



THE  
OPERA  
FOUNDATION

37TH ANNUAL GALA

2023

37

# C.J. Lawrence

INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT



PROUD SUPPORTER OF  
THE OPERA FOUNDATION

[CJLAWRENCE.COM](http://CJLAWRENCE.COM)

Dear Friends of the Opera Foundation,

Welcome to our 37th annual Opera Gala! Since 1986 the Opera Foundation has supported 93 young American singers at our partnering opera houses. Our programs continue to be a steppingstone to launch real international careers. We call our programs “scholarships”, but in essence they are the first contract many of our singers get to launch their singing careers. Our audition in February was highly competitive. 5 new singers were awarded contracts to work at our partnering opera houses for the 2023/24 season. We are proud to announce an expansion of our programs to two new opera houses: Teatro Real in Madrid and the Vienna State Opera.



We are happy to welcome Michael Kraus from the Wiener Saatsoper here tonight to announce the new program. Michael is well known to us as a great Baritone but now also runs the Opera Studio of the Vienna Staatsoper. Ute Sander of the Opera Studio will attend our next audition on January 19th, 2024 for the first time to select a young American singer for the 2024/25 season. Meanwhile in Madrid, mezzo-soprano Elissa Pfaender, winner of the Amber Capital Scholarship at the Teatro Real has already taken residence, thanks to our new friend, artistic director Joan Matabosch.

We are excited to welcome Guests of Honor Quinn Kelsey and Mattia Olivieri tonight, two exciting Met stars who inspire our singers. We also welcome back Dietmar Schwarz, the Intendant of the Deutsche Oper Berlin. Our singers continue to enjoy the unique environment created by Dietmar’s team under the direction of Christoph Seufferle. The ensemble currently includes 14 of our singers. We also welcome back our friend Serge Dorny, the Staatsintendant of the Bayerische Saatsoper in Munich. Our singers in Munich continue to enjoy an exceptional experience at the Opera Studio there, under the leadership of Tobias Truniger.

We begin our musical program with two former winners of our Munich-Scholarship. Both mezzo-soprano Emily Sierra and baritone Gabriel Rollinson have grown immensely under the artistic direction of the leadership team at the Bayerische Saatsoper. We will also hear the exciting tenor Tom Cilluffo, who split his time between the Teatro Regio di Torino and the Deutsche Oper Berlin during the last season.

On behalf of the board of trustees and our Executive Director, Liz Walbroel, I thank you for your continued support.

Wishing you an enjoyable evening!

Bernhard Koeppe  
President, The Opera Foundation

Dear Friends of the Opera Foundation,



This season, a long-held dream comes true for us: in June, we finally present John Adams' NIXON IN CHINA, the most important opera of the past decades, in Berlin. One of the reasons this new production is important to me is that it underlines the connection between the Deutsche Oper Berlin with the vibrant opera scene in the United States. The Opera Foundation's activities have not only maintained this connection for almost four decades, but continuously developed it further – through visits and personal contacts, but also through the many young singers from the USA who were able to lay the foundations

for successful stage careers thanks to the fellowships of the Opera Foundation. Thus, our new production of NIXON IN CHINA is also a tribute to your activities, given that Thomas Lehman, Seth Carico and Kyle Miller, three of the featured singers, are all former fellows of the Foundation.

That, too, is a consequence of your work, after all: many of the young singers who arrived on our doorstep thanks to the Opera Foundation have found an artistic home at the Deutsche Oper Berlin. Vocalists such as Thomas Lehman and Meechot Marrero have left their mark on our program during recent years – what started as an apprenticeship of sorts has become a vital, lasting connection.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you wholeheartedly for this support. We appreciate the importance of your efforts anew on every opera evening that we witness these young singers perform on our stage. It is most gratifying to see this support for young talent bear fruit – outstanding artistic achievements are its visible, audible reward.

The performance of NIXON IN CHINA now adds another chapter to the long history of our friendship, and I would be delighted to welcome you to the performances of this American masterwork at the Deutsche Oper Berlin.

