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the dallas opera™ | 65TH
ANNIVERSARY



The Dallas Opera's 65th Anniversary Season Opens with Verdi's *Rigoletto*

Performances October 8, 12, 14, and 16, 2022

DALLAS—(9/29/2022) [The Dallas Opera](#) kicks off their 65th Anniversary Season with Verdi's *Rigoletto*, the first of four new-to-Dallas productions to take the stage in 2022/2023. The production, directed by **Tomer Zvulun** and starring a cast of today's most celebrated singers, including **George Gagnidze** (TDO debut), **Madison Leonard** (TDO debut), **René Barbera**, **Raymond Aceto**, and **Nadia Krasteva**, opens at the Winspear Opera House on **Saturday, October 8, 2022, at 8:00pm**.

Following the opening night performance, all are invited to join in the lobby for a celebratory post-performance party featuring live entertainment from Ricki Derek, complimentary hors d'oeuvres, and cash bars throughout the Winspear.

Emmanuel Villaume, The Mrs. Eugene McDermott Music Director, leads **The Dallas Opera Orchestra** in Verdi's thrilling and popular score, while **Stephanie Havey** joins Mr. Zvulun as associate director of the Dallas Opera, Houston Grand Opera, and The Atlanta Opera co-production. **Erhard Rom** updates the production to 1930's fascist Italy as set designer, **Jessica Jahn** is costume designer, **Robert Wierzel** is lighting designer, and **David Zimmerman** is wig and make-up designer. Chorusmaster **Alexander Rom** prepares **The Dallas Opera Chorus**.

NEW! The last performance of *Rigoletto*, **Sunday, October 16, at 2:00pm**, will be livestreamed

exclusively via [thedallasopera.TV](https://thedallasopera.tv) (registration required) with pay-what-you're-able pricing (minimum ticket price of \$9.99). Tune in for exciting behind-the-scenes content and breathtaking performances—wherever you may be.

TDO Connections™

This season, TDO Connections™ explores the leadership, creativity, and representation of women in opera through *Rigoletto* and *Così fan tutte*. Courageous, intelligent, dismissed, objectified, joyous, and powerful—these works portray and engage female characters with a richness that invites additional learning and conversation.

The 2022/2023 TDO Connections™ began with a live panel discussion ([watch now](#)) on Saturday, September 24, with Jin-Ya Huang (Break Bread Break Borders), Audra Scott (Booker T. High School for the Performing and Visual Arts), and Stephanie Havey (Associate Director/*Rigoletto*) and ends with a debrief from the *Rigoletto* and *Così fan tutte* creative teams and Dallas Opera staff. We are excited to present online resources and in-person events to share in our learning journey.

The Dallas Opera continues to offer FREE pre- and post-opera discussions:

- **Joy and Ronald Mankoff Pre-Opera Talk:** Hosted by **Hank Hammett**, Director of Opera at Meadows School of the Arts (SMU), this interactive 30-minute lecture begins one hour before the start of each opera in the Margaret McDermott Performance Hall. Admission is free with your ticket to a Dallas Opera performance. Note: There is no Pre-Opera Talk on Opening Night, October 8, 2022.
- **Sunday Post-Opera Talkback:** Immediately following the Sunday matinee performance from the stage, this brief and casual Q&A session with members of the cast gives you an opportunity to ask questions about the performance. **Hosted by Ian Derrer**, The Kern Wildenthal General Director and CEO.

Rigoletto

- Four performances: October 8 (8:00pm), 12 (7:30pm), 14 (7:30pm), 16 (2:00pm)
- Approximately 2 hours and 40 minutes, including two intermissions
- Sung in Italian with English Titles
- Tickets start at \$19 and can be purchased online at dallasopera.org or by calling 214.443.1000 (Mon – Fri, 10am – 5pm)

Health and Safety Protocols

Masks are strongly encouraged, but not required for all guests in the lobby and performance hall. As a resident company of the AT&T Performing Arts Center, The Dallas Opera adheres to the health and safety protocols and policies in our home venue, the Winspear Opera House.

[Visit the AT&T Performing Art Center's website](#) for more information about health and safety protocols and policies, including detailed information about ventilation and sanitization procedures.

Visit dallasopera.org and [thedallasopera.TV](https://thedallasopera.tv) to learn more.

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Season Sponsor: Mary Anne Cree, in memory of Rosine Smith Sammons

Rigoletto is sponsored by **Martha Peak Rochelle** and is the **Caroline Rose Hunt Mainstage Production**

Linda and Mitch Hart Season Opening Night Performance: October 8, 2022

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

Rigoletto is a Co-Production of The Dallas Opera, Houston Grand Opera, and The Atlanta Opera
Scenery originally created for Wolf Trap Opera

Photo: Lynn Lane/Houston Grand Opera

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.

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