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THE DALLAS OPERA ANNOUNCES ITS 65TH ANNIVERSARY 2022|2023 SEASON FEATURING FOUR NEW-TO-DALLAS PRODUCTIONS

Plus Family Operas, Ying Fang in Recital, and FREE *People's Choice* Concert

Subscription Renewals Begin Today
New Subscriptions On Sale Friday, April 15

Dallas – (3/17/2022) Programming for **The Dallas Opera**'s 2022/2023 Season was announced today by Ian Derrer, The Dallas Opera's Kern Wildenthal General Director and CEO, and Emmanuel Villaume, the Mrs. Eugene McDermott Music Director, in celebration of the company's 65th Anniversary.

The season features four new-to-Dallas mainstage productions—Verdi's dramatic ***Rigoletto***, Humperdinck's charming ***Hansel and Gretel***, Wagner's epic ***Das Rheingold***, and Mozart's mischievous comedy ***Così fan tutte***—plus its annual Titus Family recital, this year featuring soprano **Ying Fang**; a free season-opening ***People's Choice*** **concert** in the fall; two family operas: ***The Billy Goats Gruff*** and ***The Elixir of Love****;* the biennial **Lone Star Vocal Competition**; and the annual **Hart Institute for Women Conductors Showcase Concert**. The Dallas Opera also salutes its Chorus Master Alexander Rom, who marks his final season with the company after more than 30 years.

“The past two years have taught us that people’s appetite for grand opera has never been greater,” said General Director and CEO **Ian Derrer**. “First-rate singing, lavish and imaginative productions, a renowned orchestra and chorus—audiences will enjoy them all in TDO’s 65th Anniversary celebration. Four spectacular new-to-Dallas productions of classic operas—all absent from our repertoire for more than a decade—and more than a dozen TDO debuts, plus the exquisite Ying Fang in recital make this a season to truly savor. And for our renewing and new subscribers who purchase season tickets by June 30, there will be no subscription-price increase. We invite you to join us!”

Verdi’s powerful ***Rigoletto*** opens the season with the TDO debuts: baritone **George Gagnidze**, who brings his “confident, imposing presence” (*The New York Times*) to the title role, and rising star American soprano **Madison Leonard,** who has been hailed for her “freshness and honesty” in the role of Gilda. Tenor **René Barbera** (*The Pearl Fishers*, 2021/2022) sings the role of The Duke of Mantua in a new-to-Dallas co-production with the Atlanta and Houston Grand operas, directed by Tomer Zvulun and conducted by Emmanuel Villaume, with sets by Erhard Rom, and costumes by Jessica Jahn (TDO debut). (*October 8, 12, 14 and 16(m), 2022*)

Hansel and Gretel, based on the classic fairytale and last presented by the company two decades ago, is composer Engelbert Humperdinck’s most famous work. Perfect for audiences of all ages and sung in English, *Hansel and Gretel* brings back soprano **Elena Villalón** (*Flight*, 2021/2022), as Gretel, and marks the TDO debut of countertenor **Kangmin Justin Kim**, who brings his “striking vocal purity” (*Financial Times*) to the role of Hansel. The great soprano **Patricia Racette** sings the roles of both the Witch and the Mother, and baritone **Mark Delavan** is the Father, under the baton of Emmanuel Villaume in a production from LA Opera. Directed and designed by Doug Fitch. *(October 28, 30(m), November 2, and 5, 2022)*

“We are all extremely excited for this next season, our 65th,” said Music Director **Emmanuel Villaume**. “It is one of the best we have ever planned, and it will give to our community world-class performances. We are also proud of the latest achievements of our orchestra—and know they will shine even more in this extraordinary repertoire.”

Wagner’s ***Das Rheingold*** returns to The Dallas Opera stage for the first time in 25 years in a new production from The Atlanta Opera. American bass-baritone **Nicholas Brownlee** (*La bohème*, 2018/2019) stars as Wotan, while South African soprano **Amanda Echalaz**—a “clear-flowing, nimble voice” (*The New York Times*) makes her TDO debut as Fricka, and “feisty, rich-voiced” (*The New York Times*) American soprano **Karen Slack** —winner of a 2022 Sphinx Medal of Excellence—makes her Dallas Opera debut as Freia. Tenor **Barry Banks** sings the role of Mime, bass-baritone **Michael Mayes** sings Alberich, and tenor **Brenton Ryan** is Loge. Rounding out the cast are **Lindsay Ammann** as Erda, **Diana Newman** as Woglinde, **Hannah Ludwig** as Welgunde, and a host of artists making their TDO debuts: bass-baritone **Peixin Chen** as Fasolt, bass **Soloman Howard** as Fafner, bass-baritone **Joseph Barron** as Donner, tenor **Robert Stahley** as Froh, and mezzo-soprano **Jennifer Feinstein** as Flosshilde. Tomer Zvulun directs, and Emmanuel Villaume conducts. Set design is by Erhard Rom, with costume design by Mattie Ulrich in her TDO debut. *(February 10, 12(m), 15, and 18, 2023)*

