



The
Opera
Foundation

**33RD
ANNUAL GALA
2018**

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Dear Friends,



Welcome to our 33rd annual Opera Gala! 2018 was another exciting year for the Opera Foundation. We received about 170 applications for our audition in January. The representatives from our partnering opera houses, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Teatro Regio di Torino and the Bayerische Staatsoper picked four exciting young singers for the 2018/19 season.

Berlin chose mezzo-soprano, Amber Frisque from San Francisco, CA. She received our 23rd annual Curt Engelhorn Scholarship. Berlin also picked baritone, Bryan Murray from the New York area. He is the winner of the Björn Eklund Scholarship. Soprano, Ashley Milanese from New Orleans, LA joins the Teatro Regio di Torino after winning the 11th annual Amber Capital Scholarship.

Munich's Bayerische Staatsoper chose soprano, Anaïs Mejías, the exciting young soprano from Puerto Rico and winner of the second Kinesis Scholarship following in the footsteps of Meechot Marrero, a fellow soprano from Puerto Rico who won the same scholarship in 2016 and received a permanent contract at the Deutsche Oper Berlin following the completion of her scholarship. Anaïs Mejías will be performing for us tonight. Together with Anaïs and our friends who came to this event from Puerto Rico, we celebrate the rich musical heritage and talent coming from this Caribbean Island which is still recovering from the devastation of hurricane Maria.

We are very proud to welcome Maestro Carlo Rizzi and Joseph Calleja as our guests of honor tonight. Maestro Rizzi is well known to New Yorkers given he made his Metropolitan Opera debut 25 years ago with Puccini's La bohème. He leads the company in the first revival of Sir David McVicar's lavish new staging of Tosca, with our guest of honor Joseph Calleja as Cavaradossi. We are excited to have the Tosca dream team with us tonight.

To date we have supported 71 singers with professional scholarships. Our annual auditions in New York are today well established among young graduates of the major music schools. We are especially grateful to our long-term sponsors: The Ladenburg Foundation, the Eklund and Dupire families, Amber Capital, and again this year the Kinesis Foundation. Thanks to your commitment we have been able to maintain our four programs for another year.

Tonight, we welcome Intendant Dietmar Schwarz from the Deutsche Oper Berlin who has been a strong supporter of our Berlin program from since inception of our Foundation.

This evening would not be possible without the dedicated work of our Executive Director, Elizabeth Walbroel. The board is grateful that Liz has kept our programs running smoothly for the past 25 years. This is indeed a milestone and we honor her here tonight.

As one the Opera Foundation's Trustees since 1993 and its President for the past 13 years, I have been privileged to work with a very dynamic board of directors who make all this possible. Thank you all for your loyal support.

Wishing you an enjoyable evening!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bernhard Koepf". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bernhard Koepf
President, The Opera Foundation

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



If you have been following the news regarding German-United States relations over recent months, you may have heard more about tensions and opposing viewpoints, rather than about harmony and understanding.

This means that everyday political events often obscure something much more important: the shared values and convictions that form the basis of this deep friendship and unbreakable, mutual respect. In such times it is all the more important for culture to act as a reminder of how much unites us – and the best, most effective way it does that, is through people who live and embody this sense of community.

That is exactly what the young singers, whom we are welcoming as this year's fellows at the Opera Foundation of the Deutsche Oper Berlin, are doing.

Each of them brings their own piece of America to Berlin in their hearts and minds, and shares it with us. But all of them are involved with Berlin, have friends and fans here, and are becoming a part of cultural life in Berlin through their incredible performances. A considerable number of the former scholarship winners at the Opera Foundation have since become invaluable members of our ensemble. For example, this year's new scholarship winners, Amber Fasquelle and Bryan Murray, are working side by side with former Opera Foundation winners like Seth Carico, Matthew Newlin, and Andrew Harris for our new production of Alban Berg's WOZZECK.

I would like to thank all of you who, through your support, made the creation and prosperity of this artistic partnership possible, and continue to do so every year. Your commitment not only paves the path to success for many singers, but also serves as a constant reminder of how much connects us.

For that, I offer my sincerest gratitude!



Dietmar Schwarz
General Manager, Deutsche Oper Berlin



DEUTSCHE OPER BERLIN

Dear Guests of the Opera Foundation,



Sono felice di poter continuare la decennale collaborazione con Opera Foundation e ringrazio Bernhard Koepp ed Elizabeth Walbröl per il costante impegno e Joseph Oughourlian per il supporto. Grazie alla loro passione per la musica anche quest'anno una nuova giovane artista-americana sarà impegnata sul nostro palcoscenico per tutta la Stagione.

