

**THE DALLAS OPERA ANNOUNCES ITS
2025/2026 SEASON**

FEATURING FOUR NEW-TO-DALLAS PRODUCTIONS:

CARMEN—the **U.S. Premiere** of a Reconstruction of
the original 1875 Opéra-Comique Production

DIALOGUES OF THE CARMELITES—a Dallas Opera premiere

THE LITTLE PRINCE—a Dallas Opera premiere

DON CARLO—a new TDO production



Carmen, Marion Kerno, Opéra de Rouen

**and the
Tenth Anniversary of the Hart Institute for Women Conductors**

**PLUS: Soprano Erin Morley in Recital, Two Family Operas,
and the National Vocal Competition**

Subscription Renewals Begin Today

(DALLAS, March 4, 2025)—Ian Derrer, The Dallas Opera’s Kern Wildenthal General Director and CEO, and Emmanuel Villaume, The Mrs. Eugene McDermott Music Director, announce programming for [The Dallas Opera’s 2025/2026 Season](#) at the Winspear Opera House.

The Dallas Opera’s (TDO) 68th season features four mainstage productions, all new to Dallas as company or U.S. premieres. The Fall operas span the French opera catalogue, from Bizet’s iconic *Carmen* (1875) to Poulenc’s tragic *Dialogues of the Carmelites* (1957), while the Spring offers Rachel Portman’s charming 2003 setting of the classic French novella *The Little Prince* and a new production of Verdi’s dark and masterful *Don Carlo*, last seen in Dallas in more than three decades ago.

Annual events in the 2025/2026 Season include the Robert E. and Jean Ann Titus Family Recital, featuring acclaimed **coloratura soprano Erin Morley**; two family operas: *The Little Prince* and *The Three Little Pigs*; the National Vocal Competition; and a special anniversary edition of the Hart Institute for Women Conductors, to celebrate its 10th season. Subscriptions are available for renewal starting today.

“We are so pleased to offer four new-to-Dallas productions to our audiences in 2025/2026!” said Ian Derrer, The Dallas Opera’s Kern Wildenthal General Director and CEO. “We start with a stunning, historic production celebrating the sesquicentennial of *Carmen*; we relive France’s Reign of Terror with The Dallas Opera premiere of Poulenc’s *Dialogues of the Carmelites*; we journey through the intergalactic charm of *The Little Prince*; and we end with Verdi’s epic *Don Carlo*—long overdue on the Winspear stage.”

MAINSTAGE PRODUCTIONS

The premiere of Bizet’s *Carmen*—one of the most iconic love stories in all of opera—took place 150 years ago in Paris. In celebration of this landmark anniversary, The Dallas Opera presents the United States premiere of a new production that recreates the original Opéra-Comique production with sets and costumes faithfully designed as they were in 1875. Directed by **Romain Gilbert**, who returns to TDO after directing *Romeo and Juliet* in 2024, 2025 Grammy Award-winner **Marina Viotti** and **Saimir Pirgu** star as Carmen and Don José, in their Dallas Opera debuts. Soprano **Teresa Perrotta** makes her Dallas Opera debut in the role of Micaëla, and baritone **Gihoon Kim** returns to TDO as the matador Escamillo. **Antoine Fontaine** and **Christian Lacroix** make their TDO debuts as set and costume designers, respectively. Emmanuel Villaume leads The Dallas Opera Orchestra and Chorus in five performances: Opening Night on October 17, and October 19, 22, 25, and 26, 2025.

Francis Poulenc's *Dialogues of the Carmelites*—a tragic drama about the martyrdom of more than a dozen nuns during the French Revolution—premiered 80 years after *Carmen*. This new-to-Dallas production stars **Joyce El-Khoury, Patricia Racette, Deanna Breiwick, and Stéphanie D'Oustrac**—a relative of Poulenc—as well as **Leah Hawkins** in her TDO debut. The original production by **Olivier Py** is directed here by **Daniel Izzo**, both also in their TDO debuts. Emmanuel Villaume conducts. (November 7, 9, 12, and 15, 2025)

In February, French literature takes center stage with The Dallas Opera premiere of Rachel Portman's *The Little Prince*, based on the classic French novella by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, with a libretto by Nicholas Wright. Notably, this production marks the first time that TDO has presented an opera by a female composer. *The Little Prince* stars **Kyle Miller** as The Pilot; **Jacob Abrahamse, Tessa Fackelmann, Ashley Townsley, and Keron Jackson** in their TDO debuts as The Snake/The Vain Man, The Fox, The Rose, and The King, respectively; and **Diana Newman** as The Water. Additional casting will be announced later this year. Originally directed by **Francesca Zambello**, this production is directed and choreographed by **Anna Maria Bruzzese**. Martha R. and Preston A. Peak Principal Guest Conductor Nicole Paiement conducts. (February 6, 8, 11, and 14, 2026)

The Little Prince will also be adapted to a 50-minute family opera this season.

