

## **THE DALLAS OPERA ANNOUNCES ITS 2026/2027 SEASON**

### **FEATURING FOUR NEW-TO-DALLAS PRODUCTIONS:**

THE ELIXIR OF LOVE (Oct 9-17, 2026)

THE CUNNING LITTLE VIXEN (Oct 30-Nov 7, 2026)

TURANDOT (Feb 12-20, 2027)

LOHENGRIN (Mar 5-13, 2027)



**PLUS, TWO FAMILY OPERAS AND THREE BELOVED ANNUAL  
CONCERTS RETURN**

**SUBSCRIPTIONS ON SALE STARTING TODAY**

**[DALLAS, February 24, 2026]**–[The Dallas Opera \(TDO\)](https://www.thedallasopera.org) today announced programming for its [2026/2027 Season](https://www.thedallasopera.org) at the Winspear Opera House in Dallas.

The company's 69<sup>th</sup> season features four mainstage productions: Donizetti's **THE ELIXIR OF LOVE**, Janáček's **THE CUNNING LITTLE VIXEN**, Puccini's **TURANDOT** with a new ending by Christopher Tin, and Wagner's **LOHENGRIN**. The upcoming season also includes beloved annual events—including the **Linda and Mitch Hart Institute for Women Conductors Showcase Concert**, the **Robert E. and Jean Ann Titus Family Recital**, and the **Phyllis A. and Thomas H. McCasland, Jr. Lone Star Vocal Competition**—and two family operas: **THE LITTLE PRINCE** and **THE BREMEN TOWN MUSICIANS**.

Subscriptions are available for purchase starting today. Starting as low as \$98 for all four operas.

### **2026/2027 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS**

- A **new ending of TURANDOT** by Grammy Award®-winning video game composer Christopher Tin and acclaimed playwright and screenwriter Susan Soon He Stanton
- A **new production** of LOHENGRIN from director Louis Désiré, who created TDO's 2026 *Don Carlo*
- The **US debut** of soprano Mirjam Mesak in THE CUNNING LITTLE VIXEN
- Three recent Operalia winners: 2022 winner **Anthony León** and 2025 winner **Mihai Damian** both star in the season-opening THE ELIXIR OF LOVE; 2024 winner **Kathleen O'Mara** stars in the season finale, LOHENGRIN

"The 2026/2027 Season spans the breadth of what opera has to offer the world," says **Mrs. Eugene McDermott Music Director Emmanuel Villaume**, who conducts three productions in TDO's upcoming season. "The paradigm of bel canto music, the exhilarating THE ELIXIR OF LOVE is the perfect start to the season. I am eager to conduct the charming, bright THE CUNNING LITTLE VIXEN in its original Czech. There's a profundity to the message of Janáček's masterpiece. A winning classic, TURANDOT is always a favorite, and I am excited to explore this new, empowering ending by Christopher Tin and Susan Soon He Stanton. Finally, epic and big, LOHENGRIN is the ideal entry point into the Wagner repertoire with its radiant beauty."

### **MAINSTAGE PRODUCTIONS**

The season kicks off on Friday, October 9, 2026, with a captivating rendition of **THE ELIXIR OF LOVE**. Directed here by **Stephen Lawless**, this colorful production is set in post-World War II Italy. British Iranian coloratura soprano **Soraya Mafi**, 2022 Operalia winner **Anthony León**, legendary Italian baritone **Alessandro Corbelli**, 2025 Operalia winner **Mihai Damian**, and 2025 TDO Lone Star Vocal Competition winner

**Kayla Nanto** all star in their Dallas Opera debuts. Spanish conductor **Guillermo García Calvo** makes his house debut leading The Dallas Opera Orchestra and Chorus in this production.

Following THE ELIXIR OF LOVE is the North American debut of Australian director **Barrie Kosky's production** of Janáček's [THE CUNNING LITTLE VIXEN](#), which premiered with the Bayerische Staatsoper. It is revived here by director **Catharina von Bülow** and conducted by Mrs. Eugene McDermott Music Director **Emmanuel Villaume**. This bold and glitzy production stars Estonian soprano **Mirjam Mesak** in her US debut as the Vixen. American baritone **Zachary Nelson** and Hungarian American mezzo-soprano **Shannon Keegan** also make their house debuts in this production, and American contralto **Lindsay Ammann**, who last appeared in TDO's 2023 *Das Rheingold*, returns.

