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## EIGHT FINALISTS ANNOUNCED FOR THE DALLAS OPERA NATIONAL VOCAL COMPETITION ON OCTOBER 29

### Emmanuel Villaume Leads Final Round of Competition with The Dallas Opera Orchestra at the Winspear Opera House

DALLAS—The Dallas Opera (TDO) presents the final round of The Dallas Opera National Vocal Competition on **Friday, October 29, at 7:30 p.m.**, at the Winspear Opera House.

Hailing from across the U.S. and Mexico, the eight finalists are: soprano **Sylvia D'Eramo**, soprano **Kathryn Henry**, soprano **Chasiti Lashay**, mezzo-soprano **Sun-Ly Pierce**, tenor **Efraín Corralejo**, baritone **Blake Denson**, bass-baritone **Evan Lazdowski**, and bass **Ricardo Ceballos de la Mora**, who won the online People's Choice vote in TDO's 2020 virtual Lone Star Vocal Competition and automatically advanced to the 2021 final round.

Finalists in the 31<sup>st</sup> annual competition, which is sponsored by The Dallas Opera Guild, will be accompanied by The Dallas Opera Orchestra, led by The Mrs. Eugene McDermott Music Director Emmanuel Villaume. All tickets are \$10.

This year's Dallas Opera National Vocal Competition is co-chaired by Dallas Opera Guild members Jana and Mac Irwin to honor the memories of Cecile Bonte and Connie Klemow, longtime leaders of The Dallas Opera Guild and enthusiastic supporters of The Dallas Opera's young artist development programs.

“The entire Dallas Opera family is deeply grateful to The Dallas Opera Guild for its ongoing and dedicated support of this competition,” said The Dallas Opera’s Kern Wildenthal General Director and CEO Ian Derrer. “The opportunity to honor Cecile and Connie this year makes it all the more special, since so much of their leadership was focused on identifying and supporting the rising talent that was often discovered in this very competition.”

The finalists will each perform one aria for the final round performance:

<b>Sylvia D’Eramo</b> , soprano	“Song to the Moon” from <i>Rusalka</i> (Dvořák)
<b>Kathryn Henry</b> , soprano	“Al dolce guidami” from <i>Anna Bolena</i> (Donizetti)
<b>Chasiti Lashay</b> , soprano	“Io son l’umile ancella” from <i>Adriana Lecouvreur</i> (Cilèa)
<b>Sun-Ly Pierce</b> , mezzo-soprano	“Dopo notte” from <i>Ariodante</i> (Handel)
<b>Efraín Corralejo</b> , tenor	“Salut demeure chaste et pure” from <i>Faust</i> (Gounod)
<b>Blake Denson</b> , baritone	“Ja vas Lyublyu” from <i>Queen of Spades</i> (Tchaikovsky)
<b>Evan Lazdowski</b> , bass-baritone	“Quand la flamme de l’amour” from <i>La Jolie Fille de Perth</i> (Bizet)
<b>Ricardo Ceballos de la Mora</b> , bass	“Vous qui faites l’endormie” from <i>Faust</i> (Gounod)

“One of my favorite parts of participating in this competition is showcasing young, rising talent,” said Music Director Emmanuel Villaume, “particularly when an unexpected moment happens and fills us all with a sense of discovery.” He continued, “These gifted singers are the artists of tomorrow, and it gives me great pride that they may get their start here at The Dallas Opera as part of this competition.”

Winners will be selected by a distinguished panel of judges, chaired by The Dallas Opera’s Artistic Consultant David Lomelí and including Maestro Villaume; Afton Battle, General Director of Fort Worth Opera; Christina Scheppelmann, General Director of Seattle Opera; Jean Kellogg, Executive Director of the Merola Opera Program at San Francisco Opera; and Brian Zeger, Artistic Director of the Marcus Vocal Arts Department at The Juilliard School.

Three prizewinners, plus a People’s Choice award winner, receive cash prizes, as well as the opportunity to perform with a major orchestra and a world-class conductor. The competition is open to applicants aged 18-34 from all U.S states and territories, including international

students attending American colleges, universities, and music conservatories. Also eligible are active members of any young artist program associated with an American opera company. Preliminary and semi-final rounds are held privately.

Previous prizewinners in The Dallas Opera National Vocal Competition have gone on to establish impressive careers—with many having been cast by The Dallas Opera—including sopranos Latonia Moore, who appears this season as Cio-Cio-San in *Madame Butterfly*, Kecia Ashford, Katherine Bongfeldt, and Mary Dunleavy; mezzo sopranos J’Nai Bridges, who was recently hailed by *BET* as “the Beyoncé of opera,” Kelly Kimball, and Randalee Maddox; countertenors Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen and John Holiday; tenors Clifton Forbis, Jesús Garcia, Scott Quinn, and Scott Scully; baritones Thomas Cannon, Christopher Holmes, Weston Hurt, Steven LaBrie, and Erik Nelson Werner; and bass Matthew Treviño, among many others.

The Winspear Opera House will operate at reduced capacity in the Fall of 2021. Masks are required while moving about and seated, regardless of vaccination status. Removing masks to enjoy concessions in the lobby is acceptable. Protocols may change; ticket purchase acknowledges consent to the AT&T Performing Arts Center’s Health and Safety policies. Patrons should check [attpac.org/public-health](http://attpac.org/public-health) for the latest information.

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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 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**

**Mary Anne Cree, in Memory of Rosine Smith Sammons**

The Dallas Opera is supported, in part, by funds from:  
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**CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:**

**Friday, October 29, at 7:30 p.m.**

Winspear Opera House

The Dallas Opera Orchestra

Emmanuel Villaume, conductor

The Dallas Opera National Vocal Competition, Final Round

Sylvia D'Eramo, soprano

Kathryn Henry soprano

Chasiti Lashay, soprano

Sun-Ly Pierce, mezzo-soprano

Efraín Corrales, tenor

Blake Denson, baritone

Evan Lazdowski, bass-baritone

Ricardo Ceballos de la Mora, bass

Tickets: \$10.

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Tickets are available at [dallasopera.org](http://dallasopera.org) or via phone at 214.443.1000. Visit [dallasopera.org](http://dallasopera.org) for more information.

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*Programs and artists subject to change.*

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