

For Immediate Release

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THE DALLAS OPERA NAMES PAOLO BRESSAN AS CHORUS DIRECTOR AND HEAD OF MUSIC



PAOLO BRESSAN Photos: Karen Almond

[DALLAS, April 4, 2024]—After completing an international search, [The Dallas Opera](#) (TDO) is pleased to announce the appointment of **Paolo Bressan** as its next Chorus Director and Head of Music beginning with the 2024/2025 Season. Bressan has been an associate conductor with TDO since 2015, and this season conducted Family performances of *Pépito* and the National Vocal Competition, as well as serving as assistant conductor for this season’s productions of *Tosca*, *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly*, *Elektra*, and the *People’s Choice Concert*. The Italian conductor has also frequently participated as a master teacher for the Hart Institute for Women Conductors.

“Maestro Bressan’s unique and well-established relationship with The Dallas Opera made him an exciting and logical choice,” said Ian Derrer, TDO’s Kern Wildenthal General Director and CEO. “He is internationally respected for his work with singers, musical pedigree, and vast operatic knowledge, not to mention his proficiency in several languages. We are proud to welcome him to our family full-time and, in particular, to the role of Chorus Director where he follows in the footsteps of Alexander Rom, Donald Palumbo, and Roberto Benaglio.”

In his new post, Bressan will usher in a new era as The Dallas Opera's Chorus Director and will serve as Head of Music, working closely with Ian Derrer, Maestro Villaume, and the Operations department as a critical team member for artistic planning, overseeing the seasonal music staff, and working with visiting conductors and guest directors.

"It is a great honor for me to take on this role at The Dallas Opera," said Bressan. "I am grateful to the company for having entrusted me with such an important position. After nine seasons in Dallas as an associate and assistant conductor, this feels to me like a natural next step. I am thrilled to start this new chapter in my life, coming to Dallas with my family and being a part of an exciting, vibrant, and inspiring arts community, where I hope to carry and nurture a great musical tradition."

"Paolo is an exceptionally gifted and complete musician," said Emmanuel Villaume, TDO's Mrs. Eugene McDermott Music Director. "We have been working together for more than 20 years and he never fails to impress me with his brilliance and passion for music."

His commitment to team playing, his qualities as an artist and his vast experience make him perfectly suited for the role of chorus director and head of music. In addition to his work with The Dallas Opera, Bressan is the co-founder and general and artistic director of the LacMus International Music Festival at Lake Como, Italy (2017-present). He has led productions in Karlsruhe (*Die Zauberflöte*), Vendome (*Così fan tutte*, *Die Zauberflöte*), St. Petersburg (*I Pagliacci*, *Gianni Schicchi*, *L'elisir d'amore*, *Così fan tutte*) and Vladivostok (*I Pagliacci*), among others. Bressan has also worked as assistant conductor with Emmanuel Villaume, Christian Thielemann, Daniele Gatti, and many notable others. He has conducted worldwide, including a critically acclaimed debut at the Vienna Konzerthaus in 2015 with the Brno Philharmonic, and has led performances the Théâtre-des-Champs-Élysée in Paris and the National Auditorium of Mexico City in 2016.

Bressan succeeds Alexander Rom, the renowned and longest serving chorus master in the history of The Dallas 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, 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

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

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