

Wichita Grand Opera – Directors' bios

Margaret Ann Pent, Founder & Artistic Director

Margaret Ann Pent is a soprano, stage director and designer. She holds degrees in voice from Chicago's Roosevelt University and the University of Music and Dramatic Arts in Vienna, Austria. Winner of the Austrian Opera Competition, she made her European debut in Vienna as Zerbinetta in *Ariadne auf Naxos*. Her American debut was as Matilda in Frank Corsaro's production of Rossini's *William Tell* at the San Antonio Festival. She served as a juror for the Ferruccio Tagliavini Vocal Competition and has served as a stage director and designer for productions at the Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center, the Festival of Continents, and Wichita Grand Opera.

Parvan Bakardiev, President & CEO

Mr. Bakardiev is a graduate of the University of Music and Dramatic Arts in Vienna, Austria. Recipient of a fellowship with San Francisco Opera, he moved to the United States and subsequently served as Artistic Administrator of the Houston Grand Opera, Founder/General Director of the San Antonio Festival, Artistic Director of the Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center, and Executive Director of the Monroe County Fine Arts Council in Florida. In addition, he has served as consultant to the Kennedy Center, the Berlin Staatsoper, Boston Lyric Opera, and the Sakai Opera.