See you soon at the Deutsche Oper Berlin!

Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dietmar Schwarz". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dietmar Schwarz  
Intendant, Deutsche Oper Berlin



**DEUTSCHE OPER BERLIN**

Dear Friends of the Opera Foundation,



For the past twelve years, we have been delighted to be a part of the collaboration between the Opera Foundation and the Bayerische Staatsoper. Our collaboration has proven to be very meaningful and rewarding in support for our Young Artist Program.

We have greatly appreciated your sponsorship of the mezzo-soprano, winner of the Metropolitan Opera National, Emily Sierra (2021/22), as well as baritone Gabriel Rollinson last season (2022/23) at the Bayerische Staatsoper in Munich, who will both be performing for you tonight. This year we welcome another promising young mezzo-soprano, Natalie Lewis, this year's winner of the 2023 Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition.

It has been wonderful to watch them prosper and excel at their work. These young American singers are highly talented and are prepared for an international career as opera singers all over the world, through our Young Artist Program. The origins of the Young Artist Program of the Bayerische Staatsoper - the Opernstudio - date back to the 1970s.

Our program typically runs one or two seasons and consists of role studies, voice lessons, acting and movement classes as well as language training. The fact that our program is completely integrated into the extensive performance schedule of the Bayerische Staatsoper with over forty different opera productions per year, gives our singers the invaluable experience to work side by side with the world's leading opera singers, conductors and stage directors. We are incredibly grateful for the support from the Opera Foundation in finding young American singers that we have welcomed to Munich over the past seasons. On behalf of myself and my colleagues at the Bayerische Staatsoper, I wish you all the best and look forward to welcoming many of you to our performances in Munich.

Yours,

Serge Dorny  
Staatsintendant, Bayerische Staatsoper

**BAYERISCHE  
STAATSOPER**

Dear Friends of the Opera Foundation,



In partnership with the New York Opera Foundation, our collaboration has fostered connections with numerous budding American artists. Since 2020, we have been privileged to host three talented artists in Amsterdam.

The invaluable support and the opportunity for intensive training at the Dutch National Opera Studio have paved the way for these young singers to secure coveted full-time positions in renowned European opera houses. This collaboration has become a crucial launchpad, offering an exhilarating start to their budding careers.

This season we welcomed Jake Ingbar, a gifted counter tenor, in association with the Opera Foundation New York. Jake will assume the role of Narciso in a new production of Handel's *Agrippina*, directed by Barrie Kosky, set to captivate audiences in 2024. He is the first full-time counter tenor to join our program from the Opera Foundation.

Tenor Ian Castro, completed two transformative years at our Amsterdam studio in July 2023. His training culminated in a successful debut as Tamino in Bern, where he is now a cherished member of the Opera House. In the coming months, he will debut as Romeo and Belmonte, a testament to his growth and talent.

Another tenor, Jose Romero, who joined our studio until July 2021, embarked immediately on a remarkable journey. His dedication led him to a fest contract in Hannover opera, where he has flourished in roles such as Lensky, Nemorino, and Rodolfo. This season, he makes his debut at ENO, showcasing his versatility as Alfredo, while also joining the Neue Philharmonie München and City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. Notably, his talent was recognized with the third prize in the prestigious Hans Gabor Belvedere competition of 2023.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the Opera Foundation for their unwavering commitment to nurturing young American talents. Their dedication has been instrumental in shaping the futures of these gifted singers. We are also thankful for the support from the Melinda and William J vanden Heuvel Foundation, whose generous contributions have further fortified our mission. We look forward to our continuing journey with the foundation in future years.

Rosemary Joshua  
Artistic Director, Dutch National Opera Studio

**DUTCH  
NATIONAL  
OPERA &  
BALLET**



## THE CURT ENGELHORN SCHOLARSHIP

The Foundation thanks the family for supporting a scholarship for 28 years bearing the name of Curt Engelhorn, the prominent German philanthropist. Thanks to your support, an entire generation of young American opera talent have launched their singing careers. Your support has had a major impact on the Arts and strengthened long standing cultural ties across continents.

