

2025/2026 SEASON

thedallasopera[®]

NATIONAL VOCAL COMPETITION

Founded by The Dallas Opera Guild/Bravo!

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2026, AT 7:30 PM
Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR AND GENERAL DIRECTOR AND CEO

For the better part of 40 years, The Dallas Opera's Vocal Competition has identified, encouraged, and celebrated opera's next generation of stars. Thousands of gifted young singers have sought out our competition, and our finalists represent the pinnacle of the talent our country has to offer. This year is no exception. The 10 finalists you'll hear tonight were selected from more than 380 applicants based in the US and US Territories.

Each singer tonight will perform one aria accompanied by The Dallas Opera Orchestra, conducted by Maestro Villaume. The opportunity to sing with a full orchestra is what sets our National Vocal Competition apart from others—our finalists get a chance to perform as they would on the professional stage.

They will also be evaluated by our distinguished judges: TDO Artistic Consultant David Lomelí, renowned soprano 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. These eminent industry professionals have decades of experience casting for the stage and studio. They will determine the winners of tonight's cash prizes and are poised to boost these singers' careers.

Please enjoy tonight's program of beloved opera hits and remember these 10 names—you are sure to hear from them again!



QUINCY ROBERTS
Board Chair



IAN DERRER
Kern Wildenthal
General Director and CEO

LAND AND PEOPLE ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Welcome to the Winspear Opera House.

We are delighted that you are joining us to experience opera. As an opera company, we are storytellers, and we hope to uplift the stories of those who were here before us.

We acknowledge and honor that we are on the ancestral land of various tribal nations, including the Caddo, Wichita, Comanche, and Apache Nations, who have stewarded this land and cared for its waterways since time immemorial. We also pay respect to the enslaved African people whose stolen labor helped build the beginnings of this city after the forced removal of the original stewards of the land.

This region holds generations of songs and stories of the many people who have, now, and will call this place home. As we harmonize entertainment, education, and artistic quality, we hope you will join us in honoring the stories of our past, present, and future.

We encourage everyone to learn more about its history and the pathways that brought us together.



**Learn More about
Dallas History**



First place-winner Navasard Hakobyan (center) bows at the 2024 TDO National Vocal Competition. c. Karen Almond

SEASON SPONSOR: The VanSickle Family Foundation in honor of Edith and Elmer VanSickle

THE DALLAS OPERA

NATIONAL VOCAL COMPETITION

Founded by The Dallas Opera Guild/Bravo!

PRESENTING SPONSOR

Belinda and Lance Hancock

JUDGES' LUNCHEON SPONSOR

Holly and Tom Mayer
Neil Douglas Oxford

COMPETITION PRIZES

1st Prize (\$10,000)

2nd Prize (\$5,000)

3rd Prize (\$2,500)

Jonathan Pell People's Choice Award (\$1,000) — Neil Douglas Oxford,
in memory of Francine Burrows Werbin

thedallasopera®

presents

NATIONAL VOCAL COMPETITION

Founded by The Dallas Opera Guild/Bravo!

MARCH 6, 2026, AT 7:30 PM

Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House
at the AT&T Performing Arts Center

CONDUCTOR

Emmanuel Villaume

JUDGES

David Lomelí, Chair

Nicole Car

Gregory Henkel

Alain Lanceron

Lee Anne Myslewski

HOST

Christian Van Horn

Sung in various languages
with projected English titles

Approximate duration:
1 hour and 30 minutes
with one pause

The Dallas Opera Orchestra

Overture to *La forza del destino*

Giuseppe Verdi (1813–1901)

Luna Seogeun Park, soprano

“Ah! douce enfant”
from *Cendrillon*

Jules Massenet (1842–1912)

Deanna Ray Eberhart, mezzo-soprano

“O mio Fernando!”
from *La Favorite*

Gaetano Donizetti (1797–1848)

Yihe Wang, baritone

“O du mein holder Abendstern”
from *Tannhäuser*

Richard Wagner (1813–1883)

Lauryn Davis, soprano

“Dove sono”
from *The Marriage of Figaro*

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–1791)

Kayla Nanto, mezzo-soprano

“Sein wir wieder gut”
from *Ariadne auf Naxos*

Richard Strauss (1864–1949)

