

10 Finalists Announced for The Dallas Opera's National Vocal Competition on Friday, March 6



[DALLAS, February 2, 2026]—**The Dallas Opera (TDO)** will present its biennial **National Vocal Competition** on Friday, March 6, 2026, at the Winspear Opera House in Dallas, Texas.

The competition's 10 finalists are bass-baritone **Tzvi Bat Asherah**, tenor **Nathan Bowles**, mezzo-soprano **Meg Brilleslyper**, soprano **Lauryn Davis**, mezzo-soprano **Deanna Ray Eberhart**, soprano **Sophia Hunt**, mezzo-soprano **Kayla Nanto**, soprano **Luna Seongeun Park**, soprano **Anna Thompson**, and baritone **Yihe Wang**.

Finalists in the 34th Vocal Competition were selected from 381 applicants. The competition is open to US residents or residents of one of the US Territories. Kayla Nanto automatically advanced to this final round after the soprano won first place at TDO's 2025 Lone Star Vocal Competition.

Each finalist will sing one aria accompanied by The Dallas Opera Orchestra in one of the few vocal competitions in the country that feature a full orchestra. TDO's Mrs. Eugene McDermott

Music Director **Emmanuel Villaume** will conduct. Repertoire includes works by Verdi, Massenet, Donizetti, Wagner, Mozart, and more. The program will be sung in multiple languages, with English titles displayed above the stage.

Winners are selected by a distinguished panel of judges, chaired by The Dallas Opera's Artistic Consultant, **David Lomelí**. This year's judges include renowned soprano and DON CARLO star **Nicole Car**, San Francisco Opera Artistic Managing Director **Gregory Henkel**, Warner Classics & Erato Chairman Emeritus **Alain Lanceron**, and Wolf Trap Opera Vice President **Lee Anne Myslewski**. The first, second, and third-place prize winners, plus the Jonathan Pell People's Choice award winner, receive cash prizes. Winners will be awarded \$10,000 (first place), \$5,000 (second place), \$2,500 (third place), and \$1,000 ("People's Choice").

The National Vocal Competition will be hosted by celebrated opera singer **Christian Van Horn**, who stars in TDO's upcoming production of Verdi's **DON CARLO**.

Concert Date: Friday, March 6, 2026, at 7:30 PM

Location: Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St., Dallas, TX 75201

The run time is approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes with one pause. Tickets are \$10 and are available on The Dallas Opera's [website](#) or by calling 214-443-1000.

Presenting Sponsor: Belinda and Lance Hancock

About the Vocal Competition:

Founded in 1957, the non-profit The Dallas Opera Guild/Bravo! first established a formal program to support young singers in 1987, originally known as The Career Development Grant for Singers. That program evolved into The Dallas Opera Vocal Competition. In 2020, the event was divided into Texas-based and national contests, which occur in alternating years. Today, the National Vocal Competition's classically-trained US-based singers compete every other year for industry recognition, career encouragement, and the chance to perform on a world-class stage with The Dallas Opera Orchestra, as well as significant cash awards—all before a live audience and a panel of judges representing some of the most prestigious opera companies in North America and the international opera community. Learn more [here](#).

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 US 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 Linda and Mitch Hart Institute for Women Conductors, free and low-cost digital streaming, public simulcasts, acclaimed art song recitals featuring poetry set to music, 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).

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Above photo: The 2024 National Vocal Competition finalists. c. Karen Almond