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## THE DALLAS OPERA ANNOUNCES \$25 MILLION CHALLENGE GIFT FROM O'DONNELL FOUNDATION



### **Funds Raised to Date Surpass Halfway Point; When Fully Matched, \$50 Million Campaign Will Mark Largest in Company History**

[DALLAS, October 2, 2025]— [The Dallas Opera](#) (TDO) announces its progress towards a \$25 million challenge gift from the Texas-based O'Donnell Foundation that will fund both The Dallas Opera Foundation endowment and TDO's general operations. The challenge requires TDO to secure \$25 million in gifts and pledges by the end of 2025, which the O'Donnell Foundation will match dollar-for-dollar up to \$25 million. Thanks to The Eugene McDermott Foundation's \$7 million lead gift to the endowment, along with other significant gifts and pledges, TDO has already raised \$13 million towards its portion of the challenge.

"The O'Donnell Foundation has been a steadfast and generous partner of The Dallas Opera for many years," TDO's Kern Wildenthal General Director and CEO Ian Derrer says. "We are confident in our ability to meet this inspirational challenge match by the end of December, thus bolstering financial stability for the future of opera in North Texas. We are grateful to the O'Donnell Foundation, The Eugene McDermott Foundation, and The Dallas Opera family for their unwavering belief in our mission and for investing in our ability to deliver world-class opera to future generations."

When the gift is fully matched, TDO's current endowment of \$30 million will more than double in value. The general operations portion of the gift is designed to provide additional multi-year funding while the investment into the endowment matures.

"In recent years, The Dallas Opera received a significant gift from the estate of James R. Seitz, Jr.—and it inspired others," Derrer adds. "Those gifts enabled us to eliminate our pandemic-induced external debt and post a slight surplus in FY24. Unaudited financials for FY25 will, again, show a surplus."

TDO Board of Directors Chair Quincy Roberts concludes, "In a time where not every opera or performing arts company is as fortunate, this is a transformational gift and a unique time for TDO's legacy. All new and increased gifts or pledges are eligible for the O'Donnell Foundation match. No matter the amount, there has never been a better time to support The Dallas Opera."

[Learn more about The Dallas Opera here.](#)

Above photo credit: Kyle Flubacker/The Dallas Opera Archives

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The VanSickle Family Foundation in honor of Edith and Elmer VanSickle

The Dallas Opera is supported, in part, by funds from:  
the City of Dallas Office of Arts and Culture; the Texas Commission on the Arts;  
and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Lexus is the official vehicle of The Dallas Opera.

Advertising support from The Dallas Morning News.

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