

A large, stylized black number '30' is positioned in the upper left quadrant. A vibrant red ribbon graphic flows across the page, starting from the top right, looping around the '0', and continuing down the left side.

The  
Opera  
Foundation

**30<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala 2015**

# C.J. Lawrence

Investment Management

We congratulate  
the Opera Foundation  
on 30 years supporting the Arts.



Dear Friends,



Welcome to our 30th Anniversary Opera Gala!

Some 30 years ago a diverse group of opera lovers met not far from here, at the 21 Club, to establish an organization focusing on building long lasting 'opera bridges' between enthusiastic New York based supporters with an opera house, then isolated behind the 'iron curtain', in the former West-Berlin. In 1986 we established a single scholarship, which was awarded to a young Tenor from Hawaii, Warren Mok. After an impressive international career Warren Mok is today the artistic director of the Hong Kong Opera. Each scholarship, which is actually a one year singing contract with the opera house supports the singer for a full year abroad.

30 years later, we have supported a total of 60 singers and we are currently sending a group of 4 promising singers to our three partnering opera houses: Deutsche Oper Berlin, Teatro Regio di Torino, and the Bayerische Staatsoper in Munich. You will hear two of these singers tonight. Our annual auditions in New York are today well established among young graduates of the major music schools as an important launching pad for individual singing careers. Thanks to our supporters we have been able to support an entire generation of young American artists on their journey to become opera singers and to help sustain an art form which is an essential part of our culture.

On this occasion we would like to give a special mention to our first long-term supporter, The Ladenburg Foundation which has supported the "Curt Engelhorn Scholarship" at the Deutsche Oper Berlin for the past 20 years. Without this long term support we could not have expanded and sustained our scholarship activities for all of these years. Thanks to our other long term supporters via the "Amber Capital Scholarship" and the "Björn Eklund Scholarship", we have been able to grow our programs to four in total.

This evening would not be possible without the dedicated work of our Executive Director, Elizabeth Walbroel. Liz has kept our programs running smoothly for the past 22 years and has established our annual Opera Gala as a true New York institution not to be missed. As one the Opera Foundation's Trustees since 1993 and its President for the past 10 years, I have been privileged to work with a very dynamic board of directors who make all of this possible. Thank you all for your loyal support.

Wishing you an enjoyable evening!

Bernhard Koepf  
President, The Opera Foundation

Dear Guests of the Opera Foundation and Friends of the Deutsche Oper Berlin,



This year we are happy to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the relationship between the Opera Foundation and the Deutsche Oper Berlin. Over the last three decades this relationship has grown steadily: it has given support to an impressive number of young singers and it has established lasting friendships between opera lovers on both sides of the Atlantic.

For us "Berliners" the annual visit to New York is a most welcome occasion not only in that it renews the bonds between the Opera Foundation and the Deutsche Oper Berlin, but it also gives us an impression of the enormous amount of young and talented American singers. We are proud that with your generous support we are able to give them a chance to grow into Opera: to learn what it means to stand on one of the world's most renowned opera stages, to perform alongside the stars of the opera world.

It fills me with joy to see how many of our scholars have taken this chance – some embarked upon international careers after their scholarship like Robin Johannsen and Kathryn Lewek, others stayed with us and became much-loved members of our ensemble like Matthew Newlin, Andrew Harris and Texan Bass-Baritone Seth Carico, who has just been nominated "Singer of the year" for the prestigious German Faust-Award. All this has only been possible with your generous and whole-hearted support. I want to say: Thank you! In the name of the Deutsche Oper Berlin and in the name of all the young singers who have profited from your help in the last thirty years, and also in the name of our opera audience.

Opera has always needed not only singers, musicians and directors, but also people who support this wonderful art and do everything to make it possible. As long as there are people like you, Opera will stay alive.

Thank you and best wishes from Berlin,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'M' followed by a stylized flourish.

Dietmar Schwarz  
General Manager, Deutsche Oper Berlin



## 2015 OPERA FOUNDATION AWARD

# The Ladenburg Foundation

For supporting a scholarship for the past 20 years bearing the name of Curt Engelhorn, the prominent German philanthropist. Thanks to your support, and 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.