In February 2027, TDO will present Puccini's [TURANDOT](#), conducted by **Emmanuel Villaume**. First premiered by director Francesca Zambello with Washington National Opera, this production features a new ending with music by Grammy Award® winner and video game composer **Christopher Tin** (known for the *Civilization IV* game) and a libretto from *Succession* writer **Susan Soon He Stanton**. This ending could be heard at the 2026 Winter Olympics during Japanese figure skater Yuma Kagiyama's [silver-medal-winning free skate](#). The production will be revived in Dallas by Italian director **Anna Maria Bruzzese**, who directed TDO's recent *The Little Prince*. Italian soprano **Anna Pirozzi** and Venezuelan tenor **Jorge Puerta**, both celebrated for their renditions of this opera, make their TDO debuts as Turandot and Calaf, respectively.

The 2026/2027 Season concludes in March 2027 with a new production of Wagner's heroic myth [LOHENGRIN](#). Director **Louis Désiré** returns to lead this premiere production, which is conducted by **Emmanuel Villaume**. Pavarotti d'Oro winner **Saimir Pirgu**, who dazzled Dallas audiences as Don José in the company's 2025 *Carmen*, returns as the titular character. American soprano **Lise Lindstrom**, who starred in TDO's 2014 *Salome*, and bass **Peixin Chen**, who last appeared in TDO's 2023 *Das Rheingold*, both return. 2024 Operalia winner **Kathleen O'Mara** and Ukrainian-born American baritone **Aleksey Bogdanov** make their TDO debuts in this production.

"You cannot beat the casts that The Dallas Opera has assembled," Villaume says. "The 2026/2027 Season celebrates the triumphant return of major artists such as Saimir Pirgu, Lindsay Ammann, Lise Lindstrom, and Peixin Chen. We also welcome landmark debuts from true operatic legends, including Alessandro Corbelli and Anna Pirozzi, alongside internationally acclaimed American stars such as Zachary Nelson, Gabriella

Reyes, and Brandon Cedel. Among this extraordinary roster are First Prize Operalia winners Anthony León, Kathleen O'Mara, and Mihai Damian—artists whose careers are already shaping the international stage. The season further introduces an exciting new generation of global talent, including Mirjam Mesak, Soraya Mafi, and Shannon Keegan, whose voices represent the future of our art form. This is a season built on excellence, depth, and discovery.”

To learn more about each mainstage opera, see the full calendar listings and castings below.

## **ANNUAL EVENTS**

TDO will present its annual **Linda and Mitch Hart Institute for Women Conductors Showcase Concert** on Saturday, January 30, 2027, at the Winspear Opera House. Since 2015, this signature TDO program (HIWC) has trained more than 60 women conductors and administrators. The Hart Institute will announce its second-annual **Martha R. and Preston A. Peak Fellowship** recipient later this spring.

Following the HIWC Showcase Concert is the **Robert E. and Jean Ann Titus Family Recital** during the same weekend. On Sunday, January 31, 2027, at Moody Performance Hall, TDO’s annual art song recital series will feature celebrated German soprano **Christiane Karg** and acclaimed pianist **Andrew von Oeyen**.

**The Phyllis A. and Thomas H. McCasland, Jr. Lone Star Vocal Competition** returns to The Dallas Opera this season on March 12, 2027. Hear rising opera stars from around Texas compete for cash prizes and the chance to boost their careers. Numerous prizewinners have gone on to star with TDO—and other companies—in mainstage productions, including 2025 First Place and People’s Choice winner Kayla Nanto, who appears in THE ELIXIR OF LOVE and THE CUNNING LITTLE VIXEN this season.

## **FAMILY PRESENTATIONS**

Family operas return in the Fall and Spring of 2026/2027 with afternoon performances of **THE LITTLE PRINCE**, adapted from Rachel Portman’s mainstage opera, and **THE BREMEN TOWN MUSICIANS**, featuring music by Offenbach, Rossini, Donizetti, Sullivan, and Verdi. Each opera has a shorter run time and family content that is suitable for all ages. TDO presents THE BREMEN TOWN MUSICIANS on Saturday, October 17, 2026, and Sunday, February 21, 2027, and THE LITTLE PRINCE on Sunday, November 8, 2026, and Saturday, February 13, 2027.

