

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **THE DALLAS OPERA GUILD BIENNIAL LONE STAR VOCAL COMPETITION MOVES ONLINE FOR 2020**

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**TEN FINALISTS WILL BE JUDGED, JUNE 1-7  
ALL ARE WELCOME TO CAST A BALLOT**

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**WINNER EARNS \$1,000 CASH PRIZE,  
QUALIFIES FOR THE DALLAS OPERA  
NATIONAL VOCAL COMPETITION (2021)**

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**2020 Competition Chair Dr. Susan Fleming  
Honorary Chair, Martha Allday**

DALLAS, JUNE 1, 2020 – It's the ultimate "People's Choice." **The Dallas Opera** and **The Dallas Opera Guild**, in an unprecedented response to the needs of young artists in these difficult times, will host the **2020 Dallas Opera Guild Biennial Lone Star Vocal Competition** online—with the winner decided by popular vote.

Originally scheduled to take place in the Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House in May, this year's virtual competition will enable opera lovers to [discover their favorites](#) and cast their votes online, **June 1 - 7, 2020**.

Ten finalists with Texas connections have been selected by **The Dallas Opera's Mrs. Eugene McDermott Music Director Emmanuel Villaume** and **Director of Artistic Administration David Lomeli**. They are:

- **Michelle Girardot**, Soprano, 26, Moores School of Music / Hochschule für Musik und Theater "Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy" Leipzig

- **Sara Holt**, Soprano, 25, SMU / Houston Baptist University
- **Emily Kern**, Soprano, 26, Rice University / University of Houston
- **Cory McGee**, Bass, 24, Rice University / Oberlin Conservatory
- **Ricardo Ceballos de la Mora**, Bass, 28, Indiana University, Jacobs School of Music / SMU /SIVAM
- **Jazmine Olwalia**, Mezzo-Soprano, 26, University of Maryland / University of Houston
- **Amanda O’Toole**, Soprano, 29, UNT / University of Michigan
- **Isabel Signoret**, Mezzo-Soprano, 23, Rice University / University of Michigan
- **Logan Tanner**, Countertenor, 29, Baylor University / Westminster Choir College
- **Jason Zacher**, Bass-Baritone, 27, Moores School of Music / Montclair State University

Videos submitted by the finalists have been posted on The Dallas Opera’s website for viewing from **now through 11:59 p.m. June 7, 2020**. The option to vote is located on [the same page](#).

1. While anyone is eligible to vote, the competition allows only one vote per person.
2. The sole winner will be announced on **Monday, June 8** on Dallas Opera social media channels, as well as on [dallasopera.org](#).
3. The winner will receive \$1,000 and automatically qualifies for a spot in next year’s national vocal competition (the semi-finals round) with a chance to advance to the finals, where they would perform accompanied by **The Dallas Opera Orchestra**.

**The Kern Wildenthal General Director and CEO Ian Derrer** observes, “The Dallas Opera Guild has always had a special affection for homegrown talent. It’s easy to understand why the membership wished to return to that proud tradition. Today’s technology has made it possible for us to keep that dream alive for ten aspiring opera singers, even in the midst of a global pandemic.”

Singers, age 18 through 30, who are Texas residents or Texans pursuing vocal studies out-of-state were encouraged to apply by the March deadline.

2020 Competition Chair **Dr. Susan Fleming** remarked, “The Dallas Opera Guild is extremely proud of the many professional voices in development that we have fostered for more than three decades. We are eager to hear those selected to compete this year and encourage YOU to watch, listen, and cast your vote online during the first week of June.”

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This year's Honorary Chair is longtime Dallas Opera supporter and Dallas Opera Guild Member **Martha Allday**, a subscriber and donor since 2005.

Now in her sixth year as a member of The Dallas Opera Board, Martha Allday has given her enthusiastic support to **The Dallas Opera Hart Institute for Women Conductors**, as well as the annual vocal competition. With her husband, Dr. Robert Allday, Martha served as Guild Co-President during our second season in the Winspear Opera House (2010-2011). Beginning with the 2010 world premiere of Heggie and Scheer's *Moby-Dick*, the Alldays hosted numerous visiting artists (and, at times, their families) during extended stays in Dallas. Today, Martha Allday describes The Dallas Opera as "another family."

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### **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.

### **SEASON SPONSOR**

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