2021/2022 SEASON

thedallasopera™



FEBRUARY 6 AND APRIL 3, 2022



MARCH 20 AND APRIL 9, 2022

WINSPEAR OPERA HOUSE

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION & THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE CHAIR

It is with a humble and grateful heart that we welcome you, our community, back to the Winspear Opera House to engage in a time of creativity, artistry, and togetherness. It's a thrill to hear the sound of young people and their loved ones once again fill the hall and the stage light up with song—a shared experience we look forward to witnessing for years to come. Your love of opera and the gift you give by passing that love on to the next generation is immeasurable. You could be anywhere today and you chose to be with us. Your impact does not go unnoticed by The Dallas Opera, the younger generation, and those yet to come.

Kristian Roberts, Director of Education
Susan Geyer, Education Committee Chair

LAND AND PEOPLE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Creating a place of belonging for everyone to experience this art form is a vital part of inspiring generations of opera lovers and honoring those who came before us. As an opera company, we are storytellers of the full human experience, and that includes the narratives we share about this land and its people.

We are on the original land of the Caddo, Wichita, and Comanche sovereign nations, whose people faced horrible treatment and policies that forced their removal from the land.

People were also stolen from their homes in Africa, enslaved, dehumanized, and forced to build Dallas through free labor.

While none of us created these conditions, we have the opportunity, responsibility, and honor to uplift these communities through truth-telling, greater connection, and holistic celebration.

Thank you for joining us in acknowledging this land and these peoples.

thedallasopera™
presents

Jack and the Beanstalk

Opera in One Act

Music by Sir Arthur Sullivan
Words and Story adapted by John Davies

Sunday, February 6, 2022, and Sunday, April 3, 2022

The Winspear Opera House at the AT&T Performing Arts Center
Sung in English

Cast:	
Jack B. Nimble	Kayla Nanto (2/6) Claire Choquette (4/3)
Mrs. Nimble/Giant's Wife	Hilary Grace Taylor (2/6) Janine Dworin (4/3)
Trouble-Man/Giant	Prosper Makhanya (2/6) Christopher Curcuruto (4/3)
Narrator	Jordan Hammons (2/6) Olivia Duncan (4/3)

Creative Team:	
Director	Ryan Lescalleet
Set and Costume Designer	Tommy Beourgeios
Lighting Designer	Eric Watkins
Wig and Make-Up Designer	Gigi Coker
Music Director and Pianist	Mary Dibbern
Education Assistant Pianist	Mikhail Berestnev

The performance will last approximately forty minutes with no intermission.

Supertitles by Jeri Shaffer
Sets built and painted by Dallas Stage Scenery

SYNOPSIS

Jack and the Beanstalk is a one act opera based on the traditional children's story. The story is set in a fictitious old English village. The action takes place in and near the small cottage of Jack and his mother.

The opera opens with a narrator introducing the story. Jack enters, and introduces himself in the first aria of the opera. He is the famous Jack B. Nimble, center figure for all fairy tales involving a boy named Jack.

Jack's mother enters. She tells Jack that they must sell their cow to buy food. She asks Jack to take the cow to Old Market Street and sell her. Jack is sad at the thought of selling the cow, knowing that she in turn will become someone's dinner.

On the way to Old Market Street Jack meets a Trouble Man. He is a dustman, a stranger, who offers to buy the cow. He offers Jack five magic beans in exchange. Jack accepts his offer and takes the beans home.

Jack's mother cannot believe that Jack has been tricked. Now they will surely starve to death because of his stupidity! She throws the beans out of the window, and they both go to bed hungry.

During the early morning hours, Jack and his mother wake to a thundering sound and a shaking of the cottage. A huge beanstalk has grown up past the roof of the cottage and into the sky. Jack, being an adventurous boy, climbs the beanstalk.

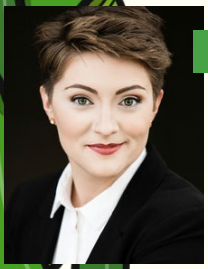
At the top he finds a large house where there lives a dishonest Giant and his kindly Wife. The Giant isn't totally happy with being mean and dishonest. He wonders why he is so dishonest and likes the taste of blood. His Wife is not sure how to respond to his wonderings.

While the Giant's Wife is alone, Jack enters and asks her for some food. She gives him something to eat. Hearing her husband returning, she has Jack hide so that the Giant will not be tempted to eat him. The Giant smells Jack, however, and begins searching for him. The Giant's wife tells him he is mistaken, and helps keep him from finding Jack.