Sophia Hunt, soprano

“Non mi dir”
from *Don Giovanni*

Mozart

PRODUCTION STAFF

Lighting Designer
Aaron Johansen

Assistant Lighting Designer
Vincenzo Locascio

Stage Manager
Caitlynn Sandoval

Concert Master
Ami Campbell

Music Staff
Mikhail Berestnev
Sophia Muñoz

Projected Titles
Mary Dibbern, Ph.D

Production Assistant
Ivy Lariviere

Anna Thompson, soprano

“Glück das mir verblieb”
from *Die tote Stadt*

Erich Wolfgang Korngold (1897–1957)

Meg Brilleslyper, mezzo-soprano

“Parto, parto ma tu ben mio”
from *La Clemenza di Tito*

Mozart

Nathan Bowles, tenor

“Durch die Wälder”
from *Der Freischütz*

Carl Maria von Weber (1786–1826)

Tzvi Bat Asherah, bass-baritone

“Ves tabar spit”
from *Aleko*

Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873–1943)

Judges’ Deliberation: The Dallas Opera Orchestra

Intermezzo
from *Manon Lescaut*

Giacomo Puccini (1858–1924)



JONATHAN PELL PEOPLE’S CHOICE AWARD

In 2019, the People’s Choice Award was named after Jonathan Pell in recognition of his many years of service, commitment, and devotion to The Dallas Opera and the Vocal Competition. Each of tonight’s contestants will sing one aria. At the end of the concert, as The Dallas Opera Orchestra plays, the judges will take a brief pause to deliberate the winners of each prize. At that time, we invite you to cast your vote for the People’s Choice Award winner by scanning this QR code. You can only vote once per device, so make sure that vote counts!



SCAN TO VOTE!

COMPETITION CONDUCTOR & JUDGES

Emmanuel Villaume | CONDUCTOR



From: Strasbourg, France

Career highlights: Emmanuel Villaume has been the Mrs. Eugene McDermott Music Director of The Dallas Opera since 2013 and the music director of the Prague Philharmonia since 2015. During the 2025/2026 season, he makes appearances at Opéra de Lyon, Kölner Philharmonie, Hamburg Symphony Orchestra, amongst others. Recognized

for his insightful and dramatic interpretations, he regularly guests with the most important opera companies and orchestras worldwide, including the Royal Opera in Covent Garden, Munich's Bayerische Staatsoper, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and the Mariinsky Orchestra. At the Winspear, Villaume has led dozens of performances of beloved classics and newer works with The Dallas Opera, including the world premiere of the TDO-commissioned and critically acclaimed *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly* in 2023. He serves on TDO's annual Linda and Mitch Hart Institute for Women Conductors' artistic faculty and often leads various annual performances with The Dallas Opera Orchestra. He studied music in Strasbourg, France, his hometown, and at the Sorbonne in Paris.

Nicole Car | JUDGE



From: Moonee Ponds, Australia

Career highlights: Currently starring as Elizabeth in TDO's DON CARLO, Australian soprano Nicole Car is one of the leading sopranos of her generation. This season, Car debuts all three leading heroines in Puccini's *Il trittico* with Wiener Staatsoper, and after her successful role debut as Dvořák's Rusalka at Opera Australia this summer, she brings the titular heroine to

Opéra national de Paris as well as Wiener Staatsoper. Car also returns to her Verdian repertoire by reappearing in TDO's current *Don Carlo* production and at Deutsche Oper Berlin for Amelia in *Simon Boccanegra*. She also sings Mimì in *La bohème* with Opéra national de Paris and Wiener Staatsoper. On the concert stage, she performs Ellen Orford in *Peter Grimes* at the Het Concertgebouw in Amsterdam and is a soloist for a gala concert honoring the memory of Jodie Devos with the Opéra Royal de Wallonie-Liège. She also appears in recital with her husband, Etienne Dupuis, for the Cliburn Concert Series in Fort Worth, Texas.