Mozart’s comical and incisive ***Così fan tutte*** closes the season in 2023, bringing a “magnificent” (*San Francisco Chronicle*) new production from San Francisco Opera and Michael Cavanagh. One of Mozart’s three Da Ponte operas, *Così* stars sopranos **Sara Gartland** as Fiordiligi and **Diana Newman** as Despina; mezzo-soprano **Elizabeth DeShong**—in her TDO debut—as Dorabella; baritone **Lucas Meachem** (*The Barber of Seville*, 2021/2022) as Guglielmo and tenor **David Portillo** as Ferrando; and baritone **Rod Gilfry**, as Don Alfonso. Elizabeth Askren—an alumna of the second TDO Hart Institute for Women Conductors—makes her TDO debut leading The Dallas Opera Orchestra. Set design is by

Erhard Rom, with costume design by Constance Hoffmann. *(March 24, 26(m), 29 and April 1, 2023)*

Dallas Opera Chorus Master **Alexander Rom** prepares The Dallas Opera Chorus for *Rigoletto* and *Così fan tutte* in his final season with the company. **Derrer** added, "Maestro Rom has been a fixture of The Dallas Opera's artistic team for more than three decades, leading our outstanding chorus in an impressive array of operatic styles, genres, and languages. He leaves an indelible mark on TDO through the many lives he has shaped with his immense knowledge of, and passion for, great singing. He will be greatly missed, and we look forward to celebrating him throughout our 65th anniversary season."

TDO Connections work continues in 2022/2023 as well, with extended explorations both online and in person accompanying *Rigoletto* and *Così fan tutte.* Details will be announced later this year.

Family operas return in the fall and spring of 2022/2023 with afternoon performances of ***The Billy Goats Gruff*** and ***The Elixir of Love***. Shorter run time and family content are suitable for all ages. *(October 29 and November 6, 2022; February 5 and March 25, 2023)*

As a gift to Texas audiences, the season begins with a free ***People's Choice*** **concert**, which will take place on Saturday, October 1. Programming and ticket availability will be announced at a later date.

The Dallas Opera's annual **Robert E. and Jean Ann Titus Family Recital** returns on Sunday, January 15, 2023, and will feature renowned soprano **Ying Fang**. With "a voice that can stop time, pure and rich and open and consummately expressive" (*Financial Times),* Fang and pianist Ken Noda will offer an intimate program at Moody Performance Hall.

The **Hart Institute for Women Conductors Showcase Concert**, featuring participants in the 2022 class of rising talent from around the world leading The Dallas Opera Orchestra, is set for Saturday, January 28, 2023. Participants and faculty—as well as which events are open to the public—will be announced at a later date.

The biennial **Lone Star Vocal Competition**—which took place virtually in 2021—returns "live" on Friday, March 31, 2023.

Subscription renewals for the 2022/2023 season are **available now**. New subscriptions will be available starting Friday, April 15, 2022. Four mainstage series packages are available to subscribers, with the family operas and recital available as add-ons before single tickets go on sale July 29.

Subscription packages start at $89 for all four operas, with subscribers saving up to 30% over the cost of purchasing operas individually. Subscription price freeze guaranteed through June 30, 2022.

DOWNLOAD IMAGES

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This link can also be found on TDO's updated press page.

THE DALLAS OPERA'S 2022|2023 SEASON

RIGOLETTO by Giuseppe Verdi

Emmanuel Villaume, conductor
The Dallas Opera Orchestra and Chorus

Rigoletto	George Gagnidze*
Gilda	Madison Leonard*
The Duke of Mantua	René Barbera
Maddelena	Nadia Krasteva
Sparafucile	Raymond Aceto
Count Monterone	Nicholas Newton*
Marullo	Erik Earl Larson*
Borsa	Julius Ahn*
Giovanna	Alison Bolshoi*
Count Ceprano	Malcolm Payne Jr.*
Countess Ceprano	Jocelyn Hansen*
Page	Courtney Maina
Director	Tomer Zvulun
Set Designer	Erhard Rom
Costume Designer	Jessica Jahn*
Lighting Designer	Robert Wierzel
Chorus Master	Alexander Rom

