

Media Contact:  
[Rachelle Roe](#), 312.618.6655

## The Dallas Opera's 2023/2024 Mainstage Season Concludes with the Classic Love Story of *Romeo and Juliet*

### Golda Schultz and Long Long Make Dallas Opera Debuts in Title Roles of New-to-Dallas Production



**March 1, 3, 6, and 9  
at the Winspear Opera House**

(DALLAS, February 2, 2024)—Charles Gounod's setting of Shakespeare's greatest love story, [Romeo and Juliet](#), closes out the 2023/2024 mainstage season at [The Dallas Opera](#) (TDO), beginning on **Friday, March 1**. Three additional performances take place on March 3 (matinee), 6, and 9, at the Winspear Opera House.

This new-to-Dallas production of *Romeo and Juliet* stars soprano Golda Schultz—called “radiant voiced” by *The New York Times*—and tenor Long Long as the star-crossed lovers. Both make their Dallas Opera debuts, as well as their role debuts, in these performances. Rounding out the cast are bass Raymond Aceto as Friar Laurence and bass Donnie Ray Albert as Lord Capulet, as well as soprano Emily Sierra as Stephano, baritone Eugene Villanueva as Mercutio, tenor Nathan Bowles as Benvolio, mezzo-soprano Claudia Chapa as Gertrude, and tenor Andrew Turner as Tybalt, all in their Dallas opera debuts.

*Romeo and Juliet* is a co-production with Houston Grand Opera and The Atlanta Opera. Sung in French with English supertitles—it is directed by Romain Gilbert, with set design by John Conklin and Julia Noulin-Mérat, costume design by Gregory Gale, and lighting design by Thomas Hase and Krista Billings. The Martha R. and Preston A. Peak Principal Guest Conductor Nicole Paiement conducts The Dallas Opera Orchestra and Chorus.

### **Synopsis**

The Montagues and the Capulets have been feuding in Verona for hundreds of years, yet when Romeo (Montague) meets Juliet (Capulet) at a masked ball, they instantly fall in love, unaware of each other’s identity. But while the kind Friar Laurence secretly marries them and tries to help them escape their rival families to live happily ever after, the quarreling continues—with losses in both families—and a tragic finale for the ill-fated couple.

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

- Joy and Ronald Mankoff Pre-Opera Talk: Hosted by [Nicole Paiement](#), the Martha R. and Preston A. Peak Principal Guest Conductor, 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.
- 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 [Kristian Roberts](#), Director of Education for The Dallas Opera.

### **Performance Details**

**Friday, March 1, 2024, at 7:30pm**

**Sunday, March 3, 2024, at 2:00pm**

**Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at 7:30pm**

**Saturday, March 9, 2024, at 7:30pm**

Nicole Paiement, conductor

The Dallas Opera Orchestra and Chorus

***Romeo and Juliet*** composed by Charles Gounod

Long Long, tenor\*

Golda Schultz, soprano\*

Raymond Aceto, bass

Romeo

Juliet

Friar Laurence

Emily Sierra, soprano*	Stephano
Eugene Villanueva, baritone *	Mercutio
Nathan Bowles, tenor*	Benvolio
Claudia Chapa, mezzo-soprano*	Gertrude
Donnie Ray Albert, bass	Lord Capulet
Andrew Turner, tenor*	Tybalt
Erik Earl Larson, baritone	Count Paris
Navasard Hakobyan, baritone*	Gregorio
Kevin Thompson, bass*	Duke of Verona
Malcolm Payne Jr., bass/baritone	Friar Jean

Romain Gilbert*	Director
John Conklin	Set Designer
Julia Noulin-Mérat*	Co-Set Designer
Gregory Gale*	Costume Designer
Thomas Hase	Lighting Designer
Krista Billings	Lighting Designer
Vincent Chaillet*	Choreographer

\* The Dallas Opera debut

Approximately 2 hours and 40 minutes, including one intermission  
 A co-production of The Dallas Opera, Houston Grand Opera, and The Atlanta Opera.

### [About the Cast and Creative Team](#)

#### 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, free and low-cost digital streaming, 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.

For more details, visit [dallasopera.org](http://dallasopera.org)

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The Dallas Opera, Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St, Suite 500, Dallas, TX 75201, United States