

Gregory Turay

Founder & Executive Director, Elevate Arts KY

Gregory Turay is an internationally acclaimed American tenor, director, producer, educator, arts administrator, and Founder and Executive Director of Elevate Arts KY. A recipient of many of classical music's highest honors, he is the winner of the Richard Tucker Award, George London Foundation Award, Young Concert Artists International Auditions, ARIA Award, and the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions.

Over a distinguished career spanning more than three decades, Turay has performed with many of the world's leading opera companies, orchestras, and festivals throughout North America and Europe. A graduate of the Metropolitan Opera's prestigious Lindemann Young Artist Development Program, he went on to perform leading roles with the Metropolitan Opera over ten seasons. His career has also included engagements with the San Francisco Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Welsh National Opera, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra, and numerous other distinguished companies and festivals, while continuing to perform as a guest artist internationally.

While maintaining an active performing career, Turay expanded his work as an educator, director, producer, and arts administrator. He has taught voice at the University of Kentucky, Transylvania University, Centre College, and Asbury University, while earning both his Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees from the University of Kentucky.

In addition to his performing career, Turay has provided artistic and executive leadership for educational initiatives, community collaborations, and multidisciplinary productions that have expanded access to the arts throughout Kentucky. He has directed opera workshops, educational productions, and community collaborations with the University of Kentucky Opera Theatre, Lexington Singers, Central Kentucky Youth Orchestra, Lexington Ballet, Kentucky Ballet Theatre, Downtown Lexington Partnership, and numerous schools and community organizations. His producing credits include Lexington's annual July 3 Patriotic Concert, productions for the Alltech ONE Conference, the statewide Thy Will Be Done tour, and the Royal Red Bird educational tour, which brought professional artists, live performances, dance, and arts education directly into K-5 elementary schools throughout Kentucky.

Today, Turay leads Elevate Arts KY, a nonprofit organization dedicated to elevating the arts across Kentucky through transformative educational opportunities, inspiring performances, and vibrant spaces where artists, students, and communities come together to learn, connect, and grow. Under his leadership, the organization is spearheading the development of Elevate LEX, an ambitious arts, education, and civic campus designed to become a permanent cultural, educational, and economic asset for the Commonwealth. In recognition of his contributions to Kentucky's cultural landscape, Turay received the 2024 Kentucky Governor's Award in the Arts.