

*For Immediate Release*

## The Dallas Opera Presents the Dallas Premiere of Debussy's PELLEAS AND MELISANDE



**November 8–16 at the Winspear Opera House**

[DALLAS, October 14, 2024]—[The Dallas Opera](#) is proud to present the first-ever Dallas performances of Claude Debussy's only complete opera, *Pelleas and Melisande*, at the Winspear Opera House, on Friday, November 8 at 7:30 p.m., Sunday, November 10 at 2 p.m., Wednesday, November 13, at 7:30 p.m., and Saturday, November 16 at 7:30 p.m.

Internationally renowned **baritone Benjamin Appl** makes his mainstage debut with The Dallas Opera as Pelleas, alongside **soprano Lauren Snouffer** as Melisande. The cast also features debuts by basses Nicolas Courjal as Golaud and Sir Willard White as Arkel. Returning to TDO are mezzo-soprano Katharine Goeldner in the role of Genevieve and Sripal Medara Metla as Yniold.

**Conductor Ludovic Morlot**—Music Director of the Barcelona Symphony Orchestra since September 2021 and Conductor Emeritus of the Seattle Symphony—makes his TDO debut with these performances. This new production directed by Jetske Mijnsen is a co-production with Bayerische Staatsoper and features a creative team that includes the TDO debuts of set and costume designer Ben Baur, lighting designer Bernd Purkrabek, and revival lighting designer

Andrew May. Kathleen Smith Belcher debuts as the revival director with wig and make-up design by David Zimmerman.

### **Synopsis**

Lost, confused, and frightened, Melisande is coerced into marrying the overbearing prince Golaud. In her marital melancholy, the young Melisande grows close to her handsome brother-in-law, Pelleas. Golaud's rage sets the stage for this tragic tale of family dysfunction with forbidden love, jealousy, and regret.

### **Full Cast and Creative Team**

### **Special Event**

In addition, TDO subscribers and donors can enjoy a special screening of the documentary film, *Flicka*, at the Winspear Opera House on November 14. The film, directed by Brian Staufenbiel and Nicolle Foland, follows beloved opera superstar and recording artist Frederica von Stade's remarkable journey as an inspirational community activist, mentor, mother, and friend in the years following her retirement from a legendary five-decade opera career. Von Stade was one of the great Melisandes, having a production of *Pelleas and Melisande* created for her by The Metropolitan Opera in 1995 as a celebration of her 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the company.

### **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 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)

Image: Wilfried Hoesl, Bayerische Staatsoper

### **CALENDAR DETAILS:**

**[Friday, November 8, at 7:30PM](#)**

**[Sunday, November 10, at 2PM](#)**

**[Wednesday, November 13, at 7:30PM](#)**

Saturday, November 16, at 7:30PM

**PELLEAS AND MELISANDE by Claude Debussy**

Ludovic Morlot, conductor\*

The Dallas Opera Orchestra and Chorus

Pelleas	Benjamin Appl*
Melisande	Lauren Snouffer
Golaud	Nicolas Courjal*
Arkel	Sir Willard White*
Genevieve	Katharine Goeldner
Yniold	Sripal Medara Metla
A Shepherd	Brian Post
A Physician	Ben Brady

Original Director	Jetske Mijnsen
Revival Director	Kathleen Smith Belcher*
Set & Costume Designer	Ben Baur*
Lighting Designer	Bernd Purkrabek*
Revival Lighting Designer	Andrew May *
Wig & Make-Up Designer	David Zimmerman
Chorus Director	Paolo Bressan

Tickets: \$19-\$186.

\* The Dallas Opera debut

The Dallas Opera Premiere, Co-Production with Bayerische Staatsoper

Sung in French with projected English titles

3 hours and 15 minutes, including one intermission

The Dallas Opera Premiere Sponsored by Holly and Tom Mayer

Producing Sponsor: Theodore and Beulah Beasley Foundation

Supporting Sponsors: Joanne L. Bober; Susan and Mark Geyer

The James R. Seitz, Jr. Legacy Production

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The VanSickle Family Foundation in honor of Edith and Elmer VanSickle

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