The season's mainstage operas conclude with a new TDO production of Verdi's *Don Carlo*. The 1884 four-act production, sung in Italian, stars tenor **Stephen Costello** as the conflicted title character, Don Carlo; soprano **Nicole Car** as Elizabeth de Valois; baritone Etienne Dupuis, in his TDO debut as Rodrigo; mezzo-soprano **Clémentine Margaine** as Princess Eboli; **Christian Van Horn** as Philip II; and bass-baritone **Morris Robinson** as The Grand Inquisitor. **Louis Désiré** makes his TDO debut as director, and **Diego Méndez Casariego** makes his TDO debut designing sets and costumes for this new production. Emmanuel Villaume conducts. (February 27, and March 1, 4, and 7, 2026)

Villaume, who conducts three operas in 2025/2026, looks forward to the season: "I never tire of exploring the treasures of *Carmen*, with its powerful balance of perfectly crafted music, raw, earth-shaking emotion, and subtle poetry," he said. "*Dialogues of the Carmelites* is also a unique gem in our repertoire, showcasing a very original yet perfect alloy of drama and music, supported by sumptuous orchestral magic. Verdi's *Don Carlo*, which also explores historical events and profound questions of religion and faith, has always been at the top of my personal list for its emotional depth and musical brilliance. With the charming and lyrical *The Little Prince*, this season promises to be perfectly balanced and thrilling."

LINDA AND MITCH HART INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN CONDUCTORS

Celebrating its 10th anniversary this season, the Linda and Mitch Hart Institute for Women Conductors remains one of a kind. Since 2015, this signature TDO program has trained more than 60 women conductors and administrators. The Hart Institute will announce its participants and 10th-anniversary celebration details later this year.

FAMILY AND OTHER PRESENTATIONS

Family operas return in the Fall and Spring of 2025/2026 with afternoon performances of ***The Little Prince***, in a new production, adapted from the mainstage opera, and ***The Three Little Pigs***, featuring music by Mozart. Each opera has a shorter run time and family content that is suitable for all ages. (October 18, November 15, 2025; February 15 and 28, 2026)

The Dallas Opera's Robert E. and Jean Ann Titus Family Recital returns on Sunday, February 1, 2026, and features **coloratura soprano Erin Morley** and her "stratospheric high notes and flawless musicality" (*Financial Times*) with pianist Gerald Martin Moore. Morley brings her signature style to selections from her stage roles and music from her wide-ranging debut album, *Rose in Bloom*, which has garnered critical acclaim since its release last year.

The National Vocal Competition returns to The Dallas Opera this season, on March 6, 2026. Hear the stars of the future perform live with The Dallas Opera Orchestra and compete for cash prizes, as well as the chance to boost their careers. Numerous prizewinners have gone on to star with TDO—and other companies—in mainstage productions.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

Subscription renewals for the 2025/2026 Season are available now. New subscriptions are also available now by phone order only, with online ordering and confirmed seating starting May 20, 2025. Four mainstage series packages are available to subscribers, with the family operas and recital available as add-ons before single tickets go on sale July 21, 2025.

Subscription packages start at \$94 for all four operas, with subscribers saving up to 25% of the cost of purchasing operas individually.

Tickets to the fifth performance of *Carmen* (October 26, 2025) will be available beginning July 21, 2025.

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 and appearances 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

SEASON SPONSOR

The VanSickle Family Foundation in memory of Edith and Elmer VanSickle

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CALENDAR DETAILS

Download photos [here](#), Password: Tdopress1

THE DALLAS OPERA'S 2025/2026 SEASON

All performances at Winspear Opera House unless otherwise noted.

