

In a bold artistic choice, Don Fernando, a baritone role, will be sung by mezzo-soprano _____ (with the character renamed as Prime Minister). With this unconventional casting, "I want to expand the gender representation in traditional opera," said Zambello. "In consulting with Bob and Denyce, we all feel that this is a role that can be sung by a female voice. For Denyce to play this role will further strengthen the idea of the opera that women maintain the moral integrity. It also reflects on the progress women have made in politics in the more than 200 years since Beethoven wrote this opera."

Nkechi Taifa, founder and convener emeritus of the Justice Roundtable and president of The Taifa Group, will

^ Member of the Cafritz Young Artist program

Washington National Opera (WNO) is one of the leading opera companies in the United States. Under the

Tickets may be purchased online at kennedy-center.org, in-person at the Kennedy Center Box Office, or by calling (202) 467-4600.

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