“At our family matinees, with all those kids piled inside the Winspear, the energy is palpable,” **Director of Education Kristian Roberts** says. “Children are the future of the arts, and it is vital we offer them programming that is accessible and joyful.”

### **SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION**

Subscription renewals and new subscription packages for the 2026/2027 Season are both available for sale now. Four-mainstage-opera series packages are available to subscribers, with the family operas and concerts available as add-ons before single tickets go on sale later this summer.

Subscription packages start at \$98 for all four operas, with subscribers saving up to 25%-off of the cost of purchasing the operas individually.

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### **CALENDAR DETAILS**



All events take place at the Winspear Opera House unless otherwise noted.

### **MAINSTAGE OPERAS**

#### **THE ELIXIR OF LOVE**

*Opera in Two Acts by Gaetano Donizetti | Libretto by Felice Romani  
Production originally designed for and created by the Santa Fe Opera*

A hopeless romantic swoons for the town’s schoolteacher, but she doesn’t even notice him. Along comes a traveling salesman with the perfect “magical elixir” to give him all his heart desires. In the shifting climate of post-World War II Italy, will these two lovers find each other, or is the elixir not all it was promised to be?

“I am beyond excited to be making my debut at The Dallas Opera—and what a better way to arrive than with a love potion?” **conductor Guillermo García Calvo** says. “THE ELIXIR OF LOVE is the perfect excuse to fall head over heels, both onstage and with the incredible city of Dallas. I can’t wait to share the laughter, the music, and the magic with you all.”

**Production Dates:**

- Friday, October 9, 2026, at 8 PM (the Linda and Mitch Hart Season Opening Night)
- Sunday, October 11, 2026, at 2 PM
- Wednesday, October 14, 2026, at 7:30 PM
- Saturday, October 17, 2026, at 7:30 PM

**Approximate Duration:** 2 hours and 30 minutes with one intermission

**Language:** Sung in Italian with projected English titles

**Sponsors:**

- **Presenting Sponsor:** The Radford and Patricia Crocker Foundation honoring Kevin and Francie Moody Dahlberg
- **Producing Sponsor:** Howard and Fanchon Hallam

**Cast:**

ADINA Soraya Mafi\*  
NEMORINO Anthony León\*  
DR. DULCAMARA Alessandro Corbelli\*  
BELCORE Mihai Damian\*  
GIANNETTA Kayla Nanto\*

**Creative Team:**

CONDUCTOR Guillermo García Calvo\*  
DIRECTOR Stephen Lawless  
SET & COSTUME DESIGNER Ashley Martin-Davis  
LIGHTING DESIGNER Thomas C. Hase  
WIG & MAKEUP DESIGNER David Zimmerman  
CHORUS DIRECTOR Paolo Bressan

*Opera in Three Acts by Leoš Janáček | Libretto by Leoš Janáček*  
A co-production of the Bayerische Staatsoper, Gran Teatre del Liceu, and The Dallas Opera

This is no ordinary fox! Composer Leoš Janáček tells the story of a young fox, trapped by the forester as a cub. She makes a dramatic escape in search of what a wild animal's life should be, including hunting, true love, and always looking over your shoulder.

"Barrie Kosky stages Leoš Janáček's *Cunning Little Vixen* at the Munich State Opera, far from all the clichés of the animal parable, and yet so poetic, cheerful and touching that you once again have to take your hat off to this master of character direction and psychological penetration." – [Oper! magazine](#)

**Production Dates:**

- Friday, October 30, 2026, at 7:30 PM
- Sunday, November 1, 2026, 2 PM
- Wednesday, November 4, 2026, 7:30 PM
- Saturday, November 7, 2026, 7:30 PM

**Approximate Duration:** 1 hour and 40 minutes with no intermission

**Language:** Sung in Czech with English titles

**Sponsors:**

- **Presenting Sponsor:** Enika and Richard Schulze
- **Producing Sponsor:** Anonymous
- **Supporting Sponsor:** Joanne L. Bober
- **The James R. Seitz, Jr. Legacy Production**