### WINNERS SINCE 1996

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BAVAT MAROM / <i>Soprano</i>	Curtis School of Music	1996
CATHERINE CANGIANO / <i>Soprano</i>	Juilliard School	1997
MARK TEVIS / <i>Tenor</i>	Mannes School of Music	1998
ANNE MARIE SEAGER / <i>Mezzo-Soprano</i>	Juilliard School	1999
LAURE DE MARCELLUS / <i>Mezzo-Soprano</i>	Tel Aviv School of Music	2000
RAQUELA SHEERAN / <i>Soprano</i>	Juilliard School	2001
HAROLD WILSON / <i>Bass-Baritone</i>	Indiana University	2002
JESSICA MILLER / <i>Soprano</i>	Manhattan School of Music	2003
CHERI ROSE KATZ / <i>Soprano</i>	Universitaet Salzburg	2004
MELISSA SHIPPEN / <i>Soprano</i>	Juilliard School	2005
NICOLE PICCOLOMINI / <i>Mezzo-Soprano</i>	Academy of Vocal Arts	2006
JULIA BENZINGER / <i>Mezzo-Soprano</i>	Royal Northern College of Music	2007
ERICA MILLER / <i>Soprano</i>	University of Southern California	2008
JAMES KEE / <i>Baritone</i>	Curtis School of Music	2009
REBECCA JO LOEB / <i>Mezzo-Soprano</i>	Juilliard School	2010
KATHRYN LEWEK / <i>Soprano</i>	Eastman School of Music	2011
ANDREW HARRIS / <i>Bass</i>	West Virginia University	2012
MATTHEW NEWLIN / <i>Tenor</i>	Chicago College of the Performing Arts	2013
THOMAS LEHMAN / <i>Baritone</i>	Eastman School of Music	2014
NICOLE HASLETT / <i>Soprano</i>	Manhattan School of Music	2015
ABIGAIL LEVIS / <i>Mezzo-Soprano</i>	Moores School of Music	2016
DEAN MURPHY / <i>Baritone</i>	Yale University	2017
AMBER FASQUELLE / <i>Mezzo-Soprano</i>	Cincinnati Conservatory of Music	2018
KARIS TUCKER / <i>Mezzo-Soprano</i>	University of Cincinnati	2019
REBECCA PEDERSEN / <i>Soprano</i>	Juilliard School	2020
GINA PERREGRINO / <i>Mezzo-Soprano</i>	Manhattan School of Music	2021
KYLE MILLER / <i>Baritone</i>	Juilliard School	2022
CHRISTIAN SIMMONS / <i>Bass-Baritone</i>	University of Maryland	2023

## AMBER CAPITAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Scholarship was established in 2008 with the generous support of Joseph Oughourlian of the investment management firm, Amber Capital LLC.

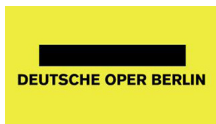
### WINNERS SINCE 2008

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DIEGO MATAMOROS / <i>Baritone</i>	Yale University	2008
DOMINIC MICHAEL ARMSTRONG / <i>Tenor</i>	Julliard School	2009
JOHN PAUL HUCKLE / <i>Bass</i>	Boston University	2010
MATTHEW PEÑA / <i>Tenor</i>	Manhattan School of Music	2011
RACHEL HAUGE / <i>Mezzo-Soprano</i>	Boston University	2011
ANNIE ROSEN / <i>Mezzo-Soprano</i>	Mannes School of Music	2012
SCOTT JOHNSON / <i>Baritone</i>	University of Wisconsin	2012
RYAN MILSTEAD / <i>Baritone</i>	University of Illinois	2013
SAMANTHA KORBEBY / <i>Mezzo-Soprano</i>	Manhattan School of Music	2014
KATE FRUCHTERMAN / <i>Soprano</i>	Mannes School of Music	2015
CULLEN GANDY / <i>Tenor</i>	Julliard School	2016
JOSHUA SANDERS / <i>Tenor</i>	Manhattan School of Music	2017
ASHLEY MILANESE / <i>Soprano</i>	Curtis Institute of Music	2018
GABRIEL WERNICK / <i>Baritone</i>	Conservatorio Luigi Cherubini	2019
GINA PERREGRINO / <i>Mezzo-Soprano</i>	Manhattan School of Music	2020
ELISSA PFAENDER / <i>Mezzo-Soprano</i>	Westminster Choir College	2023