## THE CURT ENGELHORN SCHOLARS

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<b>Bavat Marom</b> / <i>Soprano</i>	Curtis School of Music	<b>1996</b>
<b>Catherine Cangiano</b> / <i>Soprano</i>	Julliard School	<b>1997</b>
<b>Mark Tevis</b> / <i>Tenor</i>	Mannes School of Music	<b>1998</b>
<b>Anne Marie Seager</b> / <i>Mezzo-Soprano</i>	Julliard School	<b>1999</b>
<b>Laure de Marcellus</b> / <i>Mezzo-Soprano</i>	Tel Aviv School of Music	<b>2000</b>
<b>Raquela Sheeran</b> / <i>Soprano</i>	Julliard School	<b>2001</b>
<b>Harold Wilson</b> / <i>Bass-Baritone</i>	Indiana University	<b>2002</b>
<b>Jessica Miller</b> / <i>Soprano</i>	Manhattan School of Music	<b>2003</b>
<b>Cheri Rose Katz</b> / <i>Soprano</i>	Universitaet Salzburg	<b>2004</b>
<b>Melissa Shippen</b> / <i>Soprano</i>	Julliard School	<b>2005</b>
<b>Nicole Piccolomini</b> / <i>Soprano</i>	Julliard School	<b>2006</b>
<b>Julia Benzinger</b> / <i>Mezzo-Soprano</i>	Royal Northern College of Music	<b>2007</b>
<b>Erica Miller</b> / <i>Soprano</i>	University of Southern California	<b>2008</b>
<b>James Kee</b> / <i>Baritone</i>	Curtis School of Music	<b>2009</b>
<b>Rebecca Jo Loeb</b> / <i>Mezzo-Soprano</i>	Julliard School	<b>2010</b>
<b>Kathryn Lewek</b> / <i>Soprano</i>	Eastman School of Music	<b>2011</b>
<b>Andrew Harris</b> / <i>Bass</i>	West Virginia University	<b>2012</b>
<b>Matthew Newlin</b> / <i>Tenor</i>	Chicago College of the Performing Arts	<b>2013</b>
<b>Thomas Lehman</b> / <i>Baritone</i>	Eastman School of Music	<b>2014</b>
<b>Nicole Haslett</b> / <i>Soprano</i>	Manhattan School of Music	<b>2015</b>

Dear Members and Friends of the Opera Foundation,



Over the past four years the collaboration between the Bayerische Staatsoper and the Opera Foundation has become a constant in our work with the Young Artist Program. In the current season we are delighted to have with us the soprano Leela Subramaniam thanks to the generous support of the Björn Eklund Scholarship of the Opera Foundation.

The Young Artist Program of the Bayerische Staatsoper - the "Opernstudio" - dates back to the 1970s and supports highly talented young artists from all over the world and prepares them for an international career as opera singers. Today, former members perform not only in Munich but in important opera theaters worldwide. Our program typically runs one or two seasons and consists of role studies, vocal lessons, acting and movement classes as well as language training. The fact that our program is completely integrated into the extensive performing schedule of the Bayerische Staatsoper with over 40 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.

Leela Subramaniam will perform in opera productions ranging from "Le nozze di Figaro" and "Die Zauberflöte" to "Lulu" as well as a world premiere during our opera festival in July 2017. Her time in Munich will therefore give her the opportunity not only to improve her vocal technique and stagecraft, but also to widen her repertoire and her overall artistic vision.

These experiences are most important for young singers, and it is wonderful that each year the Opera Foundation makes it possible for one singer to share this experience. And in the end, our performances can only be as good as our artists are talented, and therefore we are grateful that the Opera Foundation has continued to help us finding the interesting young American singers that we could welcome in Munich over the past seasons.

I am wishing you all the best on behalf of my colleagues at the Bayerische Staatsoper and I am looking forward to welcoming many of you at our performances in Munich.

Sincerely,

Henning Ruhe  
Executive Director, Opernstudio, Bayerische Staatsoper



Congratulations to the Opera Foundation on its 30th Anniversary Gala!



I celebrate this milestone by thinking of those young singers who have received scholarships to fulfill their projects and pursue their dreams over the years.

I am very grateful to the Opera Foundation for its legacy of making these achievements possible and wish everyone a brilliant future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which reads "Gianandrea Noseda". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Gianandrea Noseda

Music Director, Teatro Regio Torino



## THANKS TO OUR LONG-TERM UNDERWRITERS

The Opera Foundation thanks our long-term underwriters Amber Capital and the Dupire and Eklund Families:

### AMBER CAPITAL SCHOLARS

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<b>Diego Matamoros</b> / <i>Baritone</i>	Yale University	2008
<b>Dominic Michael Armstrong</b> / <i>Tenor</i>	Julliard School	2009
<b>John Paul Huckle</b> / <i>Bass</i>	Boston University	2010
<b>Matthew Peña</b> / <i>Tenor</i>	Manhattan School of Music	2011
<b>Rachel Hauge</b> / <i>Mezzo-Soprano</i>	Boston University	2011
<b>Annie Rosen</b> / <i>Mezzo-Soprano</i>	Mannes School of Music	2012
<b>Scott Johnson</b> / <i>Baritone</i>	University of Wisconsin	2012
<b>Ryan Milstead</b> / <i>Baritone</i>	University of Illinois at Urban Champaign	2013
<b>Samantha Korbey</b> / <i>Mezzo-Soprano</i>	Manhattan School of Music	2014
<b>Kate Fruchterman</b> / <i>Soprano</i>	Mannes School of Music	2015

### BJÖRN EKLUND SCHOLARS

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<b>Matthew Grills</b> / <i>Tenor</i>	Eastman School of Music	2013
<b>John Carpenter</b> / <i>Baritone</i>	Penn State School of Music	2014
<b>Leela Subramaniam</b> / <i>Soprano</i>	Manhattan School of Music	2015



**30TH ANNUAL GALA 2015**

# Musical Program

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**SHORT FILM  
BY TINA FLEMMERER**

