiences into their work and towards the fulfillment of the DO mission.

About Detroit Opera:

Founded in 1971, Detroit Opera (DO) is the premier multi-disciplined producer and presenter for opera, musical theatre, and dance in the Great Lakes Region. Based in the city of Detroit, the organization engages artists of national and international stature for stellar main stage and outreach performances, and provides compelling cultural enrichment programs for the diverse audiences and communities that it serves, making it one of Detroit's pillars of arts and culture. DO is among a select few opera companies nationwide to own its theatre, the historic 2,700-seat Detroit Opera House, which is located in the heart of downtown Detroit.

DO is seen as the most innovative opera company in America. DO garnered great critical and popular acclaim during the pandemic for its socially-distanced, drive-thru production of *Twilight : Gods*, an adaptation of Wagner's *Götterdämmerung*. Brainchild of new Artistic Director Yuval Sharon, *Twilight : Gods* was performed across multiple levels in DO's own parking structure, and provided performance opportunities for local cast and orchestra members, in addition to international opera stars. Lauded for past projects such as his [reverse chronological staging](#) of Puccini's *La Bohème*, Sharon in July 2022 premiered a [high-tech reimagining](#) of a Wagner opera.

For more information, please visit <https://detroitopera.org>