**Robert Wood, UrbanArias Executive and Artistic Director**

**Bio**

Conductor **Robert Wood** made his debut with the San Francisco Opera in 2004 with Verdi’s **La traviata**. He recently conducted **Die Fledermaus** at Hawaii Opera Theater, **The Magic Flute** at The University of Maryland, and **Roméo et Juliette** at Opera Colorado. Maestro Wood returns to Opera Colorado in May to conduct **Carmen** with Sandra Piques Eddy and Jay Hunter Morris. Mr. Wood was Conductor in Residence at the Minnesota Opera from 2006-2008, leading productions of **L’italiana in Algeri**, **Le nozze di Figaro**, **La donna del lago**, **Rusalka**, and **Il barbiere di Siviglia**.  Mr. Wood has also conducted Stephanie Blythe and Lawrence Brownlee in concert for San Francisco Opera, **L’italiana in Algeri** at Vancouver Opera, **Die Entführung aus dem Serail** for Hawaii Opera Theater, **The Love for Three Oranges** at Indiana University Opera Theater, **La cenerentola** at New Jersey Opera Theater, **Lakmé** at Minnesota Opera, and **The Nutcracker** for San Francisco Ballet.  Mr. Wood’s collaborations with the Wolf Trap Opera Company include **Le Comte Ory** and **Die Zauberflöte**. He returned to the San Francisco Opera in the summer of 2011 to conduct the Merola Opera Program’s concert of extended scenes. Mr. Wood held the position of Chorus Master at The Santa Fe opera from 2001 to 2004.

**Susan Derry, UrbanArias Board President**

**Bio**

An accomplished and versatile actor and singer, Susan Derry is at home in a wide range of roles.  For the Tony Award-winning Signature Theatre, she appeared most recently as Helen in the Signature Theatre’s revival of Stephen Sondheim’s *Saturday Night*, played Betty Schaeffer in *Sunset Boulevard* , and was also part of the Helen Hayes Award-nominated cast of *Showboat*.  At the Kennedy Center, Susan played Kathleen in the critically-acclaimed revival of *Ragtime;* she also appeared there in *Mame* and in Leonard Bernstein’s *Mas*s with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra conducted by Marin Alsop, which went to play Carnegie Hall. In New York, Susan headlined as a guest soloist for an evening of Frank Loesser’s music at Carnegie Hall with the New York Pops, led by Rob Fisher and the late Skitch Henderson. She has appeared in concert at Joe’s Pub and has had the distinct honor of appearing in the *Encores!* Series at New York City Center eleven times. Susan made her Broadway debut in the Tony-winning revival of *Wonderful Town*, and played the role of Christine in *The Phantom of the Opera* in Hamburg, Germany. She holds a Bachelors of Music degree from Northwestern University and a Masters of Music degree from the Manhattan School of Music.