Gregory Henkel | JUDGE



From: Rockville Centre, New York

Career highlights: Gregory Henkel is Managing Director: Artistic at San Francisco Opera, where he oversees repertoire selection, casting, concert programming, the company's Artistic and Music Planning departments, and the San Francisco Opera Center young artist training wing. Henkel joined San Francisco Opera as Director of Artistic Administration directly from his

position as Artistic Planning Manager with LA Opera, where he worked on casting, concert programming, and other areas of artistic planning. Prior to working with the LA Opera, Henkel was Associate Artistic Administrator at Lyric Opera of Chicago after serving as a member of the company's Ryan Opera Center administration. He is a frequent judge at the Metropolitan Opera's Eric and Dominique Laffont Competition Grand Finals Concert and Regional Finals. He has also often served on the jury of the Richard Tucker Awards. Additionally, Henkel has judged international voice competitions such as the Seoul International Music Competition, the Concorso Lirico Giovanni Martinelli-Aureliano Pertile, and the Concorso Lirico Ottavio Ziino.

Alain Lanceron | JUDGE



From: Paris, France

Career highlights: ESCP Business School graduate Alain Lanceron joined Pathé Marconi-EMI record label in 1972, becoming Director of the Classical Department in 1978. In 1996, he was appointed Worldwide President of Virgin Classics, while also serving as EMI France's Head of Jazz. From 2007 to 2009, he was EMI Classics' Vice President, Artists and

Repertoire. Lanceron was appointed President of Warner Classics & Erato in 2014. In January 2026, he became Chairman Emeritus of the labels. Throughout his career, Lanceron has produced more than 1,000 recordings. He has also held prominent cultural positions in France, including president of both CNIPAL and Victoires de la Musique Classique and artistic advisor to several opera houses, including Opéra de Rouen. *Gramophone* awarded him a Special Achievement Award in 2013 and inducted him into the *Gramophone Hall of Fame* in 2014. He is a Knight of France's Legion of Honour and National Order of Merit and an Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters.

COMPETITION JUDGES & HOST

David Lomelí | CHAIR & JUDGE



From: Mexico City, Mexico

Career highlights: David Lomelí joined The Dallas Opera in 2014 as Artistic Coordinator and was named Director of Artistic Administration in 2018. He is currently TDO's Artistic Consultant. In September 2019, he joined the historic Bayerische Staatsoper in Munich, where he took part in casting more than 80 productions. In April 2021, he became Santa Fe Opera's

Chief Artistic Officer. For TDO's Linda and Mitch Hart Institute for Women Conductors, Lomelí has recruited over 450 conductors and administrators from more than 30 countries to apply. Before joining TDO, Lomelí performed as a tenor with many leading companies globally, including the Berlin Philharmonic, Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, and San Francisco Opera. He received the National Youth Prize in the Arts, presented by the Mexican government, and won first prize in the opera and zarzuela categories during Plácido Domingo's 2006 Operalia. Lomelí has participated in some of opera's most prestigious training programs, including LA Opera's Domingo-Colburn-Stein Young Artist Program, the Merola Opera Program, and San Francisco Opera's Adler Fellowship.

Lee Anne Myslewski | JUDGE



From: Athens, Pennsylvania

Career highlights: Lee Anne Myslewski is the Vice President of Opera and Classical Programming for Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts. She oversees all aspects of Wolf Trap Opera, an artist-centric program whose alumni are singing in every opera house in the nation and the most prestigious houses in the world. She has participated in the casting and programming

of operatic productions for 20 years, and she has heard close to 10,000 live auditions. In addition, Myslewski oversees classical music programming, which includes a chamber music series and a 50-plus-year partnership with the National Symphony Orchestra. Myslewski earned degrees in opera performance from Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Maryland, and she is currently serving as the Board Chair of OPERA America.

Christian Van Horn | HOST



From: Rockville Centre, New York

Career highlights: Currently starring as Philip II in TDO's DON CARLO, American bass-baritone Christian Van Horn is known for his compelling, charismatic stage presence. This season, he returns to the Metropolitan Opera for *Carmen* (Escamillo) and *I Puritani* (Giorgio Walton), which will be part of the Met's "Live in HD" series. He also performs with Wiener Staatsoper, Théâtre des Champs-Élysées,

Canadian Opera Company, Bayerische Staatsoper, and the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl. Known for playing opera's greatest villains and anti-heroes, including Méphistophélès (Gounod's *Faust*), Nick Shadow (*The Rake's Progress*), and Four Villains (*The Tales of Hoffmann*), Van Horn is a beloved presence on the world's greatest stages. He has performed more than 100 times each at the Metropolitan Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, San Francisco Opera, and Bayerische Staatsoper. He has thrilled global audiences through the Met's popular "Live in HD" series, including starring turns in *Wozzeck*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *The Magic Flute*, *Falstaff*, and *The Exterminating Angel*.

