



Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE DALLAS OPERA PROUDLY PRESENTS
“SONGS FOR DALLAS”

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**LAWRENCE BROWNLEE  
AND FRIENDS  
IN CONCERT**

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**A Very Special Community Event
Appearance by the Dallas Street Choir
Featuring The Dallas Opera Orchestra
Pre-and-Post Performance Entertainment from
The Booker T. Washington Jazz Chamber Ensemble**

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**Wednesday, May 6, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.  
The Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House  
AT&T Performing Arts Center, Dallas TX**

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**LEAD SPONSOR, TEXAS INSTRUMENTS
DALLAS STREET CHOIR SPONSOR, JOAN REISCH**

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**TICKETS FROM \$10 TO \$50**

DALLAS, MARCH 5, 2020 –**The Dallas Opera** is proud to announce that world-renowned operatic tenor **Lawrence Brownlee** will be joined onstage by many of opera’s most exciting stars—and the **Dallas Street Choir**—for an evening of extraordinary music celebrating the power of song and the importance of the arts to our community.

**“Songs for Dallas,”** conceived by Mr. Brownlee, will feature favorite opera arias, as well as uplifting gospel songs, spirituals and popular standards. This community concert event will take place on **Wednesday, May 6, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.** in the **Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House** at the **AT&T Performing Arts Center**.

Mr. Brownlee, engaged to sing the role of Count Almaviva in four performances of TDO’s upcoming production of ***The Barber of Seville*** (April 24-May 10, 2020), will share the spotlight with a dazzling group of opera luminaries including:

- South African soprano **Pretty Yende**
- Spanish tenor **Xabier Anduaga**
- baritone **Lucas Meachem**
- bass-baritone **Mark S. Doss**
- and bass **Adam Lau**

The first half of the program will feature The Dallas Opera Orchestra, conducted by 2015 Hart Institute for Women Conductors alumna **Stephanie Rhodes Russell**. In the second half, as the program swings towards gospel and well-known standards, the singers will be accompanied by renowned pianist **Kevin Miller**, whose credits include a recital at the U.S. Supreme Court and an appearance on NPR’s Tiny Desk Concert Series.

The **Dallas Street Choir**, which has performed at Carnegie Hall, the Washington National Cathedral, and the George W. Bush Presidential Library (among other venues), will appear under the baton of **Jonathan Palant**, founder and conductor.

Since its inception in 2014, the choir, recently featured on *PBS NewsHour*, has performed with opera stars Frederica von Stade and Joyce DiDonato, composer Jake Heggie, and has welcomed former First Lady Laura Bush to their stage. The Dallas Street Choir has also provided a vulnerable population with a place to experience and share music with each other.

“The cultural life of this city—and all of North Texas—is enriched by the remarkable diversity of the community,” explains **Ian Derrer, The Kern Wildenthal General Director and CEO**.

“The Dallas Opera is enormously proud to support Larry Brownlee’s vision for broadening community appeal through a mix of diverse programming,” Derrer adds. “Where better than right in the heart of the Dallas Arts District—the Winspear Opera House!”

**Texas Instruments** is the Lead Sponsor for *Songs for Dallas*.

The appearance by Dallas Street Choir is sponsored by **Joan Reisch**.

**Pre-and-post performance entertainment** will be provided in the Winspear Opera House lobby by the outstanding **Booker T. Washington Jazz Chamber Ensemble** from the Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts.

**Tickets are priced from \$10 to \$50** apiece to encourage new patrons to enjoy the thrill of live performances in the Winspear Opera House.

Tickets can be purchased online anytime at **dallasopera.org/performance/songsfordallas** or by contacting The Dallas Opera Ticket Office at **214.443.1000**.

**For those newcomers joining The Dallas Opera at the Winspear Opera House for the very first time**, there will be a unique opportunity to purchase discounted tickets to the final two performances of *The Barber of Seville* and reduced price parking in Lexus Red, located directly below the Winspear. Details will be available in the lobby.

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Named 2017 “Male Singer of the Year” by both *Bachtrack* and the International Opera Awards, tenor **Lawrence Brownlee** has captivated critics and audiences, worldwide, for his “instrument of great beauty and expression” (NPR) ushering in “a new golden age in high male voices” (*The New York Times*).

Mr. Brownlee has performed at nearly every leading international opera house from New York’s Metropolitan Opera to the Salzburg Festival, prompting New Yorker critic Alex Ross to ask, “Is there a finer Rossini tenor than Lawrence Brownlee?”

With her magnetic charm, acclaimed operatic and solo performances, and a critically lauded discography, soprano **Pretty Yende** has quickly become one of the brightest stars in classical music. In addition to her house debut in The Dallas Opera’s *The Barber of Seville*, she is making two role debuts this season at the Paris Opera (Violetta and Manon) and, as *The Telegraph* (UK) observed, “seems to take charge of the stage wherever she goes.”

Grammy Award-winning baritone **Lucas Meachem**, who sings two roles with TDO this season (his company debut as Rodrigo in *Don Carlo* and a signature role—Figaro—in *The Barber of Seville* later in the spring), was described as “a rock star of opera (who) held the audience in thrall from the first raised eyebrow, dazzling everyone with the power and beauty of his voice.”

