

For Immediate Release

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NINE FINALISTS ANNOUNCED FOR THE DALLAS OPERA NATIONAL VOCAL COMPETITION ON MARCH 8

Conductor Paolo Bressan Leads Final Round of Competition with The Dallas Opera Orchestra at the Winspear Opera House

[DALLAS, February 13, 2024]—The Dallas Opera (TDO) presents the final round of The Dallas Opera National Vocal Competition on **Friday, March 8, at 7:30 p.m.**, at the Winspear Opera House.

Hailing from across the U.S. and four countries, the nine finalists are: soprano **Katerina Burton**, soprano **Adia Evans**—who won TDO’s 2023 Lone Star Vocal Competition and automatically advanced to this final round, soprano **Elisa Sunshine**, mezzo-soprano **Lisa Marie Rogali**, countertenor **Cody Bowers**, tenor **Matthew Cairns**, baritone **Navasard Hakobyan**, baritone **Yeongtaek Yang**, bass-baritone **Jongwon Han**.

Finalists in the 32nd annual competition, which is sponsored by Bravo!, formerly The Dallas Opera Guild, will be accompanied by The Dallas Opera Orchestra, led by Paolo Bressan. All tickets are \$10.

The finalists will each perform one aria for the final round performance. Repertoire includes selections by Verdi, Rossini, Handel, Puccini, Wagner and more.

Winners will be selected by a distinguished panel of judges: The Dallas Opera’s Artistic Consultant David Lomelí (Chair), Paul Hopper, Senior Director, Artistic Planning, LA Opera; Andreas Melinat, Vice President, Artistic Planning at Lyric Opera of Chicago; Nicole Paiement, The Martha R. and Preston A. Peak Principal Guest Conductor at The Dallas Opera and Founder and Artistic Director of Opera Parallèle; and Kristian Roberts, Director of Education at The Dallas Opera.

In addition to the opportunity to perform with The Dallas Opera Orchestra, three prizewinners, plus a People’s Choice award winner, receive cash prizes. The

competition is open to applicants aged 18-34 from all U.S states and territories, including international students attending American colleges, universities, and music conservatories. Also eligible are active members of any young artist program associated with an American opera company. Preliminary and semi-final rounds are held privately.

Previous prizewinners in The Dallas Opera National Vocal Competition have gone on to establish impressive careers, including soprano Marjorie Owens, who appears with The Dallas Opera this season in the title role of *Elektra*; Latonia Moore, Kecia Ashford, Katherine Bongfeldt, and Mary Dunleavy; mezzo sopranos J’Nai Bridges, Kelly Kimball, and Randalee Maddox; countertenors Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen and John Holiday; tenors Clifton Forbis—who sings Aegisth in *Elektra*, Jesús Garcia, Scott Quinn, and Scott Scully; baritones Thomas Cannon, Christopher Holmes, Weston Hurt, Steven LaBrie, and Erik Nelson Werner; and bass Matthew Treviño, among many others.

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

LISTING DETAILS:

Friday, March 8, 2024, at 7:30pm

National Vocal Competition

The Dallas Opera Orchestra

Winspear Opera House

The Dallas Opera Orchestra

Paolo Bressan, conductor

The Dallas Opera National Vocal Competition, Final Round

Katerina Burton, soprano

Adia Evans, soprano

Elisa Sunshine, soprano

Lisa Marie Rogali, mezzo-soprano

Cody Bowers, countertenor

“Tu che le vanità” from *Don Carlo* (Verdi)

“Depuis le jour” from *Louise* (Charpentier)

“Ah vos jeux, mes amis” (Mad Scene) from *Hamlet*
(Thomas)

“Una voce poco fa” from *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* (Rossini)

“Furibondo spira il vento” from *Partenope* (Handel)

Matthew Cairns, tenor
Navasard Hakobyan, tenor

Yeongtaek Yang, baritone
Jongwon Han, bass-baritone

“E lucevan le stelle” from *Tosca* (Puccini)
“Cruda, funesta smania” from *Lucia di Lammermoor*
(Donizetti)
“O du mein holder Abendstern” from *Tannhäuser* (Wagner)
“Ves tabar spit” from *Aleko* (Rachmaninoff)

Tickets: \$10.

Tickets are available at dallasopera.org or via phone at 214.443.1000. Visit dallasopera.org for more information.

Programs and artists subject to change.

2023/2024 Season Sponsor: Mary Anne Cree, in memory of Rosine Smith Sammons

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and the **National Endowment for the Arts**.

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