COMPETITION FINALISTS

Tzvi Bat Asherah BASS-BARITONE



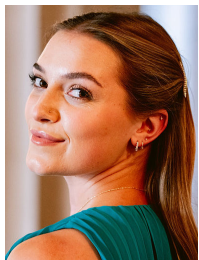
From: Albuquerque, New Mexico
Dallas Opera: Concert Debut
Career highlights: Bass-baritone Tzvi Bat Asherah is currently finishing his Master of Music from Rice University's Shepherd School of Music, where he studies with Robin Rice. He received his Bachelor of Music from University of New Mexico in May 2024. Asherah sang in the 2025 Butler Opera International Competition and was awarded third place in the finals. This spring, Asherah will perform Ford in Rice's production of Verdi's *Falstaff*. Following that, he appears with Ars Lyrica Houston as Plutone in the company's rendition of Monteverdi's *Orfeo*. This summer, he returns to Santa Fe Opera's Apprentice Artist program, where he will perform Zaretsky in *Eugene Onegin*. Recently he sang the title role of Mendelssohn's *Elijah* in concert, was the English Ambassador in John Corigliano's *The Ghosts of Versailles*, and performed Donner in Wagner's *Das Rheingold*. Other roles he has performed include Figaro in *The Marriage of Figaro* and Papageno in *The Magic Flute*.

Nathan Bowles TENOR



From: Minot, North Dakota
Dallas Opera: *Romeo and Juliet* (2023/2024, mainstage debut)
Career highlights: A LA Opera Domingo-Colburn-Stein Young Artist Program alum, Nathan Bowles is emerging as one of his generation's most promising young tenors. This season, Bowles makes his role debut as Canio (*Pagliacci*) with Pacific Opera Project and appears in Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 with Minot Symphony Orchestra. In his second LA Opera season, he performs the First Armored Man (*The Magic Flute*), Dr. Caius (*Falstaff*), and Parpignol (*La bohème*), and he joins the Los Angeles Symphony at Walt Disney Concert Hall for a gala honoring Korea's Independence. Recent appearances include Don José (*La tragédie de Carmen*) with Tulsa Opera; Borsa (*Rigoletto*) and Benvolio (*Romeo and Juliet*) with LA Opera; Dandini (*The Billy Goats Gruff*) and Miguel (*Pépito*) with The Dallas Opera Education Outreach Programs; and Animal Tamer/Waiter (*Der Rosenkavalier*) with Santa Fe Opera. Bowles is a 2025 Operalia finalist, a 2024 Metropolitan Opera Eric and Dominique Laffont Competition national finalist, and a 2024 Richard F. Gold Career Grant recipient.

Meg Brilleslyper MEZZO-SOPRANO



From: Colorado Springs, Colorado
Dallas Opera: Concert Debut
Career highlights: Mezzo-soprano Meg Brilleslyper studied at University of Rochester's Eastman School of Music and Rice University's Shepherd School of Music. She is currently a member of the Bayerische Staatsoper's Opera Studio. Her recent roles include Second Lady (*The Magic Flute*), Sandman (*Hansel and Gretel*), Flora (*La traviata*), Babette (*The English Cat*), Isolier (*Le comte Ory*), Cherubino (*The Ghosts of Versailles*), Bradamante (*Alcina*), and Mercèdes (*Carmen*). Her upcoming engagements include the Confidante (*Elektra*), Clotilde (*Norma*), and the Kitchen Boy (*Rusalka*). In 2025, Brilleslyper received a Sullivan Foundation Career Development Grant, was a Houston Grand Opera Concert of Arias finalist, and won the Metropolitan Opera Eric and Dominique Laffont Competition – Houston District. She won both the Jessie Kneisel Lieder and Eastman School of Music Concerto competitions in 2023. She also trained with HGO Butler Studio's Young Artists Vocal Academy (2023), Aspen Music Festival (2022 and 2023), Music Academy of the West Lehrer Vocal Institute (2024), and San Francisco Opera's Merola Opera Program (2025).