The Giant is determined to find whoever is hiding in his house. Jack decides to disguise himself as a spirit, and confronts the Giant. The Giant is shaken, and turns to his golden hen that lays the golden eggs to calm him. He talks of how he stole the hen from Jack's father years ago.

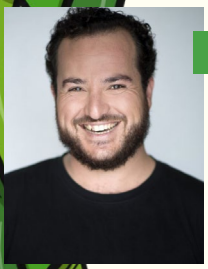
Jack decides to steal the hen back from the Giant. The Giant's Wife helps him. As he is running away with the hen, the Giant chases after him. Jack makes it to the beanstalk and climbs down. Seeing that the Giant is still after him, Jack chops the beanstalk with an axe. The beanstalk falls, the Giant with it. The Giant lands on his head, and loses his memory. He forgets his name, and that he is supposed to be bad. He realizes the trouble he has caused by stealing and being so mean. The Giant decides to be good, and to treat others as he would like to be treated.

ARTISTS



Claire Choquette

Mezzo-soprano Claire Choquette's notable roles include Hansel *(Hansel & Gretel, Opera Amici)*, Le Prince Charmant *(Cendrillon,* Universidad Nacional del Paraguay*)*, and Angelina *(La Cenerentola,* Opera Festival de Roma). She earned a Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance at the University of North Texas and Master of Music at LSU.



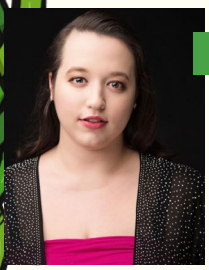
Christopher Curcuruto

Christopher Curcuruto, bass-baritone, is presently undertaking a Doctor of Musical Arts program at the University of North Texas, and is the recipient of a competitive Winspear Opera Scholarship. Previously, Christopher was a Resident Artist at the Pittsburgh Festival Opera and Mastersingers Program for Young Dramatic Voices in 2019.



Hilary Grace Taylor

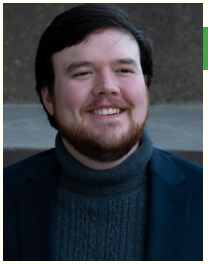
Hilary Grace Taylor, mezzo-soprano, is in her third season as an Education Outreach Young Artist with The Dallas Opera. Most recently Hilary recorded and filmed the role of Sappho in Mark Adamo's *Lysistrata* with Pittsburgh Festival Opera. Hilary was a Semifinalist in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and a Finalist in the Mildred Miller International Voice Competition.



Janine Dworin

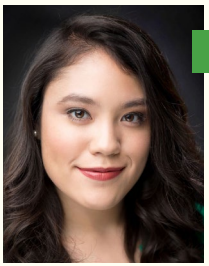
Janine Dworin, mezzo-soprano, is a second-year master's student at the University of North Texas. An Austin native, she completed her Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance at the University of Houston Moores School of Music. Previous roles include Madame de la Haltière *(Cendrillon)*, Estelle Oglethorpe *(Later the Same Evening)*, and Orfeo *(Orfeo ed Euridice)*.

ARTISTS



Jordan Hammons

Tenor Jordan Hammons has been seen in multiple roles with The Dallas Opera's Education and Outreach Program. Additionally, Mr. Hammons has performed Macheath in Britten's *The Beggar's Opera*, Aeneas in Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*, and the First Armored Man in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*.



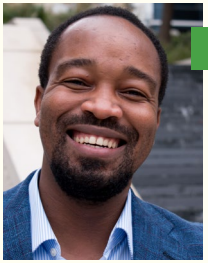
Kayla Nanto

Mezzo-soprano Kayla Nanto is currently a Performing Artist with The Dallas Opera's Outreach and Education program and a Studio Artist with Fort Worth Opera. Kayla is a frequent soloist with American Baroque Opera, with whom she recently performed the roles of Second Witch *(Dido and Aeneas)*, Eustazio *(Rinaldo)*, and Fileno *(Clori, Tirsi, e Fileno)*.



Olivia Duncan

Olivia Duncan, mezzo-soprano, received her Bachelor of Music Degree from Oberlin Conservatory and her Master of Music Degree from Southern Methodist University. She has enjoyed two years of performing in The Dallas Opera's outreach production *The Bremen Town Musician*s as well as assisting with their summer Kids Opera Bootcamp.