### PARTNER OPERA HOUSES

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37TH ANNUAL GALA 2023

# Musical Program

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PERFORMANCES BY

2021/22 WINNER

**Emily Sierra**

Mezzo-Soprano

2022/23 WINNER

**Gabriel Rollinson**

Baritone

2022/23 WINNER

**Thomas Cilluffo**

Tenor

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2023 GUESTS OF HONOR

**Quinn Kelsey**

Baritone

**Mattia Olivieri**

Baritone

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Craig Ketter

Piano

Kavanagh

Jazz Musicians

Mr. Kelsey and Mr. Olivieri sing courtesy of

**The Metropolitan Opera**

THE OPERA FOUNDATION'S  
37<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GALA

We congratulate this year's scholarship  
recipients and welcome guests of honor

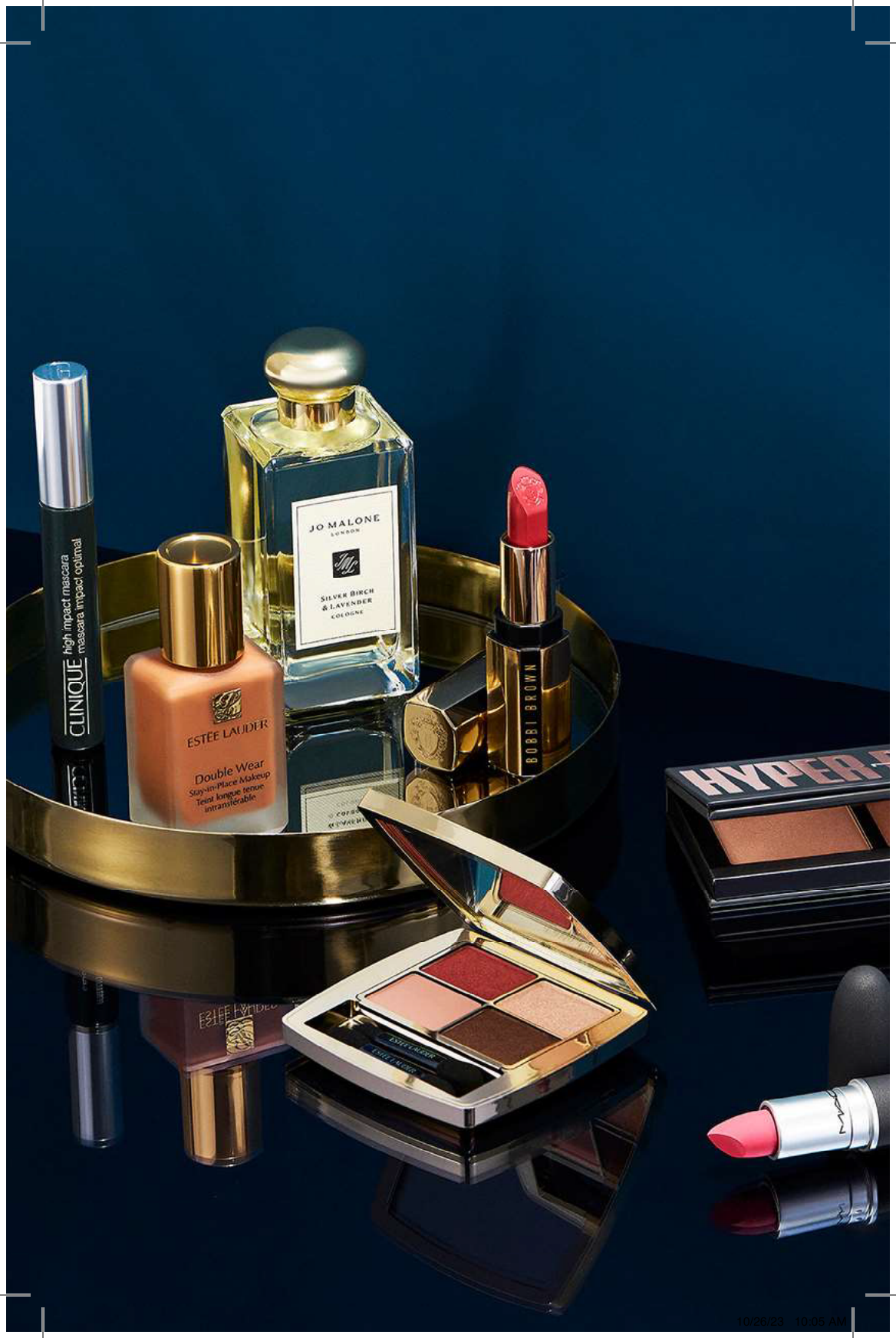
*QUINN KELSEY*

*MATTIA OLIVIERI*

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2023 GUEST OF HONOR

## Quinn Kelsey / Baritone



Hawaii native Quinn Kelsey is well known to opera fans in New York. He began in opera in 1991 as a chorus member with the Hawaii Opera Theatre. His 30-year operatic career has taken him all over the world. He has become an audience favorite in his many roles here at the Met.

In mid-June, the baritone made his long-awaited debut as the baritone soloist in Brahms' *Ein Deutsches Requiem* with soprano Lisette Oropesa, conductor Yannick Nézet-Séguin and the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. On the heels of Simon, Quinn added yet another new Verdi to the list. Performances of *Un Ballo in Maschera* at the Metropolitan Opera run until late November. Quinn joins former Opera Foundation guests of honor, soprano Angela Meade, tenor Charles Castronovo and Carlo Rizzi at the Metropolitan Opera in *Un Ballo*.

The Kelsey clan will be in Europe starting in late November, and on through the holidays until early March of 2024. First, a house debut with the Teatro Real - Madrid in a new production of *Rigoletto*. In the new year 2024, the baritone will make yet another role debut, this time as Filippo Visconti in Bellini's *Beatrice di Tenda* with the Opéra National de Paris. Quinn is excited to finally return to Paris after a seven-year hiatus since *Rigoletto* in 2016.

