



Perryn Leech
Managing Director

Managing Director Perryn Leech joined Houston Grand Opera as Technical and Production Director in the 2006-07 season. He became Chief Operating Officer in August 2010, and in May 2011 was appointed the company's Managing Director. In that capacity he oversees all aspects of the company's operations of \$20 million per annum, and is responsible for the negotiation and implementation of all theatrical performance union contracts.

A highly esteemed and experienced theater professional, he has worked with all of the UK's major opera companies and many other arts festivals in the UK and across Europe during his 27 year career. He was born in Brighton, England.

Prior to beginning his tenure with Houston Grand Opera, Mr. Leech spent five years at Welsh National Opera (WNO) as Technical Director, working with Anthony Freud, then WNO's General Director. Mr. Leech oversaw the creation of nine productions each year with extensive touring in both Wales and England, and was also Managing Director of Cardiff Theatrical Services, the commercially-run workshop arm of WNO, with budget of £1.6 million (\$2.6 million USD) per annum. During his time at WNO, Mr. Leech planned, managed, and implemented Welsh National Opera's move into its new home theater, Wales Millennium Centre, a £48 million (\$79 million USD) building project which opened in 2004. He also oversaw the world premiere of the Olivier Award-winning opera, *Jephtha*, directed by Katie Mitchell.

From 1998-2002, Mr. Leech was Production Manager at English National Opera (ENO) in London, overseeing six to eight shows annually with budgets of £1.5 to £2 million (\$2.4 - \$3.2 million USD) per annum. While at ENO, he oversaw the world premiere of Mark Antony Turnage's *The Silver Tassie*, toured operas to Cologne, Barcelona, and Buenos Aires, and worked on the innovative *Italian Season* with acclaimed designer, the late Stefano Lazaridis.

Prior to his appointment at ENO, Mr. Leech had spent 12 years building up an extensive and varied career as a freelance production electrician working in London's West End and touring with many companies in the U.K. and Ireland. For a number of years he toured the UK with English Touring Opera, first as Chief Electrician, then as Technical Director.

From 1989-1996, Mr. Leech was the Head of Lighting at the Edinburgh International Festival, one of the most prestigious arts festivals in the world. It was during this time that he first collaborated with Houston Grand Opera (HGO) on their two visits to the Playhouse Theatre with *Nixon in China* and *Four Saints in Three Acts*.

In London, Cardiff, Edinburgh and now in Houston, Mr. Leech has helped facilitate and realize the vision of many renowned directors and their design teams in opera, dance and drama. These have included Pina Bausch, John Caird, David Pountney, Robert Wilson, Robert LePage, Peter Stein, Merce Cunningham and Mark Morris.

HGO's 11/12 season sees Mr. Leech reunited with a number of major international directors he has worked closely with before. These include Daniel Slater, the acclaimed director of HGO's recent *Lohengrin*, who returns in January to direct *La Traviata*; the renowned team of Patrice Caurier and Moshe Leiser whose *Maria Stuarda* will be performed in April/May; and John Caird, director and librettist of André Previn's *Brief Encounter*, commissioned by HGO and premiered in 2009. Mr. Caird's spectacular production of Verdi's *Don Carlos*, a co-production between HGO and Welsh National Opera, will open in April 2012.