**Cast:**

THE VIXEN	Mirjam Mesak*
THE FORESTER	Zachary Nelson*
LIŠAK	Shannon Keegan*
THE PARSON/BADGER	Andrew Harris*
FORESTER'S WIFE/SCREECH-OWL	Lindsay Ammann

**Creative Team:**

CONDUCTOR	Emmanuel Villaume
ORIGINAL DIRECTOR	Barrie Kosky*
REVIVAL DIRECTOR	Catharina von Bülow*
SET DESIGNER	Michael Levine*
COSTUME DESIGNER	Victoria Behr*

HARAŠTA	Brandon Cedel*	LIGHTING DESIGNER	Franck Evin*
LAPÁK/ WOODPECKER	Kayla Nanto	WIG & MAKEUP DESIGNER	David Zimmerman
		CHORUS DIRECTOR	Paolo Bressan
		GREATER DALLAS CHORAL SOCIETY ARTISTIC DIRECTOR	Kimberley Ahrens

## **TURANDOT**

*Opera in Three Acts by Giacomo Puccini and Franco Alfano and Christopher Tin | Libretto by Giuseppe Adami, Renato Simoni, and Susan Soon He Stanton*

*TURANDOT is a co-production of Washington National Opera, Opéra de Montréal, and The Dallas Opera.*

To win the hand of Princess Turandot, a suitor must solve three riddles; failure to do so means death. No man seems up to the challenge until an unknown prince steps forward. Will the icy princess finally warm to true love? See this beloved opera with a new ending by Christopher Tin and Susan Soon He Stanton.

"I'm incredibly excited that the second-ever performances of our *Turandot* ending are happening in Dallas," says **composer Christopher Tin**, who wrote a new conclusion for Puccini's final, unfinished opera. "I'm hopeful that Dallas audiences will appreciate how we tried to stay true to Puccini's legacy by giving Princess Turandot the ending she deserves: one where she controls her own destiny."

### **Production Dates:**

- Friday, February 12, 2027, at 7:30 PM
- Sunday, February 14, 2027, at 2 PM
- Wednesday, February 17, 2027, at 7:30 PM
- Saturday, February 20, 2027, at 7:30 PM

**Approximate Duration:** 2 hours and 30 minutes with one intermission

**Language:** Sung in Italian with English titles

**Sponsors:**

- **Presenting Sponsors:** Phyllis A. and Thomas H. McCasland, Jr.; Martha McCarty Wells; Lisa Genecov; Katherine and Michael E. Phillips; Carole Pines Silverman; Betty and Steve Suellentrop
- **Producing Sponsors:** Carol Franc Buck Foundation; The Enrico Foundation; Joan S. Reisch
- **The Caroline Rose Hunt Mainstage Production**

<b><u>Cast:</u></b>		<b><u>Creative Team:</u></b>	
TURANDOT	Anna Pirozzi*	CONDUCTOR	Emmanuel Villaume
CALAF	Jorge Puerta*	DIRECTOR	Francesca Zambello
LIÙ	Gabriella Reyes*	REVIVAL DIRECTOR	Anna Maria Bruzzese
TIMUR	William Guanbo Su	SET DESIGNER	Wilson Chin*
CHANCELLOR	Yeongtaek Yang*	COSTUME DESIGNER	Linda Cho*
MAJORDOMO	Terrence Chin- Loy*	LIGHTING DESIGNER	Amith Chandrashaker*
		WIG & MAKEUP DESIGNER	David Zimmerman
		PROJECTION DESIGNER	S. Katy Tucker*
		CO- CHOREOGRAPHERS	Jessica Lang* Kanji Segawa*
		CHORUS DIRECTOR	Paolo Bressan
		GREATER DALLAS CHORAL SOCIETY	Kimberley Ahrens
		ARTISTIC DIRECTOR	

## **LOHENGRIN**

*Opera in Three Acts by Richard Wagner | Libretto by Richard Wagner*

Accused of her brother’s murder, Elsa prays for a way to prove her innocence. In answer, a knight in shining armor appears, ready to save her. He requests one thing in return: never ask his name. Schemes, betrayal, and battles abound, all encompassed in Wagner’s majestic score, including the famed “Bridal Chorus.”

