



Ward Holmquist was the Artistic Director of the Lyric Opera of Kansas City since 1998, when he replaced the late founder Russell Patterson after his 40 year tenure.

Holmquist continued to lead the company through innovative programming, exciting

casting and thoughtful, strong conducting. The company's move into the state of the art Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts in 2011 and the completion of its own downtown Kansas City rehearsal, set construction and administration campus is testimony to the vibrancy of the operatic art form in America's heartland.

His formative training includes degrees from the Oberlin Conservatory, the University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign with renowned accompanist John Wustman, and Fulbright grant conducting studies at the Hochschule für Musik in Vienna. His early professional years were spent at Houston Grand Opera under general director David Gockley, student of composer Carlisle Floyd and assistant to music director John DeMain, where he rose to the position of resident conductor.