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The Dallas Opera Announces 2022 Maria Callas Award Winner

Soprano Joyce El-Khoury Honored for Debut in *The Pearl Fishers*

DALLAS—(6/16/2022) **The Dallas Opera** is thrilled to name soprano **Joyce El-Khoury** as the 2022 **"Maria Callas Debut Artist of the Year"** for her triumphant Dallas Opera debut as Leïla in Bizet's ***The Pearl Fishers***.

The prestigious award, named for the unofficial "godmother" of The Dallas Opera, is given to a single performer each season in recognition of a particularly memorable and outstanding company debut. Ms. El-Khoury did just that, winning praise from both audiences and critics alike for her "sweet and remarkably light" (*Opera News*) high notes that captivated Dallas from the start.

An alumna of The Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artist Development Program, Ms. El-Khoury has earned international acclaim at Glyndebourne, Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, and Welsh National Opera, among other successes in Europe and North America. In concert, she has recently performed the Verdi *Requiem* with Teatro Massimo di Palermo with Maestro Riccardo Muti, with whom

she will make her Chicago Symphony Orchestra debut (June 2022) as Amelia in Verdi's *Un ballo in maschera* in concert.

"A season that includes a particularly large number of debuts brings an exciting anticipation to each production," said **Ian Derrer**, Kern Wildenthal General Director and CEO. "Joyce's passionate debut as Leïla was a dramatic and vocal highlight that our audiences will not soon forget—and our subscribers overwhelmingly echoed that in their votes."

Audiences can watch Ms. El-Khoury's award-winning performance in *The Pearl Fishers* on thedallasopera.tv until July 15 for free.

Maria Callas, "La Divina", launched The Dallas Opera in 1957 with a recital in the Music Hall at Fair Park conducted by Nicola Rescigno. She continued to grace TDO's stage throughout the company's early years with a series of legendary performances.

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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**.

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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 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.