Prosper Makhanya

Prosper Makhanya, baritone, holds a Performers Diploma in Vocal Performance from Southern Methodist University where he is currently pursuing his Master of Environmental Engineering Degree. Previous roles include Banquo in Verdi's *Macbeth* and Don Alfonso in Mozart's *Così fan tutte*.

thedallasopera™
presents

The Elixir of Love

Opera in One Act (Abridged)

Music by Gaetano Donizetti and Libretto by Felice Romani
English translation and The Dallas Opera Performance Edition
by Mary Dibbern

Sunday, March 20, 2022, and Saturday, April 9, 2022

The Winspear Opera House at the AT&T Performing Arts Center
Sung in English

Cast:	
Adina	Courtney Maina (3/20) Avuya Ngcaweni (4/9)
Nemorino	Christopher A. Leach (3/20) Will Upham (4/9)
Belcore	Joseph Canuto Leon (3/20) Tshilidzi Ndou (4/9)
Dr. Dulcamara	Dean Willis (3/20) Seth-Emmanuel Clarke (4/9)

Creative Team:	
Conductor	Elizabeth Askren
Director	Ryan Lescalleet
Set and Costume Designer	Tommy Bourgeoios
Lighting Designer	Eric Watkins
Wig and Make-Up Designer	Gigi Coker
Music Director and Pianist	Mary Dibbern
Education Assistant Pianist	Mikhail Berestnev

The performance will last approximately fifty minutes with no intermission.

Supertitles by Jeri Shaffer
Sets built and painted by Dallas Stage Scenery

SYNOPSIS

Adina, a well-to-do landowner, has bought a book about the legendary lovers, Tristan and Isolde. She has been reading about the love potion that turned Isolde's hatred for Tristan into love and she wishes for a love potion of her own to magically conjure a husband. Nemorino, a poor farmer secretly in love with Adina, would also like a love potion capable of capturing her heart.

Belcore, an army sergeant, is struck by Adina's beauty and openly pursues her. Nemorino watches Belcore courting Adina and is heart-sick that he may never have a chance with her. Belcore presses Adina to marry him immediately; however, the lady is unsure. She begs for a little time to think over his offer of marriage as Belcore departs. Finding himself alone with Adina, at last, Nemorino declares his love. Adina, unimpressed, tells him he has no chance of winning her.

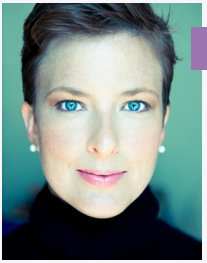
"Doctor" Dulcamara is selling a potent medicine that he claims can set the coldest of hearts on fire. Nemorino buys a bottle with the last bit of money in his pocket. Dulcamara tells Nemorino not to take the elixir until after sunset, giving himself plenty of time to finish peddling his fake medicine and get out of town. However, Nemorino simply cannot wait and takes the elixir immediately. He soon feels the effects of this "magic drink" and thinks that it is the warmth produced by the Elixir of Love.

Nemorino returns to the farm, pretending not to notice Adina. He is hopeful that the elixir will do its job as Dulcamara promised. Adina is not happy that Nemorino seems indifferent to her. Even from a distance she can see that his walk is more confident, and he seems unconcerned and happy. When Belcore returns, Adina agrees to marry him thinking that Nemorino does not really love her. The happy sergeant wants to wed immediately and after some convincing, Adina agrees. Nemorino, wanting more time for the elixir to take effect, begs Adina to wait. The lady agrees to wait until the following day.

Nemorino searches for Dulcamara to buy more elixir. Alas, he is out of money! His only hope is to join the army for the money he will receive. He signs enlistment papers from Belcore, who is privately pleased that Nemorino will be out of the way. Nemorino is equally confident that he will "get the girl" with help from the second bottle of the magic elixir. Dulcamara tells Adina that Nemorino has enlisted in the army in order to buy more of the Elixir of Love. Adina realizes how cruel she has been and how truly Nemorino loves her, while all the women of the town are now after Nemorino. She must find him and ask his forgiveness so they can be together. Meanwhile, Dulcamara tries to sell Adina a bottle of the elixir which she sensibly declines.