Lauryn Davis SOPRANO



From: Atlanta, Georgia
Dallas Opera: Concert Debut
Career highlights: In 2025, soprano Lauryn Davis was the Annapolis Opera Vocal Competition Grand Prize winner and a Metropolitan Opera Eric and Dominique Laffont Competition – Pittsburgh District winner. She is currently completing her second year as a Resident Artist at Pittsburgh Opera, where her roles include the title role in Haydn's *Armida*, Miss Lightfoot (*Fellow Travelers*), and Alice Ford (*Falstaff*). Davis is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and has participated in residency programs with the Glimmerglass Festival and Chautauqua Opera Company. In 2025, she was an Apprentice Artist at the Santa Fe Opera, where she covered the role of Countess Almaviva in *The Marriage of Figaro*. In summer 2026, she returns to Santa Fe Opera to make her debut as the Danish Countess in the American premiere of Tobias Picker's *Lili Elbe* while also covering Tatiana in *Eugene Onegin* and First Lady in *The Magic Flute*.

COMPETITION FINALISTS

Deanna Ray Eberhart MEZZO-SOPRANO



From: Kansas City, Missouri
Dallas Opera: Concert Debut
Career highlights: Mezzo-soprano Deanna Ray Eberhart returns to the Santa Fe Opera in 2026 as Second Lady in *The Magic Flute* and Dagmar in the North American premiere of Tobias Picker's *Lili Elbe*. In 2025, she made her Santa Fe Opera debut as Rosswisse in *Die Walküre*, a company premiere. Prior work includes Gertrude

in *Romeo and Juliet* and Flosshilde in *Journey to Valhalla* (compendium) with the Lyric Opera of Kansas City, where Eberhart was an Apprentice Artist from 2022 to 2024. She is a graduate of the University of Kansas, where she studied with Joyce Castle, and the University of Northern Iowa, where she studied with Dr. Jean McDonald. In 2025, Eberhart received an Encouragement Award from the Metropolitan Opera Eric and Dominique Laffont Competition. In 2026, she was a Laffont Competition – Kansas City District winner and a Houston Grand Opera Eleanor McCollum Competition Concert of Arias semifinalist.

Sophia Hunt SOPRANO



From: Brooklyn, New York City, New York
Dallas Opera: Concert Debut
Career highlights: Brazilian American soprano Sophia Hunt won the 2023 Gerda Lissner Foundation International Vocal Competition and was a 2022 Metropolitan Opera Eric and Dominique Laffont Competition national semifinalist. She studied at

Curtis Institute of Music and trained with Wolf Trap Opera and Aspen Music Festival. In June 2025, she graduated from the Dutch National Opera Studio, where she appeared in *The Magic Flute*, *Suor Angelica*, *Peter Grimes*, *Dido and Aeneas*, and *The Four-Note Opera*. Her other past roles include Donna Anna and Donna Elvira (*Don Giovanni*), Fiordiligi (*Così fan tutte*), Vitellia (*La clemenza di Tito*), and Faith (Rene Orth's *Empty the House*). This season, Hunt makes debuts with the Voices of Ascension, York Symphony Orchestra, and Binghamton Philharmonic Orchestra. Previously, she has performed with the Netherlands Philharmonic, Opera Philadelphia, Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, City Choir of Washington, Curtis on Tour, and Art Song Preservation Society of New York, among others.

Kayla Nanto MEZZO-SOPRANO



From: Loveland, Colorado
Dallas Opera: Lone Star Vocal Competition (2025, concert debut)
Career highlights: Dallas-based mezzo-soprano Kayla Nanto is celebrated for her versatility and compelling stage presence. This season, she appears as Suzuki (*Madame Butterfly*) with both Opera San José and Fort Worth Opera and returns to the title role of *Carmen* with the Abilene

Philharmonic. Next season, she makes her TDO mainstage debut as Giannetta (THE ELIXIR OF LOVE) and Lapák/Woodpecker (THE CUNNING LITTLE VIXEN). Recent highlights include Hansel (*Hansel & Gretel*) with Opera Montana and the title role in a workshop of Shinji Eshima's and Tony Asaro's *Zheng* (Opera San José). Nanto is a two-time Apprentice Artist with Santa Fe Opera, and she has also appeared with Pensacola Opera and Fort Worth Opera. Nanto is a two-time District winner in the Metropolitan Opera Eric and Dominique Laffont Competition, and she won first place and the Jonathan Pell People's Choice Award in The Dallas Opera's 2025 Lonestar Vocal Competition.