Friday, October 17, 2025, at 8 PM (note start time)

Sunday, October 19, 2025, at 2 PM

Wednesday, October 22, 2025, at 7:30 PM

Saturday, October 25, 2025, at 7:30 PM

Sunday, October 26, 2025, at 2 PM

Georges Bizet's CARMEN

U.S. premiere presentation; a co-production with Bru Zane France, Opéra Royal - Château de Versailles Spectacles, Opéra de Rouen Normandie, and Palazzetto Bru Zane

Cast

Carmen: Marina Viotti*

Don José: Saimir Pirgu*

Micaëla: Teresa Perrotta*

Escamillo: Gihoon Kim

Frasquita: Diana Newman
Mercédès: Kristen Choi
Remendado: Matthew Goodheart*
Dancaïre: Kyle Miller*
Moralès: Eleomar Cuello*

Creative Team

Director: Romain Gilbert
Conductor: Emmanuel Villaume
Set Designer: Antoine Fontaine*
Costume Designer: Christian Lacroix*
Chorus Director: Paolo Bressan

The Dallas Opera Orchestra and Chorus
Sung in French with English titles

Friday, November 7, 2025, at 7:30 PM
Sunday, November 9, 2025, at 2 PM
Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at 7:30 PM
Saturday, November 15, 2025, at 7:30 PM

Francis Poulenc's DIALOGUES OF THE CARMELITES

The Dallas Opera premiere; co-production Théâtre des Champs-Élysées and Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie, Bruxelles

Cast

Blanche de la Force: Joyce El-Khoury
Madame de Croissy: Patricia Racette
Madame Lidoine: Leah Hawkins*
Mother Marie: Stéphanie D'Oustrac
Sister Constance: Deanna Breiwick
Mother Jeanne: Gretchen Krupp
Sister Mathilde: Meridian Prall
Marquis de la Force: Raymond Aceto
Chevalier de la Force: Martin Luther Clark
Chaplain: Aaron-Casey Gould*
Thierry/Javelinot/Jailer: Andrew Potter

Creative Team

Original Director: Olivier Py*
Revival Director: Daniel Izzo*
Conductor: Emmanuel Villaume
Set and Costume Designer: Pierre-André Weitz*
Chorus Director: Paolo Bressan

The Dallas Opera Orchestra and Chorus
Sung in French with English titles

Friday, February 6, 2026, at 7:30 PM
Sunday, February 8, 2026, at 2 PM
Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 7:30 PM
Saturday, February 14, 2026, at 7:30 PM

Rachel Portman's THE LITTLE PRINCE

The Dallas Opera premiere; production from Houston Grand Opera
Libretto by Nicholas Wright

Cast

The Little Prince: TBA
The Pilot: Kyle Miller
The Fox: Tessa Fackelmann*
The Rose: Ashley Townsley*
The Snake/The Vain Man: Jacob Abrahamse*
The King: Keron Jackson*
The Water: Diana Newman
The Lamplighter/The Drunkard: TBA
The Businessman: Korin Thomas Smith

Creative Team

Original Director: Francesca Zambello
Revival Director & Choreographer: Anna Maria Bruzzese*
Conductor: Nicole Paiement
Set and Costume Designer: Maria Bjørnson

The Dallas Opera Orchestra
Sung in English with English titles

Friday, February 27, 2026, at 7:30 PM
Sunday, March 1, 2026, at 2 PM
Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at 7:30 PM
Saturday, March 7, 2026, at 7:30 PM

Giuseppe Verdi's DON CARLO

Premiere of new TDO production; 1884 four-act Milano version

Cast

Don Carlo: Stephen Costello
Elizabeth de Valois: Nicole Car
Rodrigo: Etienne Dupuis*
Princess Eboli: Clémentine Margaine
Philip II: Christian Van Horn
The Grand Inquisitor: Morris Robinson
Celestial Voice: Meghan Kasanders
Tebaldo: Gretchen Krupp

Creative Team

Director: Louis Désiré*
Conductor: Emmanuel Villaume
Set and Costume Designer: Diego Méndez Casariego*
Chorus Director: Paolo Bressan

The Dallas Opera Orchestra and Chorus
Sung in Italian with English titles

FAMILY OPERAS

Saturday, October 18, 2025, at 2 PM

Saturday, February 28, 2026 at 2 PM

The Three Little Pigs

A terrific 30-minute, kid-friendly opera!

Saturday, November 15, 2025, at 2 PM

Sunday, February 15, 2026 at 2 PM

The Little Prince

A 50-minute family version of the full-length opera

CONCERTS AND RECITALS

January 2026 – date TBA

The Linda and Mitch Hart Institute for Women Conductors Showcase Concert

Sunday, February 1, 2026 at 2 PM

The Robert E. and Jean Ann Titus Family Recital

Moody Performance Hall

Erin Morley, soprano

Gerald Martin Moore, piano

Friday, March 6, 2026 at 7:30 PM

National Vocal Competition

* denotes The Dallas Opera debut

Programs and artists subject to change.