The Dallas Opera co-production with Houston Grand Opera and The Atlanta Opera
Sung in Italian with projected English titles

PERFORMANCE DATES

Saturday, October 8, at **8PM** - *Linda and Mitch Hart Season Opening Night Performance*
Wednesday, October 12, at 7:30PM
Friday, October 14, at 7:30PM
Sunday, October 16, at 2PM

HANSEL AND GRETEL by Engelbert Humperdinck
Emmanuel Villaume, conductor
The Dallas Opera Orchestra

Hansel	Kangmin Justin Kim*
Gretel	Elena Villalón
The Witch and Mother	Patricia Racette
Father	Mark Delavan
Sandman	Lindsay Metzger
Dew Fairy	Gabrielle Gilliam
Director	Doug Fitch*
Set and Costume Designer	Doug Fitch*
Original Lighting Designer	Duane Schuler

Production from LA Opera
Sung in English with projected English titles

PERFORMANCE DATES

Friday, October 28, at 7:30PM
Sunday, October 30, at 2PM

Wednesday, November 2, at 7:30PM
Saturday, November 5, at 7:30PM

Family Opera
THE BILLY GOATS GRUFF
Music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Gaetano Donizetti, and Gioachino Rossini

Sung in English

PERFORMANCE DATES

Saturday, October 29, 2022, at 2PM
Sunday, February 5, 2023, at 2PM

Family Opera
THE ELIXIR OF LOVE by Gaetano Donizetti

Sung in English

PERFORMANCE DATES

Sunday, November 6, 2022, at 2PM
Saturday, March 25, 2023, at 2PM

Moody Performance Hall

The Robert E. and Jean Ann Titus Family Recital
Ying Fang, Soprano
Ken Noda, Pianist

PERFORMANCE DATE

Sunday, January 15, 2023, at 2PM

HART INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN CONDUCTORS SHOWCASE CONCERT

PERFORMANCE DATE

Saturday, January 28, 2023, at 7:30PM

DAS RHEINGOLD by Richard Wagner
Emmanuel Villaume, conductor
The Dallas Opera Orchestra

Wotan	Nicholas Brownlee
Alberich	Michael Mayes
Loge	Brenton Ryan
Fricka	Amanda Echalaz*
Mime	Barry Banks
Erda	Lindsay Ammann
Freia	Karen Slack*
Froh	Robert Stahley*
Donner	Joseph Barron*
Fasolt	Peixin Chen*
Fafner	Soloman Howard*
Woglinde	Diana Newman
Welgunde	Hannah Ludwig
Flosshilde	Jennifer Feinstein*
Director	Tomer Zvulun
Set & Projection Designer	Erhard Rom
Costume Designer	Mattie Ullrich*
Lighting Designer	Robert Wierzel

New production from The Atlanta Opera
Sung in German with projected English titles

PERFORMANCE DATES

Friday, February 10, 2023, at 7:30PM
Sunday, February 12, 2023, at 2PM
Wednesday, February 15, 2023, at 7:30PM
Saturday, February 18, 2023, at 7:30PM

COSÌ FAN TUTTE by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Elizabeth Askren, conductor*^
The Dallas Opera Orchestra and Chorus

Fiordiligi	Sara Gartland
Dorabella	Elizabeth DeShong*
Ferrando	David Portillo
Guglielmo	Lucas Meachem
Don Alfonso	Rod Gilfry
Despina	Diana Newman
Original Director	Michael Cavanagh
Set Designer	Erhard Rom
Costume Designer	Constance Hoffman
Lighting Designer	Jane Cox
Chorus Master	Alexander Rom

Production from San Francisco Opera
Sung in Italian with projected English titles

PERFORMANCE DATES

Friday, March 24, 2023, at 7:30PM
Sunday, March 26, 2023, at 2PM

Wednesday, March 29, 2023, at 7:30PM
Saturday, April 1, 2023, at 7:30PM

LONE STAR VOCAL COMPETITION

PERFORMANCE DATE

Friday, March 31, 2023, at 7:30PM

All performances take place at Winspear Opera House unless noted.

*The Dallas Opera debut
^Alumna of Hart Institute for Women Conductors

Programs and artists subject to change

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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 U.S. debuts 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 Hart Institute for Women Conductors, TDO Network, free public simulcasts, acclaimed art song recitals, 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.