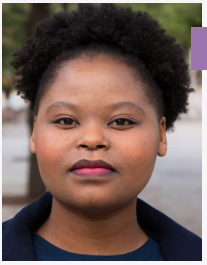
Nemorino returns, reflecting on the single tear he had seen in Adina's eye earlier. He is still hopeful that the elixir will make her love him. Adina finds Nemorino and hands him his enlistment papers she bought back from Belcore to keep him out of the army. She begins to walk away, but the farmer has reached his breaking point: Nemorino insists that if he cannot have her love, he would rather die a simple soldier. At that, Adina admits that she loves him and asks for forgiveness for treating him so poorly before. Dulcamara is happy to take credit for the happy couple. Only Belcore seems to think him a fraud after seeing his fiancée stolen from under his nose. Nemorino and Adina however, are untroubled by such thoughts. They have eyes only for each other, and their loving hearts—as if by magic—now beat as one.

ARTISTS



Elizabeth Askren

Elizabeth Askren has guest conducted the London Symphony Orchestra, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Orchestre de Chambre de Paris. She is the Founder and Artistic Director of TOA – Transylvanian Opera Academy, Romania's first opera studio. Askren holds diplomas in piano and conducting from the Juilliard School, Oberlin Conservatory, and the Conducting Institute of Bard in the United States, and the Schola Cantorum and the Ecole Normale de Musique in France.



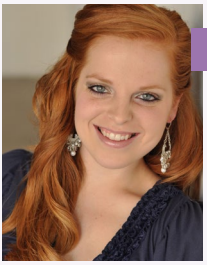
Avuya Ngcaweni

Avuya Ngcaweni, soprano, received her Honors Degree from the University of KwaZulu Natal and is currently completing her Masters at Southern Methodist University. In 2020, Avuya won the John and Tracy Koch Audience Award at the MIOpera competition.



Christopher A. Leach

Christopher A. Leach, tenor, was most recently seen with TDO's HART Institute for Women Conductors concert and TDO's Education and Outreach productions in the title role of *Doctor Miracle*, among others in the last few years. With Fort Worth Opera, he premiered the role of Senator Ralph Yarborough in David T. Little's *JFK* (2016 World Premiere). Mr. Leach is active as a recitalist in performances in the DFW community, notably with St. Matthew's Cathedral Arts, where he recently recorded an album showcasing the music of Mary Howe, to be released in May 2022, with a concert tour in Texas and France in the summer.



Courtney Maina

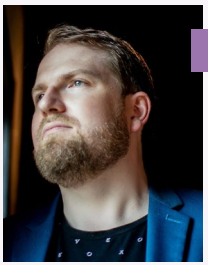
Courtney Maina, soprano, received a Bachelor's Degree in Vocal Performance from Sam Houston State University where she portrayed roles such as Adele/*Die Fledermaus* and Susanna/*The Marriage of Figaro*. Maina went on to earn a Master's Degree in Vocal Performance at SMU, where she appeared as Mrs. Hayes/*Susannah* and Serpetta/*La finta giardiniera*. She worked in TDO's Education Outreach program for four seasons as a Teaching Artist and was featured with the program as Despina/*The Three Little Pigs* and Dorabella/*The Bremen Town Musicians*. Maina makes her TDO mainstage debut as Berta/*Il barbiere di Siviglia* this season.

ARTISTS



Dean Willis

Dean Willis, bass-baritone, holds a Master of Music in Vocal Performance and Choral Conducting from SMU. Willis has performed the roles of Figaro in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Escamillo in *Carmen*, and Bob in *The Old Maid and the Thief*.



Joseph Canuto Leon

Joseph Canuto Leon, baritone, holds a Master of Music from The University of North Texas and a Bachelor of Music from Iowa State University. Previous roles include Germont/*La traviata*, Belcore/*The Elixir of Love*, and Ford/*Falstaff*. Leon returns to The Dallas Opera as an Education and Outreach Young Artist.



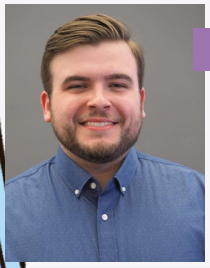
Seth-Emmanuel Clarke

Seth-Emmanuel Clarke, bass-baritone, holds a Bachelor of Arts with a focus in voice from SMU and is currently pursuing a Master's in Music. Recently, Clarke placed second as a National Finalist in the NATS vocal competition.



Tshilidzi Ndou

Tshilidzi Ndou, baritone, holds a BA from North West University South Africa and a Performers Diploma from SMU where he is currently pursuing his Master of Music in Vocal Performance. Tshilidzi has performed roles including Count Almaviva/*Le Nozze di Figaro* and Guglielmo/*Cosi fan tutte*.