“Across the three acts, the architecture around the characters dissolves, yielding to a more essential landscape—the supremacy of nature over human ambition,” **director**

**Louis Désiré** says. "Within this open, elemental space, the cries of love, betrayal, and ancestral hatred echo briefly, only to vanish into the purity of the night air."

**Production Dates (note the earlier start times for evening performances):**

- Friday, March 5, 2027, at **7 PM**
- Sunday, March 7, 2027, at 2 PM
- Wednesday, March 10, 2027, at **7 PM**
- Saturday, March 13, 2027, at **7 PM**

**Approximate Duration:** 4 hours and 30 minutes with two intermissions

**Language:** Sung in German with English titles

**Sponsors:**

- **Presenting Sponsors:** Linda Smith, Martha Rochelle, Holly and Tom Mayer, Enika Schulze
- **Producing Sponsor:** Susan and Mark Geyer
- **The Eleanor Ford Penrose Mainstage Production**

**Cast:**

LOHENGRIN	Saimir Pirgu
ELSA	Kathleen O'Mara*
ORTRUD	Lise Lindstrom
TELDRAMUND	Aleksey Bogdanov*
KING HEINRICH	Peixin Chen
HERALD	Szymon Mechlinski*

**Creative Team:**

CONDUCTOR	Emmanuel Villaume
DIRECTOR	Louis Désiré
SET & COSTUME DIRECTOR	Diego Méndez Casariego
WIG & MAKEUP DESIGNER	David Zimmerman
CHORUS DIRECTOR	Paolo Bressan

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**CONCERTS AND RECITALS**

**The Linda and Mitch Hart Institute for Women Conductors Showcase Concert**

**Production Date:** Saturday, January 30, 2027, at 7:30 PM

**Language:** Sung in various languages with English titles

**Robert E. and Jean Ann Titus Family Recital featuring Christiane Karg with Andrew von Oeyen, piano**

**Production Date:** Sunday, January 31, 2027, at 2 PM

**Location:** Moody Performance Hall

### **Phyllis A. and Thomas H. McCasland, Jr. Lone Star Vocal Competition**

**Production Date:** March 12, 2027, at 7:30 PM

**Language:** Sung in various languages with English titles

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## **FAMILY PRODUCTIONS**

### **THE BREMEN TOWN MUSICIANS**

*Music by J. Offenbach, G. Rossini, G. Donizetti, A. Sullivan, and G. Verdi | Words and Story Adaptation by John Davies*

An operatic version of *The Town Musicians of Bremen*. Eddie Pensier is a rooster who loves to sing, but his loud songs get him sent away from the farm. On the road to start his new band, he meets Barcarolle the dog, Dorabella the cat, and General Boom the donkey—all animals who feel unwanted and dream of something better. By working together, they become a band and discover that friendship, teamwork, and kindness make any journey easier—and much more fun.

**Production Dates:**

- Saturday, October 17, 2026, at 2 PM
- Sunday, February 21, 2027, at 2 PM

**Approximate Duration:** 35 minutes

**Language:** Sung in English with English titles

### **THE LITTLE PRINCE**

*Music by Rachel Portman based on the novella by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry | Libretto by Nicholas Wright | Adapted by Mary Dibbern, Ph.D*

After two sold-out performances during the 2025/2026 season, the magic of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's children's story returns to the stage in this charming production, created especially for young audiences and featuring The Dallas Opera Orchestra. Watch the Little Prince and his pilot friend learn important lessons about caring and friendship from wondrous creatures, including a fox, a snake, and a very chatty rose.

**Production Dates:**

- Sunday, November 8, 2026, at 2 PM
- Saturday, February 13, 2027, at 2 PM

**Approximate Duration:** 50 minutes**Language:** Sung in English with English titles

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**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://visit.dallasopera.org).

**SEASON SPONSOR**

The VanSickle Family Foundation in honor of Edith and Elmer VanSickle

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Program and artists are subject to change

\* Dallas Opera debut

Photos:

- Page 1: THE ELIXIR OF LOVE at Santa Fe Opera. c. Curtis Brown Photography
- Page 5: TURANDOT at Washington National Opera. c. Cory Weaver