2023 GUEST OF HONOR

## Mattia Olivieri / Baritone



Mattia Olivieri, is new to us in New York and is making his Metropolitan Opera debut this week on November 16 in *Florencia en el Amazonas*. Mattia was born in Sassuolo (Italy) in 1984, and started at a very young age his vocal studies at the G.B. Martini Music Conservatory in Bologna and at the G.B. Pergolesi Music Conservatory in Fermo, then specializing under the baritone Maurizio Leoni in Bologna.

This season he is also performing in *Le Nozze di Figaro* at both the Bayerische Staatsoper in Munich and the Royal Opera House in London. He performs in *Il barbiere di Siviglia* at the Deutsche Oper Berlin as well as in *Lucia di Lammermoor* at the Opéra National de Paris.

In 2024 he returns to Italy at Teatro di San Carlo in Naples in Verdi's *I Vespri Siciliani*. Then he travels to Teatro Carlo Felice in Genoa for performances in Bellini's *Beatrice di Tenda*. In the Spring he returns to La Scala in Milan for roles in *Cavalleria Rusticana e Pagliacci*, followed by performances in *Don Pasquale*.



#### OPERA FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP 2021/22

### Emily Sierra / *Mezzo-Soprano*

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Rising star Cuban-American mezzo-soprano Emily Sierra, alumna of The Juilliard School, was recently a finalist of the Operalia competition in Latvia, and a grand finals winner in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. In the 2022/23 season, she completed her second year of the Opera Studio of the Bayerische Staatsoper, Munich performing roles through the year including Hänsel und Gretel, Second Maid Elektra, Un musico Manon Lescaut, Soeur Mathilde Dialogues des Carmelites and Chambermaid of the Bolkonskis War and Peace. From the 2023/24 season, Emily became a member of the Ensemble of the Bayerische Saatsoper. Emily was a finalist of the prestigious Operalia competition in 2022.