Will Upham

Will Upham, tenor, holds a bachelor's degree in Vocal Performance from DePauw University and currently studies Vocal Performace at SMU. Upham's most recent roles include Alfredo Germont (cover)/*La traviata*, Jamie Wellerstein/*The Last Five Years*, and Le Prince Charmant/*Cendrillon*.

PRODUCTION AND MUSIC STAFF (BOTH PROGRAMS)



Mary Dibbern, Music Director and Pianist

Pianist Mary Dibbern has been Music Director of Education for The Dallas Opera since 2012. A graduate of SMU, Dibbern moved to Paris for studies and resided there for 31 years with a successful international career as vocal coach for the Opéra National de Paris and other major venues throughout Europe, Asia and North America. Dibbern records for Harmonia Mundi France, Claves, Magelone, Toccata Classics, and JTBProd (Paris).



Ryan Lescalleet, Stage Director

Ryan Lescalleet starts his ninth season with TDO where he has worked on *Doctor Miracle*, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, *The Elixir of Love*, *Bastien and Bastienne*, *The Billy Goats Gruff*, and *The Three Little Pigs* with the Education Programs Department. He has also served as the Company Manager and AEA Stage Manager for Undermain Theatre for the past eight seasons.

The Dallas Opera Education Programs are part of The Perot Foundation Education and Community Outreach Programs and are generously supported by the Betty and Steve Suellentrop Educational Outreach Fund.

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Ebonee Davis, Community Engagement Manager
Christopher A. Leach, Education & Outreach Associate
Rebecca Britten, Education Program Coordinator

THE DALLAS OPERA ORCHESTRA 2021/2022 SEASON

VIOLIN I
Ellen dePasquale,
The Mary Anne Cree Concertmaster, in memory of Rosine Smith Sammons
Ami Campbell, Associate Concertmaster
Grace Kang Wollett, Assistant Concert Master
Florence Conrad
Amy Faires
David Miles Wolcott
Junsoo Park
Oleg Larshin
Paige Kossuth

VIOLIN II
Kristin Van Cleve, Principal
Sondra Brudnak, Assistant Principal
Suneetha D'Apice
Lisa Shields
Barbara Allen
Natalie Floyd
Minhee Bae
Inga Kroll^

VIOLIN, ASSOCIATE MUSICIANS
Kathy Johnson
Lauren Haseltine
Jane Escueta
Samantha Bennett
Amela Koci
Ellen Lovelace
Laura Scalzo
Emily Loh

VIOLA
Liesl-Ann deVilliers, Principal
Katrina Smith, Co-Principal
Donna Hall
Paul Tullis
Colin Garner
Meghan Birmingham Vangeli

VIOLA, ASSOCIATE MUSICIAN
Jenny Sweetman

CELLO
Mitch Maxwell, *The Catherine Brackbill Principal Cello Chair*
Shawna Hamilton, Assistant Principal
Eric Forman
Vilma Peguero
Philip Taggart
Sara Hood^

CELLO, ASSOCIATE MUSICIANS
Hamin Kim
Jinsun Choi

BASS
William Gowen, Principal
Mike Lelevich, Assistant Principal
Stephen Brown
Kirby Nunez

FLUTE
Helen Blackburn, Principal
Ebonee Thomas

PICCOLO
Ebonee Thomas

OBOE
Gina Ford, *The Eleanor Ford Penrose Principal Oboe Chair*
Stewart Williams

ENGLISH HORN
Stewart Williams

CLARINET
Kenneth Krause, Principal
Danny Goldman
Forest Aten

BASS CLARINET
Forest Aten

BASSOON
John Searcy^, Principal
Shannon Highland

HORN
Katie Wolber, *The Linda VanSickle Principal Horn Chair*
Heather Test^
Gerald Wood^
Brian Brown

TRUMPET
John Holt, Principal
Rick Bogard

TROMBONE
Ian Maser,
The Cece and Ford Lacy Principal Trombone Chair
Tony Baker
Eric Swanson

BASS TROMBONE
Eric Swanson

TUBA/CIMBASSO
Jeff Baker, Principal

TIMPANI
Deborah Mashburn, *The Joan S. Reisch Principal Timpani Chair*

PERCUSSION
Joseph Ferraro^, Principal
Drew Lang^

HARP
Barbara Biggers^, Principal

PERSONNEL MANAGER
Brad Wagner

LIBRARIAN
Shannon Highland

^2021/2022 Season Substitute