## 30 Years Opera Foundation

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**PERFORMANCES  
BY 2015/16 WINNERS**

**Leela Subramaniam**  
Soprano

**Nicole Haslett**  
Soprano

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**2015 GUEST OF HONOR**

**Susanna Phillips**  
Soprano

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**GUEST**

**Elizabeth Hastings**  
Piano

## PAST GUESTS OF HONOR

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Danielle De Niese / Karan Armstrong / Hildegard Behrens / Francisco Casanova / Vladimir Chernov / Diana Damrau / Ghena Dimitrova / Plácido Domingo / Alexander T. Ercklentz / Simon Estes / Barbara Frittoli / Denyse Graves / Kirsten Harms / Ben Heppner / Kristan Johannsson / Dr. Bernd von Maltzan / Eva Marton / Maestro Kurt Masur / Angela Meade / Sherrill Milnes / Rene Pape / Luciano Pavarotti / Hermann Prey / Samuel Ramey / Maestro Julius Rudel / Matti Salminen / Bryn Terfel / Maestro Christian Thielemann / Joseph Volpe / Bernd Weiki / Robert Wilson / Gösta Winberg



**2015 GUEST OF HONOR**

**Susanna Phillips** / Soprano



Alabama-born soprano Susanna Phillips, recipient of The Metropolitan Opera's 2010 Beverly Sills Artist Award, continues to establish herself as one of today's most sought-after singing actors and recitalists. The 2015-16 season will see Phillips return to the Metropolitan Opera for an eighth consecutive season starring as Roselinda in the Jeremy Sams production of *Die Fledermaus* conducted for the first time by music director James Levine, as well as a return of her acclaimed Musetta in Puccini's *La Bohème*. Phillips will also return to the stage of Lyric Opera of Chicago as Juliet in Gounod's *Romeo and Juliet* under the baton of Emmanuel Villaume. A return to Boston Lyric Opera will mark Phillips' debut in the role of Hanna in a new production of Lehár's *The Merry Widow*.

Highly in demand by the world's most prestigious orchestras, Phillips has appeared with the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic under Alan Gilbert, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, San Francisco Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, Oratorio Society of New York, Santa Fe Symphony, Santa Barbara Symphony, St. Louis Symphony, Orchestra of St. Luke's, and Santa Fe Concert Association.

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Conductor, Concert Pianist,  
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New York Office



**2015 /16 BJÖRN EKLUND SCHOLARSHIP WINNER**

**Leela Subramaniam** / Soprano



Leera Subramaniam is the winner of the Björn Eklund Scholarship at the Bayerische Staatsoper in Munich. Praised by Opera News as a “gleaming, pitch perfect soprano” and the Wall Street Journal as “piercingly lovely,” Leela Subramaniam recently graduated from the Manhattan School of Music, where she received her Master of Music degree and Professional Studies certificate. She is a 1st place winner in the Joan Taub Ades Competition, a 2013 and 2014 District winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, a recipient of the Richard F. Gold Career Grant from the Shoshanna Foundation, and a scholarship recipient from the Manhattan School of Music.

Previous credits include the title role in Massenet’s *Thaïs* and *Lucia di Lammermoor* at the Manhattan School of Music, *Sister Constance* in *Dialogues of the Carmelites*, and *Nero* in *Handel’s Agrippina* at UCLA, where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree. She is a student of Marlena Malas and a Los Angeles native based in New York City.



**2015 /16 CURT ENGELHORN SCHOLARSHIP WINNER**

**Nicole Haslett** / Soprano



Hailed by the New York Times for her “technically accomplished coloratura” as well as, “floating lyricism,” soprano Nicole Haslett, thanks to the Opera Foundation Scholarship, joins the ensemble of the Deutsche Oper Berlin for her European debut and a number of roles that include Papagena in *Die Zauberflöte*, First Niece in *Peter Grimes*, Semele in *Die Liebe der Danae*, Frasquita in *Carmen*, and a Flowermaiden in a concert performance of *Parsifal* at the Philharmonie among others in the 2015-16 season. She also sings her first performances of Adele in *Die Fledermaus* with Cincinnati Opera. Her future engagements include a title role debut of a bel canto heroine with Utah Opera. Last season, she returned to the Opera Theatre of Saint Louis for Sophie in Picker’s *Emmeline*, sang Chloé in Offenbach’s *Daphnis et Chloé* with Heartbeat Opera, and joined the Metropolitan Opera roster for its new production of *Iolanta*. She also sang her first performances of Handel’s *Messiah* with the New Choral Society. Her performance credits at New York University, from which she earned her Bachelor of Music, include Despina in *Così fan tutte* and Jennie Parsons in Weill’s *Down in the Valley* in addition to winning the Excellence in Vocal Performance Award.

C H A N T E C A I L L E



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**Elizabeth Walbröl**  
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## HISTORY OF THE OPERA FOUNDATION

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 Nosedà. In 2012, we announced a 3rd scholarship program with the Bayerische Staatsoper in Munich. The Foundation has awarded 60 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 the Teatro Regio di Torino.

For the past 30 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.

# Yes!

I want to make a pledge.

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**Pledge Amount**

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Other Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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