#### OPERA FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP 2022/23

### Gabriel Rollinson / *Baritone*

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In 2022, Gabriel Rollinson made his debut at the Bregenz Festival as Idreno in Haydn's "Armida" and in the 2022/23 season made his first appearances at the Bayerische Staatsoper. He also performed at the Staatsoper Unter den Linden the same year and premiered in numerous works including roles at the Dutch National Opera and the Salzburg Festival.

In 2023, Gabriel joined the ensemble at the Staatstheater Mainz, first appearing as Moralès in "Carmen," Silvio in "Pagliacci," and Hans Scholl in "Weiße Rose" by U. Zimmermann. Gabriel received degrees from the Manhattan School of Music among others. He was a member of the Opera Studios at Opera Frankfurt before joining the Opera Studio at the Bayerische Saatsoper thanks to the Opera Foundation support. In 2023 Gabriel was a semi-finalist at the Operalia competition.

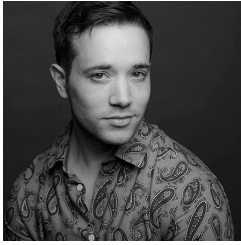


#### OPERA FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP 2022/23

### Thomas Cilluffo / *Tenor*

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Tom Cilluffo is known for his powerful voice and impressive acting. Thanks to winning the Opera Foundation Scholarship, Tom had his European debut in 2022 with both Teatro Regio Torino and Deutsche Oper Berlin in productions such as Aïda, Die Zauberflöte, among others. In the US, he recently performed with the Santa Fe Opera, the Lakes Area Music Festival and at The Dallas Opera. Back in Germany, Tom made a triumphant last-minute debut as Bardolfo in Falstaff at the Staatsoper Stuttgart. Tom returns to Europe in early 2024 to sing various roles with the Royal Danish Theater in Copenhagen and at Deutsche Oper Berlin. Tom received degrees from the University of Michigan where he studied under the legendary tenor, George Shirley.



MELINDA & WILLIAM J VANDEN HEUVEL 2023/24

## Jake Ingbar / *Countertenor*

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Jake Ingbar is an alumnus of The Juilliard School and pursued his graduate studies at Rice University. As the winner of the Melinda and William J. vanden Heuvel Scholarship, Jake joins the Opera Studio of the Dutch National Opera for the 2023/24 Season.

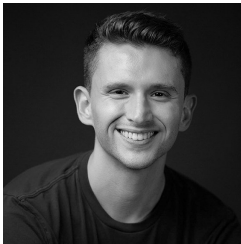


THE CURT ENGELHORN SCHOLARSHIP 2023/24

## Christian Simmons / *Bass-Baritone*

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Christian Simmons earned a Bachelor of Arts from Morgan State University and Master of Music from the University of Maryland. As the winner of the Curt Engelhorn Scholarship, He joins the Deutsche Oper Berlin for the 2023/24 Season.



BETTERGUARDS SCHOLARSHIP 2023/24

## Chance Jonas O'Toole / *Tenor*

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Chance Jonas O'Toole is a graduate of The Juilliard School, where he received his Bachelor's and Master's in Music. As the winner of the Betterguards Scholarship, Chance joins the Deutsche Oper Berlin for the 2023/24 Season.



AMBER CAPITAL SCHOLARSHIP 2023/24

## Elissa Pfaender / *Mezzo-Soprano*

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Elissa Pfaender holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the prestigious Oberlin Conservatory of Music, and her Master of Music from Westminster Choir College. As the winner of the Amber Capital Scholarship, Elissa joins the Teatro Real Madrid for the 2023/24 Season.