2019 Operalia First Prize winner **Xabier Anduaga** has forged a significant career in *bel canto* roles, like Count Almaviva (his TDO debut this spring). A critic for *Klasikaplus* wrote, “He reminds me of José Carreras in his (early years). The evening left me convinced that Xabier Anduaga is becoming a world-class star.”

Grammy Award-winning bass-baritone **Mark S. Doss** made a memorable Daland in last season’s TDO season-opening production of Wagner’s *The Flying Dutchman*. Stuart Cheny of *Opera News* described Mr. Doss’s performance as “charming, moving and well-acted.”

Bass **Adam Lau**, singing Don Basilio in The Dallas Opera spring production of *The Barber of Seville*, was praised by *Classical Voice of North Carolina* as a “bass of real quality, with sonorous low notes. His portrayal of the music teacher, Don Basilio, was solid musically and reflected a real understanding of comedic interaction.”

“The Dallas Opera is incredibly grateful to these world-class artists and the Dallas Street Choir for sharing the transcendent power of music with us all,” says **Director of Artistic Administration David Lomeli**. “It’s one thing to tell newcomers to your venue that you welcome them; it’s quite another thing to demonstrate how much.

“This concert shows them how much,” Lomeli adds.

For additional information, please contact The Dallas Opera Ticket Office at **214.443.1000** or visit us online at www.dallasopera.org.

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### **ABOUT THE DALLAS STREET CHOIR**

The Dallas Street Choir, a recognized 501(c)(3) organization, was founded by Dr. Jonathan Palant in October 2014. To date, over 2,000 individuals have attended at least one of our weekly rehearsals amassing more than 15,000 hours of cultural enrichment. In addition to presenting concerts at The Stewpot and the newly-built amphitheater adjacent to The Stewpot, the Dallas Street Choir has performed at the Winspear Opera House, the Dallas City Performance Hall, the George W. Bush Presidential Library, at both public and private schools, and at a variety of venues throughout the Dallas/Fort Worth area. The Dallas Street Choir has performed alongside opera stars Frederica von Stade and Joyce DiDonato, composer Jake Heggie, and, in November 2015, welcomed Mrs. Laura

Bush and Mr. and Mrs. Ross Perot to our stage. In June 2017, the Dallas Street Choir performed at Carnegie Hall and The Washington National Cathedral. This history-making concert event became the subject of a NBC “Today Show” story that aired nationwide multiple times. The Dallas Street Choir strives to offer an otherwise marginalized community of people a place to experience art, and specifically choral music. Our members come from all walks of life: 68% stay in shelters while 23% live on the streets; nearly half are in their forties and fifties; two-thirds have high school diplomas, and 64% are African American. The tagline for the Dallas Street Choir is “Homeless, Not Voiceless.”

### **ABOUT THE DALLAS OPERA**

One of the leading opera companies in the country, The Dallas Opera has an extraordinary legacy of world-class productions and thrilling premieres featuring the greatest operatic artists of our time. Inaugurated in 1957 with a concert featuring the incomparable Maria Callas, TDO is known for the notable U.S. debuts of a host of legendary artists including Plácido Domingo, Dame Joan Sutherland, Jon Vickers, Franco Zeffirelli, and Sir David McVicar. The company has long been an industry leader and innovator through groundbreaking initiatives like the Hart Institute for Women Conductors, free public simulcasts, acclaimed art song recitals, the national vocal competition, special concerts, and outstanding family and award-winning education programs. TDO’s home is the Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House, a jewel in the Dallas Arts District. As one of the largest performing arts employers in North Texas, TDO is proudly committed to diversity, onstage and off, and is a major contributor to the economic vitality and international cultural reputation of this region.

### **2019/2020 SEASON SPONSOR**

#### **The Nancy A. Nasher and David J. Haemisegger Family**

EVENTS, GUESTS, ARTISTS and PROGRAMMING ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

The Dallas Opera is supported, in part, by funds from: **Elsa von Seggern Foundation;**  
**Texas Instruments;** the **City of Dallas Office of Arts and Culture;**  
The **Texas Commission on the Arts** and the **National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).**

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The Dallas Opera is a proud member of **OPERA America**

All performances in The Dallas Opera’s 63<sup>rd</sup> International Season will take place in the Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House at the AT&T Performing Arts Center, unless otherwise indicated. Evening performances will begin at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees begin at 2:00 p.m. unless otherwise stated. English translations will be projected above the stage at every performance and assistance is available for the hearing impaired.

**The Joy and Ronald Mankoff Pre-Opera Talk** will begin one hour prior to curtain at most performances. Full and Flex subscriptions are designed to meet the needs of every budget. Prices

range from just \$57 (for three performances of your choice) to a top orchestra floor price of \$886 for all five mainstage productions. Single tickets are priced from \$19 to \$289 (a few box seats may be higher). Student Rush tickets are available 90 minutes prior to curtain; a valid Student ID and email address is required for each ticket. For additional information or to make your purchase, call 214.443.1000 or visit [dallasopera.org](http://dallasopera.org).

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