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The Dallas Opera's New OperaTruck Brings Family Operas to Community Locations

DALLAS—The Dallas Opera (TDO) announces its newest initiative, designed to bring productions of family fare to Greater Dallas communities with **OperaTruck**, an 18-wheel flatbed “big rig” that has been customized as an outdoor mobile stage, which can accommodate musicians and singers with appropriate distancing in “pop-up” performances.

OperaTruck was generously retro-fitted and donated by Quincy Roberts—a TDO Trustee, TDO Chorus member, and one of *D* magazine’s “Top 500 Most Influential Leaders”—who is also is a trained opera singer, and CEO of Roberts Trucking, the largest African American-owned construction hauler in Dallas.

Ian Derrer, The Dallas Opera’s Kern Wildenthal General Director and CEO, thanks Roberts for this unique gift, saying, “We are so very grateful to Quincy Roberts for his generosity of time and effort to provide TDO with the **OperaTruck**, which is helping us create inroads with new local partners, such as local churches and social service organizations. These collaborations will bring live classical music in an unexpected way—on a truck!—to engage new audiences and families with the stories we tell through music.”

OperaTruck makes its debut with three new community partners: First United Methodist Church of Heath on Saturday, May 8 at 2 p.m., Trinity Basin Preparatory School on May 15 at 2 p.m., St. Matthew's Cathedral on May 23 at 3 p.m.

OperaTruck performances feature TDO singers in family-friendly one-act operas: *Jack and the Beanstalk* and *Doctor Miracle*. All **OperaTruck** performances take place outdoors; audiences should bring their own seating.

"It's a privilege to both support The Dallas Opera and participate with them in performance," said Quincy Roberts, "which is why providing them with a creative way to expand their community engagement efforts made so much sense. After a year without live performances, I can't wait to see the **OperaTruck** in action in our communities."

The **OperaTruck** will also bring performers for private events at the North Texas Food Bank in Plano and Family Gateway in downtown Dallas.

OperaTruck is the brainchild of Kristian Roberts, TDO's Director of Education, who explains, "The pandemic has been challenging for arts organizations as a whole, but it has also given The Dallas Opera opportunities to become even more bold and creative in our approach to our mission. We have seized this moment to better serve the community while upholding our commitment to a talented generation of Texas-based singer/actors now developing their craft. I'm extremely proud of the work my team has done, and I am excited to see it help change stereotypes, expectations—and lives."

She continued, "I cannot thank Quincy enough for his generosity. OperaTruck allows us to present free family-friendly content in a big, big way. And that's about as Texan as it gets!"

Additional free outdoor performances of *Jack and the Beanstalk* will take place (without the truck) at the Dallas Arboretum on April 24 at 11 a.m. and 12 p.m. in the Rory Meyers Children's Adventure Garden and at Klyde Warren Park on May 1 at 1 p.m.

CASTING INFORMATION

Jack and the Beanstalk

JACK B. NIMBLE	Kayla Nanto, mezzo-soprano
MRS. NIMBLE/GIANT'S WIFE	Janine Dworin, mezzo-soprano
TROUBLE-MAN/GIANT	Prosper Makhanya, bass-baritone
NARRATOR	Jordan Hammons, tenor

Doctor Miracle

LAURETTE	Joy Mote, soprano
VERONICA	Ardeen Pierre, soprano
THE MAYOR	Tshilidzi Ndou, baritone
SILVIO/PASQUIN/DR.MIRACLE	David Bogaev, tenor
NARRATOR	Olivia Duncan, mezzo-soprano

Visit www.dallasopera.org for details.

OperaTruck is generously supported by Betty and Steve Suellentrop.

Programs and artists subject to change.

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 including the Hart Institute for Women Conductors, TDO Network, 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, both onstage and off, and is a major contributor to the economic vitality and international cultural reputation of this region.

SEASON SPONSOR

The Nancy A. Nasher and David J. Haemisegger Family

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