MUNICH SCHOLARSHIP 2023/24

## Natalie Lewis / *Mezzo-Soprano*

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Natalie Lewis received her Master of Music degree in Vocal Arts from The Juilliard School. As the winner of the Opera Foundation's Munich-Scholarship, Natalie Lewis joins the Opera Studio of the Bayerische Staatsoper for the 2023/24 Season.

## HONORARY COMMITTEE

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Louise Chagnon-Bucheit  
Don Crawshaw  
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Alexander T. Ercklentz  
Guenther Greiner  
Wassila Guiga-Lotfi  
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Rosemary Joshua  
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Sophie de Lint  
Yvonne Logan  
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Claudia Mahler  
Joseph Oughourlian  
Dietmar Schwarz  
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## THE OPERA FOUNDATION — TRUSTEES

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Cecilia Dupire  
Bernhard Koepp / *President*  
Philip Lasser  
Sherif Lotfi

Dr. Daniel Mahler  
Santiago Trigo  
Elizabeth Walbröl / *Executive Director*  
Ashley von Perfall



## HISTORY OF THE OPERA FOUNDATION

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The Opera Foundation was originally launched in 1986. Its purpose is to support young American opera singers abroad via scholarships and study grants and to foster cross cultural ties between young opera singers around the world. The first scholarship program was established in 1986 with the Deutsche Oper Berlin, thanks to the late Professor Götz Friedrich. In 2008, a second scholarship program was established with Teatro Regio Torino, thanks to Maestro Gianandrea Noseda. In 2012, we announced a 3rd scholarship program with the Bayerische Staatsoper in Munich. In 2020, we announced a collaboration with the Opera Studio of the Dutch National Opera in Amsterdam and in 2023 two new collaborations with the Teatro Real in Madrid and the Vienna State Opera. The Foundation has awarded 93 scholarships since inception, including study grants for voice coaching and linguistic purposes. The Opera Foundation is proud of the fact that many of our singers have gone on to build long lasting careers in the operatic world.

The idea to establish the first scholarship program was the brainchild of Professor Götz Friedrich, the legendary “Intendant” and creative force behind the Deutsche Oper Berlin. Professor Friedrich, along with his American-born wife, the soprano, Karan Armstrong, together with an enthusiastic group of New York-based supporters, envisioned this program for young American singers as a cross-cultural bridge between the United States and Germany. In 2008 this cross-cultural bridge was extended to include Italy, and in 2020, to the Netherlands.

For 38 years, the Foundation’s supporters have expanded to include individuals and corporations from all over the world, drawing from the rich cultural and corporate diversity of New York City and its environment. It is the Opera Foundation’s goal to continue expanding its scholarship activities where it believes it can make a difference in the development of young opera talent, in the spirit of cultural exchange between the United States and beyond.

## PAST GUESTS OF HONOR

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Aigul Akhmetshina / Karan Armstrong / Jamie Barton / Hildegard Behrens / Joseph Calleja / Andrea Carè / Francisco Casanova / Charles Castronovo / Vladimir Chernov / Diana Damrau / Ghena Dimitrova / Plácido Domingo / Alexander T. Ercklentz / Simon Estes / Barbara Frittoli / Denyse Graves / Günther Groissböck / Kirsten Harms / Ben Heppner / Kristan Johannsson / Kathryn Lewek / Federica Lombardi / Dr. Bernd von Maltzan / Eva Marton / Maestro Kurt Masur / Angela Meade / Sherrill Milnes / Catherine Naglestad / Danielle De Niese / Rene Pape / Luciano Pavarotti / Susanna Phillips / Hermann Prey / Samuel Ramey / Maestro Carlo Rizzi / Maestro Julius Rudel / Matti Salminen / Bryn Terfel / Maestro Christian Thielemann / Joseph Volpe / Bernd Weikl / Robert Wilson / Gösta Winberg

## SOPRANO KATIE LEWEK BREAKS NEW RECORD AT THE MET

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On June 3rd, our soprano, Katie Lewek, broke the record for the most performances of the Queen of the Night at the Metropolitan Opera. 50 performances in total! No soprano had ever achieved this milestone during the long history of the Met Opera.