Luna Seongeun Park SOPRANO



From: Seoul, South Korea
Dallas Opera: Concert Debut
Career highlights: South Korean soprano Luna Seongeun Park is currently pursuing a graduate diploma at The Juilliard School. She previously studied at The New School's Mannes School of Music and Yonsei University. Park has gained international recognition through major

competitions. She won first prize at the inaugural Luciano Pavarotti Foundation Opera Naples International Vocal Competition (2025), was a New York District winner of the Metropolitan Opera Eric and Dominique Laffont Competition (2024 and 2025), placed third in the Palm Springs Opera Guild Vocal Competition (2025), and won first prize at the New York Career Bridges Grant Awards (2023). In 2025, she was also named an Operalia semifinalist, won the Opera Index International Vocal Competition, and received a Butler Opera International Competition Encouragement Award. In 2024, she received Encouragement Awards from the Opera Annapolis Vocal Competition and Gerda Lissner Foundation International Vocal Competition. Park made her European debut as Nannetta in *Falstaff* at the 2024 Verbier Festival.

COMPETITION FINALISTS

Anna Thompson
SOPRANO



From: Rochester, Michigan
Dallas Opera: Concert Debut
Career highlights: Anna Thompson is a current Resident Artist at the Academy of Vocal Arts. She holds a Master of Music from Rice University and a Bachelor of Music from the Eastman School of Music. Recent roles include Countess Almaviva (*The Marriage of Figaro*), Countess Madeleine (*Capriccio*), Alcina (*Alcina*),

Marie Antoinette (*The Ghosts of Versailles*), and Suor Angelica (*Suor Angelica*). She has also recently covered Rosalinde (*Die Fledermaus*), Female Chorus (*The Rape of Lucretia*), and Mary Johnson (*Fellow Travelers*). She recently made her Carnegie Hall debut with the American Symphony Orchestra performing Bristow's "Niagara" Symphony, and she debuted at the Bard Music Festival performing *Mariken de Nimègue*. Thompson was named a 2026 national semifinalist in the Metropolitan Opera Eric and Dominique Laffont Competition and a 2025 Sullivan Foundation Award winner. She is an alumna of Santa Fe Opera's Apprentice Artist program and the Gerdine Young Artist Program at Opera Theatre of St. Louis. Next summer, she joins the Merola Opera Program.

Yihe Wang
BARITONE



From: Heilongjiang, China
Dallas Opera: Concert Debut
Career highlights: Chinese baritone Yihe Wang is currently pursuing a graduate diploma at The Juilliard School, where he studies with Darrell Babidge. He holds a master's degree with academic honors from the New England Conservatory of Music. Wang was a Michigan District winner in the Metropolitan Opera 2024 Eric and

Dominique Laffont Competition. In the summer of 2026, he will join Santa Fe Opera as an Apprentice Artist. Most recently, Wang performed the role of Figaro in Saverio Mercadante's *I due Figaro* with Juilliard Opera. His roles also have included Papageno in *The Magic Flute*, Dr. Malatesta in *Don Pasquale*, and Belcore in *The Elixir of Love*. In 2026, Wang will take on the role of Count Almaviva in *The Marriage of Figaro* with Juilliard Lab Orchestra.

TDO'S 2026/2027 SEASON



DONIZETTI
THE ELIXIR OF LOVE
OCT 9–17, 2026

JANÁČEK
THE CUNNING LITTLE VIXEN
OCT 30–NOV 7, 2026

PUCCINI & TIN
TURANDOT
FEB 12–20, 2027

WAGNER
LOHENGRIN
MAR 5–13, 2027

**BIG VOICES,
BOLD DRAMA**

Learn more about the season and subscribe at dallasopera.org

PREVIOUS AWARD RECIPIENTS

2025

1st and People's Choice – Kayla Nanto
2nd – Michael Pandolfo
3rd – Ani Kushyan

2024

1st – *Navasard Hakobyan, baritone
2nd – Jongwon Han, bass-baritone
3rd – Elisa Sunshine, soprano, &
Katerina Burton, soprano
People's Choice – Lisa Marie
Rogali, mezzo-soprano

