

thedallas**opera**™

HART INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN CONDUCTORS

“Bringing women conductors to the forefront.”

PBS NewsHour



Inspirational...effective...ground-breaking...

The Dallas Opera Hart Institute for Women Conductors

The Hart Institute is an advanced artistic and leadership program that builds and advances the careers of women conductors with the talent and drive to pursue major positions with national and international opera companies.

The only initiative of its kind in the world, its mission is to address the extreme imbalance of leadership on the podium: of the more than 180 professional opera companies operating in North America, only a handful have music directors who are women. The same disparity exists globally.

Sponsored and operated by The Dallas Opera, the Hart Institute accepts both American and international applicants. Fewer than 15 women are chosen by a prestigious jury from the some 100 who apply annually. Many applicants are already working in the field; others are recent graduates from top conservatories and universities. Today, more than 50 women have successfully graduated from the program and are now in conducting positions all over the world.

The Hart Institute offers an in-person residency in Dallas, with additional online classes and mentorship provided throughout the following year. Each participant is provided with a promotional video of her work upon completion of the program. A stipend is awarded to all successful applicants.

“During a time of uncertainty as a young artist, the Hart Institute gave me the confidence and support to forge a path forward. It was a real turning point in my career.” Tianyi Lu, Conductor in Residence, Stavanger Symfoniorkester/Female Conductor in Residence, Welsh National Opera/Principal Conductor, St. Woolos Sinfonia, UK

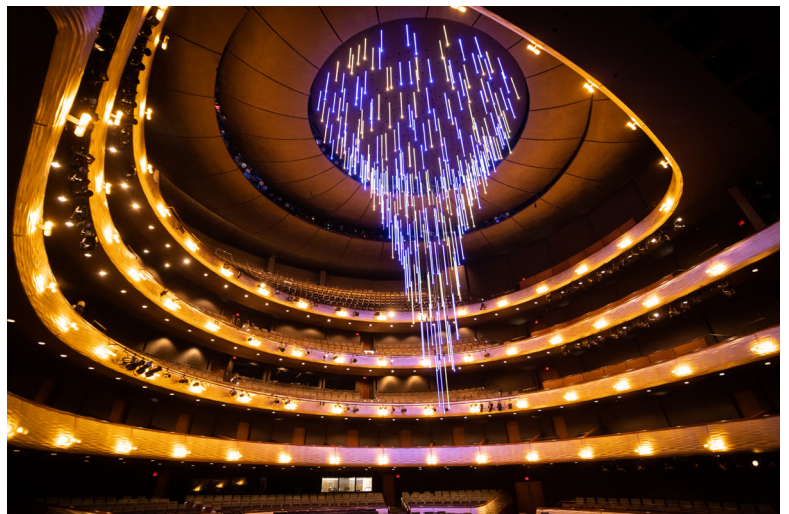
Musical Training at the Highest International Level

Led by The Dallas Opera’s celebrated Music Director Emmanuel Villaume, a team of renowned conductors and vocal experts guide participants through intensive one-on-one and group sessions covering everything from effective stick technique to inspiring podium leadership. Integral to the curriculum is the ability for each woman to work with The Dallas Opera Orchestra and established opera singers. Conductors and opera singers working with students have included Marin Alsop, Elizabeth Askren, Renato Balsadonna, Gustavo Dudamel, Alice Farnham, Sheri Greenawald, Carlo Montaro, Nicole Paiement, Dawn Upshaw, and Lidiya Yankovskaya, among others.

“The opportunity to receive instruction from master teachers and then to work with singers and conduct an internationally renowned orchestra such as we have at The Dallas Opera cannot be overestimated for someone at the start of her career.” Emmanuel Villaume, The Dallas Opera’s Mrs. Eugene McDermott Music Director



Emmanuel Villaume



Winspear Opera House



The "Showcase Concert" Provides Opportunity to be Seen, Heard, and Hired!

The culmination of every Hart Institute program is a festive "Showcase Concert," featuring all of that year's participants. Each woman conducts The Dallas Opera Orchestra and singers in a program of operatic favorites in the iconic Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House. The goal of the Hart Institute is to generate employment opportunities and industry buzz for its participants, and the "Showcase Concert" is widely attended by Texas audiences, industry managers, and artist agents.

"For any organization looking to hire today's most talented young conductors TDO's Hart Institute Showcase Concert is a 'must-attend' event. The best and the brightest are all on the podium for one terrific evening." Charlotte Lee, President and Founder of Primo Artists

Practical Skills and Business Mentorship from Industry Leaders

The Hart Institute provides participants with training and mentorship from a wide range of experts in every area of the performing arts field. Preparing an effective resume...how to interview for a position...working with union members and boards of directors...understanding the importance of marketing and fundraising in any organization...collaborating with a general director...building a public relations profile, and more—conductors working in today's environment require much more than artistic acumen to succeed. Renowned faculty members have included Deborah Borda, Ian Derrer, David Lomeli, Matthew Shilvock, and Francesca Zambello, among others. Top leadership from organizations including the following have all participated as faculty in the program:

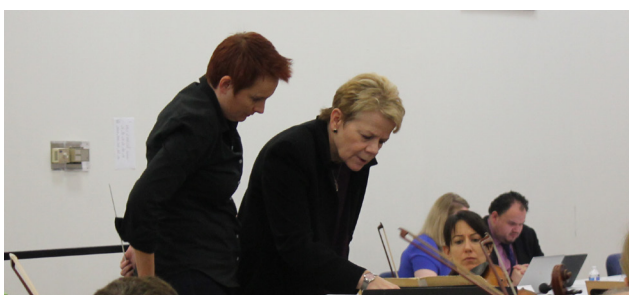
Bayerische Staatsoper
The Dallas Opera
Deutsche Oper
IMG Artists
Korn Ferry

Lyric Opera of Chicago
New York Philharmonic
Opéra national de Paris
Royal Opera House, Covent Garden
Santa Fe Opera

San Francisco Opera
Tanglewood Music Center
Teatro San Carlo
Washington National Opera, Kennedy Center

"The importance of maximizing revenue, employee and orchestra relations, community outreach, commitment to diversity, and more...conductors must understand what makes an opera company tick at every level to be successful artistic leaders. It's so much more than producing great opera."

Ian Derrer, The Dallas Opera's Kern Wildenthal General Director and CEO



Marin Alsop leads a Hart Institute session

Management Track for Young Professionals Already Working in the Field

Each year, a select number of women currently holding management positions in small and medium-sized opera companies are invited to apply to audit sessions with the conductors and to study with senior staff in The Dallas Opera administration. A stipend is offered during the residency.



Ian Derrer, The Kern Wildenthal General Director and CEO
Emmanuel Villaume, The Mrs. Eugene McDermott Music Director

“The Dallas Opera’s Hart Institute is a leader in attempting to correct gender inequality among conductors.” ABC News

The Dallas Opera gratefully acknowledges these founding donors for their support of the Hart Institute for Women Conductors:

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How to get involved with The Dallas Opera’s Hart Institute for Women Conductors:

Conductors wishing to apply for enrollment in
The Hart Institute: [YAP Tracker](#)

Donors wishing to support The Hart Institute:
dallasopera.org/support

Opera professionals wishing to audit sessions and work with
The Dallas Opera staff: artistic@dallasopera.org

Opera fans wanting to purchase tickets for the “Showcase Concert”
or view specific online sessions: dallasopera.org/hart

