

Michelle Krisel

Michelle Krisel's professional career in opera spans 30 years and includes broad experience in all aspects of opera production and administration.

After earning degrees in music from Yale University and the University of Southern California, Michelle developed her knowledge of opera repertoire and performance by serving as pianist, vocal coach, and assistant conductor with opera companies in the United States and Europe. She gained hands-on experience in day-to-day operations while working with the Los Angeles Opera, San Francisco Opera, Santa Fe Opera, and Opernhaus Graz in Austria. For more than a decade, she coached and accompanied young artists at the early stages of their careers and worked with established artists such as Plácido Domingo, Frederica von Stade, and James King.

From 1988 to 1995, Michelle learned another aspect of artist development by working as an artists' manager and representative. She joined the Thea Dispeker office as a manager in the international division, where she was responsible for guiding the careers of more than 100 singers, conductors, and musicians, and then launched her own agency to promote singers world-wide.

In 1996, Michelle Krisel joined the Washington National Opera at the invitation of General Director, Plácido Domingo. As special assistant to Mr. Domingo, she was his liaison to the trustees, staff, civic leaders, and the greater Washington community.

In 2002, the Washington National Opera selected Michelle to be Director of their new Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program. She designed, implemented, promoted, and built financial support for a program that offers training, performance and professional development for singers, accompanists, conductors, and directors as they are about to launch international careers. As Director, she managed an annual budget of \$500,000 and identified funding and sponsorship opportunities for the program. She engaged and supervised voice teachers, vocal coaches, language instructors, and drama coaches. She created performance opportunities throughout Washington in museums, embassies, and the White House; she brought performances to Beijing and Monte Carlo; and she initiated an annual main-stage, full-length opera performed entirely by the program's young artists. Michelle launched a special audience development initiative aimed at 18 to 35-year olds.

For five years while directing the Young Artist Program, she also served as the Washington National Opera's Director of Education and Community Programs. She managed a \$700,000 budget and a staff of three, served as liaison to the WNO Board's Education Committee, and developed partnerships and programs with the DC public schools, libraries, and community centers.

Michelle Krisel is also an astute observer and commentator on music and opera. She has written reviews and articles about music for major publications. For more than 20 years, she has participated as a panelist for the Metropolitan Opera's Saturday radio broadcast Quiz. In 2001, she produced *Operalia*, Plácido Domingo's international vocal competition and raised more than a million dollars to ensure its success.

Michelle is the mother of Claire (25), Paul (17) and Isaac (17). She lives in Washington, DC.