2023

1st – Adia Evans, soprano
2nd – Sarah Neal, mezzo-soprano
3rd – Talin Nalbandian, mezzo-soprano
PC – Bethany Jelinek, soprano

2022

1st & PC – Blake Denson, baritone
2nd – Kathryn Henry, soprano
3rd – *Sylvia D'Eramo, soprano, &
Sun-Ly Pierce, mezzo-soprano

2020 (virtual)

PC – Ricardo Ceballos de la Mora, bass

2019

1st & PC – *Meghan Kasanders, soprano
2nd – *Reginald Smith, Jr., baritone
3rd – Christopher Oglesby, tenor

2018

1st & PC – Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen,
countertenor
2nd – Josh Lovell, tenor
3rd – Mario Rojas, tenor

2017

1st – *Samantha Hankey,
mezzo-soprano
2nd – *Laura Wilde, soprano
3rd – Mane Galoyan, soprano
PC – Kihun Yoon, baritone

2016

1st – *Virginie Verrez,
mezzo-soprano
2nd & PC – Kang Wang, tenor
3rd – Sol Jin, baritone

2015

1st – *Anthony Clark Evans, baritone
2nd & PC – J'nai Bridges,
mezzo-soprano
3rd – Sarah Mesko, mezzo-soprano

2014

1st – Audra Methvin, soprano
2nd – Brent Reilly Turner, tenor
3rd – Matthew Stump, bass-baritone
PC – *Reginald Smith, Jr., baritone

2013

1st & PC – Nicholas Masters, bass
2nd – Matthew Stump, bass-baritone
3rd – Audra Methvin, soprano

2012

1st – Heather Hawk, soprano
2nd & PC – Amanda Woodbury, soprano
3rd, Elisabeth Rosenberg, soprano

2011

1st – *John Holiday, Jr., countertenor
2nd – Katrina Galka, soprano, &
Maren Weinberger, soprano
PC – Norman Garrett, baritone

2010

1st – Kiri Deonarine, soprano
2nd – Amanda Woodbury, soprano
3rd – Juan José de León, tenor
PC – *Katie Bolding, soprano

2009

1st – *Steven LaBrie, baritone, &
Michael Sumuel, baritone
3rd – *Catherine Martin, mezzo-soprano
PC – Icy Simpson, soprano

2008

1st – Amber Welborn, soprano
2nd – Nathaniel Peake, tenor
2nd – *Scott Quinn, tenor
PC – Michael Anthony McGee, baritone

2007

1st – Valerie Vinzant, soprano
2nd – Dee Donasco, soprano
3rd – Eric Barry, tenor, &
Brian Shircliffe, baritone
PC – Brian Shircliffe, baritone

2006

1st – *Takesha Mishé Kizart, soprano
2nd – Cody Fosdick, tenor
3rd & PC – *Steven LaBrie, baritone

2005

1st & PC – *Weston Hurt, baritone
2nd – Phandulwazi Maseti, tenor
3rd – Christina D. Major, soprano

2004

1st – Mireya Rodriguez, soprano
2nd – Jennifer Root, mezzo-soprano
3rd & PC – *NaGuanda Miller-Nobles,
soprano

2003

1st & PC – Erik Nelson Werner, baritone
2nd – Christopher Holmes, baritone
3rd – Matthew Treviño, bass

2002

1st & PC – *Marjorie Owens, soprano
2nd – Angela Niederloh, mezzo-soprano
3rd – Lisa Forstmann, soprano

2001

1st & PC – Jennifer Black, soprano
2nd – Erin Marie Wall, soprano
3rd – Garrett Sorenson, tenor

2000

1st – Jessie Hinkle, mezzo-soprano
2nd – Letitia Singleton, mezzo-soprano
3rd – Blythe Gaissert, mezzo-soprano
PC – *Scott Scully, tenor

1999

1st – Katherine Bongfeldt, soprano
2nd – *Jesús Garcia, tenor
3rd & PC – Jenifer Thyssen, soprano

1998

1st & PC – *Latoria Moore, soprano
2nd – Jessie Hinkle, mezzo-soprano
3rd – *Scott Scully, tenor

