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**The Dallas Opera Premiere of Gluck's *Orpheus and Eurydice*
in a New Production Starring Hugh Cutting and Madison Leonard**

February 7, 9, 12, and 15 (also livestreamed), at the Winspear Opera House



DALLAS, January 10, 2025—Next month, a new production of Gluck's *Orpheus and Eurydice* premieres at The Dallas Opera in four performances, February 7-15, at the Winspear Opera House. The final performance will also be livestreamed for free on The Dallas Opera's [YouTube channel](#) and [digital website](#). In this reimagining by director [Joachim Schamberger](#), the famous myth becomes a metaphor for caring for someone with dementia.

Orpheus and Eurydice first premiered in 1762 at Vienna's legendary Burgtheater. With music written by German composer Christoph Willibald Gluck, the opera was revolutionary in its time. In what would become his signature "beautiful simplicity" style, Gluck eschewed the excess musical ornamentation that was the Baroque period's standard, opting instead for a simple, elegant score that propelled the drama forward. "His ideas ended up charting the course of the art form's future," wrote [The New York Times](#) in 2024, inspiring composers like Mozart and Wagner for centuries to come.

Schamberger builds on this legacy with his reimagined setting of the opera. In this new production, Orpheus becomes the grieving elderly caretaker. After years of marriage, his wife, Eurydice, has not died, but instead has been diagnosed with dementia, thus being as "unreachable" to Orpheus as she would have been in the Underworld. Orpheus uses love and music to bridge with Eurydice's lost memories and lead her out of the shadows of dementia, her personal Hades.

Making his U.S. and TDO debut, [Hugh Cutting](#) brings his "sumptuous" (*The Times*, London) countertenor to Dallas as Orpheus, and soprano [Madison Leonard](#) brings her "bright, dexterous voice" (*The New York Times*) to the role of Eurydice. Also making a TDO debut is American-Venezuelan soprano [Amber Norelai](#) as Amore, the god of love. In addition to directing, Schamberger, who makes his TDO debut with this production, has also designed the sets and projections. TDO's Mrs. Eugene McDermott Music Director

Emmanuel Villaume conducts the original score from the 1762 production, which will be sung in Italian with English titles.

Production Dates and Times:

- Friday, Feb. 7 at 7:30 PM
- Sunday, Feb. 9 at 2 PM
- Wednesday, Feb. 12 at 7:30 PM
- Saturday, Feb. 15 at 7:30 PM (also livestreamed)

The run time is approximately 75 minutes with no intermission.

Tickets: From \$19, available on The Dallas Opera’s [website](#) or by calling 214-443-1000

Ancillary Events:

In addition to the performances, The Dallas Opera will host several ancillary events surrounding this production of *Orpheus and Eurydice*.

- **Melodies of Hope: Music, Dementia, and Brain Science:** Join us for an informative and timely exploration of the connection between music and the brain. This **FREE panel discussion** features a distinguished panel of physicians and researchers from UT Southwestern Medical Center discussing the power of music and its impact on those suffering from dementia and other memory disorders. **6:30 PM, Thurs., Jan. 23. Winspear Opera House. Learn more [here](#).**
- **Pre-Opera and Post-Opera Talks:** The Dallas Opera hosts 25-minute informative lectures before each opera performance. This Joy and Ronald Mankoff Pre-Opera Talk, which is free with your opera ticket, begins an hour before the performance in the Margaret McDermott Performance Hall. Following the Sunday matinee, TDO Kern Wildenthal General Director and CEO Ian Derrer hosts a casual Q&A with the cast during the Post-Opera Talkback.
- **Orpheus and Eurydice Livestream:** The Dallas Opera is one of only a few opera companies to offer mainstage opera productions **for free via livestream**. After the success of our October livestream of *La traviata*, which had more than 6,500 views, TDO will livestream the Feb. 15 performance of *Orpheus and Eurydice* free of charge for viewers. *Learn more [here](#).*

Full Cast and Creative Team:

ORPHEUS AND EURYDICE by Christoph Willibald Gluck

Emmanuel Villaume, conductor

The Dallas Opera Orchestra and Chorus

Orfeo	Hugh Cutting*
Euridice	Madison Leonard
Amore	Amber Norelai*
Director, Set and Production Designer	Joachim Schamberger*
Costume Designer	Tommy Bourgeois
Lighting Designer	Driscoll Otto
Wig & Make-Up Designer	David Zimmerman
Assistant Director	Nora Winsler*
Chorus Director	Paolo Bressan

*The Dallas Opera debut

Find headshots of the cast [here](#) (Password: Tdopress1).

Orpheus and Eurydice Production Sponsors

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The Eleanor Ford Penrose Mainstage Production

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

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