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**THE DALLAS OPERA KICKS OFF 2021/2022 SEASON WITH  
FREE “THE PEOPLE’S CHOICE CONCERT”  
IN ANNETTE STRAUSS SQUARE**

**Saturday, October 16, at 7:30 p.m.**

DALLAS—The Dallas Opera (TDO) announces a **free**, season-opening event as part of its slate of live, in-person performances in the 2021/2022 Season. Tickets are required; register in advance at [dallasopera.org](http://dallasopera.org).

To launch the 2021/2022 season, TDO presents a season kick-off “The People’s Choice Concert” on **October 16 at 7:30 p.m.** in the Annette Strauss Square at the AT&T Performing Arts Center featuring favorite and familiar opera arias. Emmanuel Villaume, The Mrs. Eugene McDermott Music Director, leads The Dallas Opera Orchestra in iconic music from a selection of operas spanning the centuries: Bellini’s *Norma*; Leoncavallo’s *Pagliacci*; Handel’s *Giulio Cesare* and *Xerxes*; Mozart’s *The Magic Flute* and *The Marriage of Figaro*; Puccini’s *Tosca*, *Madame Butterfly*, *Turandot*, and *Manon Lescaut*; and Bizet’s *Carmen* and *The Pearl Fishers*; and Verdi’s *Otello* and *Il trovatore*.

The stellar cast of renowned singers includes sopranos Maria Agresta, Kathryn Lewek, Ewa Płonka, and Lauren Snouffer; countertenor Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen; tenor Gregory Kunde; baritone Gabriele Viviani; and bass-baritones Mark S. Doss and Michael Sumuel, most of whom are making their debuts with TDO at this performance.

“We are ecstatic to be returning to live performances with our orchestra and showcasing some

of the greatest voices of our time,” said Ian Derrer, The Kern Wildenthal General Director and CEO. “Launching the season with a free performance of music that everyone will recognize—from films, TV, even commercials—is like reconnecting with old friends. We hope that both longtime audience members and new ones will be able to share this beautiful music with us, particularly those who are ‘testing the waters’ and haven’t yet attended a performance at the Winspear...please join us at Strauss Square!”

Audiences will be able to vote for the evening’s encore via Twitter poll by scanning QR codes in the venue on their smartphones.

“The People’s Choice Concert” is generously sponsored by Texas Instruments.

This performance is FREE but advance registration and ticket is required for admittance. Limit 4 per household. Some chairs will be provided, but audience members may bring their own. Seating is first come, first served. In case of inclement weather, “The People Choice Concert” will take place in the Winspear Opera House. Patrons are encouraged to review the AT&T Performing Arts Center’s [Health & Safety Guidelines](#) and [Venue Restrictions](#) in advance.

Masks are required while moving about the venue, regardless of vaccination status. Removing masks to enjoy concessions when seated is acceptable. Protocols may change; registration 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.

“The People’s Choice Concert” is generously sponsored by Texas Instruments.

## SEASON SPONSOR

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

The Dallas Opera is supported, in part, by funds from:  
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.

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

### CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

**Saturday, October 16, at 7:30 p.m.**

Annette Strauss Square

The Dallas Opera Orchestra

Emmanuel Villaume, conductor

Maria Agresta, Kathryn Lewek, Ewa Płonka, and Lauren Snouffer, sopranos

Ariyeh Nussbaum Cohen, countertenor

Gregory Kunde, tenor

Gabriele Viviani, baritone

Mark S. Doss and Michael Sumuel, bass-baritones

### **“The People’s Choice Concert”**

Program to include selections from:

|             |                                                         |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| MOZART      | <i>The Marriage of Figaro, The Magic Flute</i>          |
| VERDI       | <i>Otello, Il trovatore</i>                             |
| HANDEL      | <i>Giulio Cesare, Xerxes</i>                            |
| BIZET       | <i>Carmen, The Pearl Fishers</i>                        |
| LEONCAVALLO | <i>Pagliacci</i>                                        |
| BELLINI     | <i>Norma</i>                                            |
| PUCCINI     | <i>Tosca, Turandot, Madame Butterfly, Manon Lescaut</i> |

Encores to be determined by audience vote.

**Tickets: FREE**, advance registration is required. Limit 4 per household. Visit [dallasopera.org](https://dallasopera.org) to register.

Ticket does not guarantee entry. Seating first come, first served.

Rain location: Winspear Opera House.

Patrons are encouraged to review the AT&T Performing Arts Center’s [Health & Safety Guidelines](#) and [Venue Restrictions](#) in advance.

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*Programs and artists subject to change.*

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**#DallasOpera**