Katie's story as the world's foremost Queen almost did not happen! We remember her audition well. During the audition, the Deutsche Opera Director, Christoph Seufferle asked Lewek to sing the famed aria, "Der Hölle Rache." But Lewek had only prepared Zerbinetta as her German aria. To Lewek, Seufferle's request was simply out of the question. "She said, 'I'm sorry, that's not on my rep list,' but he asked her to do it anyway because apparently, they were looking for someone to sing the Queen. Katie was a newly minted coloratura soprano, just out of school, and a very famous teacher, Marilyn Horne, told her she was a lyric coloratura. She also said never to touch Queen of the Night with a 10-foot pole," Lewek told OperaWire in a recent interview. "I had it in my head the Queen wasn't for me, but Christoph is yelling from the back of the hall, 'Let me get this straight; you're a coloratura soprano, and you don't know Queen of the Night?!'" Seufferle, in a huff and annoyed by Lewek's refusals, settled for Zerbinetta as the soprano's coloratura showcase, but told the singer in no uncertain terms to learn Queen of the Night, and come back in 20 minutes and at least sing a few bars from the famous aria. This happened and the opera director from Berlin decided on the spot Lewek had the makings of a great Queen without ever hearing the extremely difficult aria.



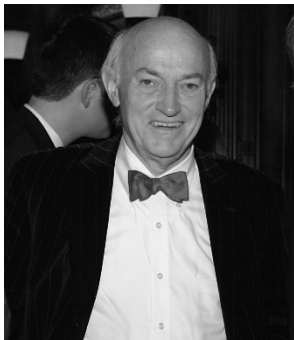
Lewek was selected and received the Opera Foundations prestigious "Curt Engelhorn Scholarship" to work and learn under Christoph Seufferle for the next year at Deutsche Oper Berlin. With it came a multi-year contract at the Deutsche Oper Berlin and the rest is history. To this day, Seufferle tells the story of how the reigning Queen refused to sing Queen of the Night for him. Katie Lewek has performed this famous role over 300 times all around the world, at the Bayerische Staatsoper, Covent Garden, the Wiener Staatsoper, Teatro Real Madrid, Opera Leipzig, The Royal Danish Opera, the Washington National Opera, and the Met Opera among others.

The new production of the Zauberflöte by Simon McBurney is a breath of fresh air for long time opera goers at the Met. At curtain call, the house lights were raised when our Queen took her bow for the 50th time, an emotional moment for all in attendance. Following Katie Lewek's historic performance that day, we celebrated together with the Zauberflöte's cast, including Thomas Oliemans, Harold Wilson (also an Opera Foundation winner from 2002), and Ashley Emerson on the terrace of Opera Foundation's President, Bernhard Koepp at the Ansonia, a short walk-up Broadway from the Met. Together with many friends and supporters of the Opera Foundations and Katie's parents, teachers and mentors we toasted our Queen! Long live the Queen, brava Katie Lewek!!

## REMEMBERING HAYES KAVANAGH & KATHERINE FÜRSTENBERG-RAETTIG

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In 2023 we lost two of our greatest supporters. Katherine was a long-time trustee and supporter of the Opera Foundation. She always had a keen interest in music and threw her energies into supporting and helping singers and musicians whenever and wherever she could. Her house in Frankfurt was always open to the many artists from the Frankfurt Opera, some of whom stayed with her for weeks and became good friends, including former guest of honor, Diana Damrau. Katherine had boundless energy and enthusiasm for the world of Opera - she will be sorely missed by so many.



Hayes Kavanagh was a close friend to many of us and together with his wife Tena, and son Giles, great supporters of the Opera Foundation. Hayes was an accomplished international lawyer but also a great jazz musician. Given his flawless linguistic abilities in German and Spanish, he loved to bring people together from different cultures. Guests of our Opera Gala remember Hayes best for his love of music and his many performances behind his double bass with his special group of jazz musicians which perform for us again tonight. Hayes will be dearly missed but his legacy lives on through his family, friends, and fellow musicians.

THE **O**PERA FOUNDATION

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support artists of the future.



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