1997

1st – *Dana Beth Miller, soprano
2nd – *Michael J. Boschert, baritone
3rd – *Jesús Garcia, tenor

1996

1st – Karen Wasson, soprano
2nd – *Dana Beth Miller, soprano
3rd – *Weston Hurt, baritone

1995

1st – So Young Yoo, soprano
2nd – Soon Wha Lee, soprano
3rd – *Edwin Miller, tenor

1994

1st – Kyung Mook Yum, baritone
2nd – *Diane Syrcle, soprano
3rd – Elizabeth Keusch, soprano

1993

*Diane Syrcle, soprano
Elizabeth Mumford, soprano
Carolyn Tims-Filak, soprano

1992

*Randalee Maddox, mezzo-soprano
*Kelly Kimball, mezzo-soprano

1991

Jie Liu, tenor
*Katherine Bongfeldt, soprano
*Clifton Forbis, tenor
*Randalee Maddox, mezzo-soprano

1990

*Clifton Forbis, tenor
*Jeffrey Snider, baritone
*Mary Dunleavy, soprano
Carol Attmore, soprano
*Nancy Keith, soprano

1988

Kecia Ashford, soprano
Soo Hong Kim, soprano
*Richard Hobson, baritone

*Denotes a singer who has performed a principal role on The Dallas Opera Mainstage

THE DALLAS OPERA ORCHESTRA

2025/2026 SEASON

CONDUCTOR

Emmanuel Villaume

FIRST VIOLIN

Ami Campbell

The Mary Anne Cree
Concertmaster in
memory of Rosine Smith
Sammons

Grace Kang Wollett

Acting Associate
Concertmaster

Florence Wang Conrad

Acting Assistant
Concertmaster

Amy Faires

David Miles Wolcott

Junsoo Park

Paige Kossuth

Natalie Floyd

Samantha Bennett*

Inga Kroll^

Kathy Johnson^

SECOND VIOLIN

Kristin Van Cleve

Principal

Sondra Brudnak

Assistant Principal

Minhee Bae

Sunny D'Apice

Emily Loh

Seowon Lee

Diego Campos Medina

Yuhong Sun

VIOLA

Liesl-Ann Maerschel

Principal

Katrina Smith

Co-Principal

Donna Hall

Paul Tullis

Colin Garner

Meghan Birmingham

Vangeli

CELLO

Mitch Maxwell

The Catherine Brackbill

Principal Cello Chair

Shawna Hamilton

Assistant Principal

Eric Forman

Vilma Peguero

Esther Rothwell

Craig Leffer

BASS

William Gowen

Principal

Michael Lelevich

Assistant Principal

Steve Brown(+)

Kirby Nunez

FLUTE

Helen Blackburn

Principal

Ebonee Thomas (piccolo)

OBOE

Gina Ford

The Eleanor Ford

Penrose Principal Oboe

Chair

Stewart Williams

ENGLISH HORN

Stewart Williams

CLARINET

Kenneth Krause

Principal

Danny Goldman*

Ben Quarles^

Philip Paglialonga^

BASS CLARINET

Philip Paglialonga^

BASSOON

John Searcy

Principal

Shannon Highland

HORN

Katie Wolber

The Linda Van Sickle

Principal Horn Chair

Shelby Nugent*

Nancy Piper^

Heather Test^

Stacie Mickens

TRUMPET

Forrest Albano

The Diane and Hal

Brierley Principal

Trumpet Chair

Rick Bogard

TROMBONE

Jacob Muzquiz

The Cece and Ford Lacy

Principal Trombone Chair

Tony Baker

Eric Swanson

TIMPANI

Deborah Mashburn

The Joan S. Reisch

Principal Timpani Chair

TUBA/CIMBASSO

Jeff Baker

PERCUSSION

Joe Ferraro

Principal

Drew Lang

HARP

Barbara Biggers

Principal

PERSONNEL MANAGER

Brad Wagner

MUSIC LIBRARIAN

Shannon Highland

ASSOCIATE MUSICIANS

BASS

P. Kellach Waddle

FLUTE

Kyndahl Britton

OBOE

Elise Belk

KEYBOARD

Mikhail Berestnev

Sophia Muñoz

^ Season Substitute

* On Leave

(+) Deceased