

Charlottesville Opera
Season 49 – Summer 2026
Technical Director / Head Carpenter
Seasonal Position



POSITION OVERVIEW

Charlottesville Opera is seeking a skilled and hands-on Technical Director / Head Carpenter for our 2026 summer season. This role will serve as the primary scenic builder for our mainstage productions, while also overseeing the execution and installation of all scenic elements.

The Technical Director / Head Carpenter will work closely with the Director of Production, designers, and production staff to translate scenic designs into buildable, efficient, and safe solutions, and will take a lead role in physically constructing the scenery.

PRODUCTIONS

- Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella* (Original)
- Rossini's *Il barbiere di Siviglia* (sung in Italian)

DATES & SCHEDULE

<i>CINDERELLA</i>	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Build	June 1-15, 2026	TBD	Charlottesville, VA
Production Load-In	June 16-19, 2026	TBD	Charlottesville, VA
Technical Rehearsals	June 20-24, 2026	TBD	Charlottesville, VA
Performance 1	June 26, 2026	7:00 PM	Charlottesville, VA
Performance 2	June 27, 2026	2:00 PM	Charlottesville, VA
Performance 3	June 28, 2026	2:00 PM	Charlottesville, VA

<i>IL BARBIERE DE SIVIGLIA</i>	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Production Load-In	July 8-10, 2026	TBD	Charlottesville, VA
Technical Rehearsals	July 11-15, 2026	TBD	Charlottesville, VA
Performance 1	July 17, 2026	7:00 PM	Charlottesville, VA
Performance 2	July 19, 2026	2:00 PM	Charlottesville, VA

COMPENSATION

\$8,000–\$10,000, dependent on experience.

TRAVEL & HOUSING

- Housing provided (homestay or shared housing, private bedroom).
- Travel reimbursement up to \$300 (with receipts).
- Applicants must have their own transportation or arrange local travel.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Serve as the primary builder for all scenic elements in the shop
- Translate scenic designs into construction drawings and build plans
- Create materials lists and assist with budgeting and sourcing
- Lead and participate in all aspects of scenic construction
- Supervise any overhire carpenters during build and load-in periods
- Serve as Head Carpenter during technical rehearsals and performances
- Coordinate transportation of scenery between shop and venue
- Ensure safe working practices in both shop and theater environments
- Collaborate with other departments to support overall production needs

IDEAL EXPERIENCE

- 3–5+ years of professional experience in scenic construction, with demonstrated experience as a lead or primary builder
- Previous experience serving as a Technical Director, Head Carpenter, or Lead Carpenter in a small to mid-sized theater or opera company
- Proven ability to take a scenic design from concept or draft to fully realized build with minimal oversight
- Strong working knowledge of common scenic construction methods, materials, and hardware
- Experience working in a fast-paced production environment with multiple overlapping deadlines
- Ability to manage build priorities while maintaining attention to detail and finish quality
- Experience supervising small teams or overhire carpenters during build and load-in
- Familiarity with drafting software (Vectorworks preferred) and ability to generate or interpret construction drawings
- Experience with load-in, tech, and strike in a repertory or festival setting
- Comfortable working independently in a shop environment while maintaining clear communication with production leadership

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

- Ability to lift and carry up to 50 lbs regularly, and up to 75 lbs with assistance
- Ability to stand, walk, and work on feet for extended periods of time
- Ability to bend, kneel, climb, and work in various positions throughout the day
- Comfortable working on ladders, personnel lifts, and at heights
- Ability to safely operate standard scenic shop tools and equipment
- Ability to work both indoors and outdoors in varying temperatures and conditions
- Sufficient vision, hearing, and mobility to safely navigate shop and stage environments

HOW TO APPLY

Please submit a brief introduction and resume to:

Production Management

production@charlottesvilleopera.org

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT

Charlottesville Opera is committed to fostering an inclusive and respectful working environment and encourages applicants from diverse backgrounds and experiences to apply.