

APRIL 8, 2021

Media Contacts:

[Suzanne Calvin](#), 817.995.1687

[Rachelle Roe](#), 312.618.6655

**THE DALLAS OPERA HOSTS VIRTUAL FUNDRAISER,
MOVIE PREMIERE, AND SPECIAL CONCERT WITH ACCLAIMED
MEZZO-SOPRANO JOYCE DIDONATO
MAY 7-10, 2021**

***VIVA OPERA!* Virtual Fundraiser, May 7, On Demand at 7 PM
Great Scott DVD Screening, May 9, at 2 PM
VIVA DIVA! Concert, May 10, at 7 PM**

DALLAS—The Dallas Opera’s (TDO) annual spring gala has been reimagined as a special virtual fundraising event this year, and will stream on [TDO’s website](#) beginning **Friday, May 7** at 7 p.m. This year’s event, which is also available for on-demand viewing through June 4, stars mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato, soprano Ailyn Pérez, countertenor John Holiday, and baritone Lucas Meacham in selections from *The Barber of Seville* and *Great Scott*, and in recital. Funds raised benefit The Dallas Opera’s artistic and learning programs. The Dallas Opera thanks Honorary Chair Mary McDermott Cook and Chairs Lisa and David Genecov for their leadership support of this event.

“This past year has presented a challenge at every turn,” said Ian Derrer, The Dallas Opera’s Kern Wildenthal General Director and CEO. “But I am so very proud of the way our staff and artists have found creative solutions to each of those challenges. This weekend of fundraising efforts is one of those opportunities that we have to showcase our art and artists in new ways,

and I'm grateful to Joyce DiDonato and all of our soloists who have agreed to participate. I hope our audiences here in Dallas, as well as those far and wide, enjoy these offerings."

Sunday, May 9 marks the premiere of the DVD of The Dallas Opera's 2015 world premiere performances of Jake Heggie and Terrence McNally's ***Great Scott***, starring Joyce DiDonato, Ailyn Pérez, Frederica von Stade, and Nathan Gunn. To celebrate the release, TDO hosts a one-time only premiere screening of the DVD at the Winspear Opera House, at 2 p.m. This event is free to TDO subscribers; general admission, available beginning April 11, is \$20 for reserved, distanced seating. Visit the website for additional opportunities to thank our community's healthcare heroes.

The DVD will be available for purchase on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) beginning April 16.

DiDonato then joins The Dallas Opera Orchestra conducted by the Mrs. Eugene McDermott Music Director Emmanuel Villaume on **Monday, May 10**, at 7 p.m. for "**VIVA DIVA!**"—a wide-ranging program that was rescheduled from November 2020, including two works with DiDonato: the orchestral version of Jake Heggie's song cycle *Camille Claudel: Into the Fire* and Berlioz's *La mort de Cléopâtre (The Death of Cleopatra)*, and Beethoven's "Coriolan" Overture. Tickets range in price from \$30-\$325; audience capacity is limited.

Joyce DiDonato sang the 2012 premiere of *Camille Claudel: Into the Fire* for voice and string quartet; TDO Orchestra performs a newer orchestration. The seven-movement song cycle, with five poems by Gene Scheer representing five of Claudel's specific works, depicts the year 1913 during the heartbreaking life of the French sculptor, who reflects on her 10-year affair with Auguste Rodin and the trauma of their separation before being committed to an asylum. Heggie was deeply influenced by Ravel's music and Debussy's G-minor string quartet when writing of this tragic figure with "great beauty and emotional resonance" (*The New York Times*).

Written in 1829 when the composer was just 25 but not published until after his death, *La mort de Cléopâtre* depicts Cleopatra's suicide after she invokes the spirits of the pharaohs and wonders if she has lived up to the great rulers of the past. In performing this work, DiDonato has said, "I don't know how you could be a mezzo-soprano and not worship at the feet of

Hector Berlioz. He has given us some of the greatest music ever written for our voices. It is poignant, rich, human, deeply feminine, vulnerable, empowering — each role feels like a treasure and a profound journey.”

Visit dallasopera.org for more information. Tickets are available now for donors and subscribers and beginning April 11 for the general public, and can be purchased online or via phone, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 214.443.1000.

TDO’s May 7-10 activities are sponsored by The Eugene McDermott Foundation.

~~~~~

### 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**

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).**

**American Airlines** is the official airline of The Dallas Opera.

**Lexus** is the official vehicle of The Dallas Opera.

Advertising support from ***The Dallas Morning News***.

**NorthPark Center**, the official shopping center of The Dallas Opera.

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

###

**#DallasOpera**

Follow us on social media:



Complete program details:

**VIVA OPERA! Virtual Fundraiser**

**Friday, May 7 at 7 p.m., available on demand until June 4**

Online at [dallasopera.org/vivaopera2021](http://dallasopera.org/vivaopera2021)

Starring mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato, soprano Ailyn Pérez, countertenor John Holiday, and baritone Lucas Meacham, in selections from *The Barber of Seville*, *Great Scott*, and in recital.

FREE with registration.

Special thanks to Honorary Chair Mary McDermott Cook and Chairs Lisa and David Genecov

---

***Great Scott* DVD movie premiere**

**Sunday, May 9 at 2 p.m.**

Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St, Dallas, TX

*Great Scott*

Directed by Jack O'Brien

Music by Jake Heggie

Story and libretto by Terrence McNally

Starring Joyce DiDonato, Ailyn Pérez, Frederica von Stade, Nathan Gunn, Anthony Roth Costanzo, Kevin Burdette, Michael Mayes, and Rodell Rosel

The Dallas Opera Orchestra and Chorus, conducted by Patrick Summers

Enjoy Joyce DiDonato as both singer and comedienne extraordinaire as she stars as Arden Scott, international diva, who returns home to save her town's ailing opera company. The premiere of her long-lost *bel canto* masterpiece is up against a huge football game starring the town's beloved "Grizzlies" *on the same night!* Will tragedy ensue? Art and sport go head to head in this delightful operatic spoof that had audiences and critics cheering at its TDO 2015 world premiere.

FREE to TDO subscribers; \$20 for general public. Reserve seats at [dallasopera.org](http://dallasopera.org)

DVD available for purchase at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) on April 16.

---

**VIVA DIVA!**

**Monday, May 10, at 7 p.m.**

Dallas Opera Orchestra

Emmanuel Villaume, music director

Joyce DiDonato, mezzo-soprano

BERLIOZ

*La mort de Cléopâtre*

BEETHOVEN

"Coriolan" Overture

HEGGIE

*Camille Claudel: Into the Fire*

Tickets: \$30 - \$325; available online or via phone, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 214.443.1000.

---

Programs and artists subject to change.