La formazione professionale di giovani musicisti mi sta particolarmente a cuore tanto che, al Teatro Regio di Torino, stiamo costituendo un'Agenzia formativa dedicata al perfezionamento degli artisti di domani. Un obiettivo comune che ci vede, quindi, ancor maggiormente legati. La vincitrice della borsa di studio "Amber Capital" è Ashley Milanese, soprano di talento che ha già interpretato il ruolo di Ines ne Il trovatore, l'opera di Verdi che ha inaugurato, con grande successo, la Stagione 2018-2019 del Teatro Regio. Faccio tutti i miei auguri a una giovane cantante che ha incominciato la sua avventura a New Orleans e che, adesso, passerà un anno a Torino, diventando parte della nostra grande famiglia e condividendo con noi l'amore per l'opera.

Best Regards,

William Graziosi
General Manager Teatro Regio Torino



Dear Members and Friends of the Opera Foundation,



Over the past seven years, the collaboration between the Bayerische Staatsoper and the Opera Foundation has proven to be a very important and fruitful support for our Young Artist Program.

I am sure you will be happy to hear that the young tenor Galeano Salas who was our Opera Foundation singer two years ago, is now member of the ensemble at the Bayerische Staatsoper and won the Grand Prix at the prestigious Eva Marton Competition in Budapest this summer.

The origins of the Young Artist Program of the Bayerische Staatsoper - the Opernstudio - date back to the 1970s. Today, the program supports highly talented young singers from all over the world and prepares them for an international career as opera singers. Former members perform in important opera theaters worldwide. 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.

This season we are happy to have Anaís Mejías in our program. Along with minor parts in *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Jenůfa*, *Hänsel und Gretel* and *Suor Angelica*, she will perform the title role in the Studio Production of *Tschaikowskys Iolanta*.

We are grateful that the Opera Foundation has continued to help us find the interesting young American singers that we could welcome in Munich over the past seasons.

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

Sincerely,

Tobias Truniger
Artistic Director, Opernstudio

**BAYERISCHE
STAATSOPER**

THE LADENBURG FOUNDATION

Thank you for supporting a scholarship for 23 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.

THE CURT ENGELHORN SCHOLARS

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>	Moore School of Music	2016
DEAN MURPHY / <i>Baritone</i>	Yale University	2017
AMBER FASQUELLE / <i>Mezzo-Soprano</i>	Cincinnati Conservatory of Music	2018

OUR UNDERWRITERS

The Opera Foundation thanks our underwriters Amber Capital, the Dupire and Eklund Families, and the Kinesis Foundation:

AMBER CAPITAL SCHOLARS

DIEGO MATAMOROS / <i>Baritone</i>	Yale School of Music	2008
DOMINIC MICHAEL ARMSTRONG / <i>Tenor</i>	Juilliard 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 at Urban Champaign	2013
SAMANTHA KORBAY / <i>Mezzo-Soprano</i>	Manhattan School of Music	2014
KATE FRUCHTERMAN / <i>Soprano</i>	Mannes School of Music	2015
CULLEN GANDY / <i>Tenor</i>	Juilliard School	2016
JOSHUA SANDERS / <i>Tenor</i>	Manhattan School of Music	2017
ASHLEY MILANESE / <i>Soprano</i>	Curtis Institute of Music	2018

BJÖRN EKLUND SCHOLARS

MATTHEW GRILLS / <i>Tenor</i>	Eastman School of Music	2013
JOHN CARPENTER / <i>Baritone</i>	Penn State School of Music	2014
LEELA SUBRAMANIAM / <i>Soprano</i>	Manhattan School of Music	2015
GALEANO SALAS / <i>Tenor</i>	Yale University / Academy of Vocal Arts	2016
SANDRA HAMAOU / <i>Soprano</i>	San Francisco Conservatory	2017
BRYAN MURRAY / <i>Baritone</i>	Yale School of Music	2018

KINESIS SCHOLARS

MEECHOT MARRERO / <i>Soprano</i>	Yale School of Music	2016
ANAÍS MEJÍAS / <i>Soprano</i>	Istituto Musicale Pareggiato Orazio Vecchi, Italy	2018

33RD ANNUAL GALA 2018 Musical Program

PERFORMANCES BY

2018/19 WINNER OF
THE KINESIS SCHOLARSHIP

Anaís Mejías

Soprano

2018 GUESTS OF HONOR

Carlo Rizzi

Maestro

Joseph Calleja

Tenor

Craig Ketter

Piano

2018 GUEST OF HONOR

Carlo Rizzi / Maestro



Carlo Rizzi ranks among today's leading conductors. Equally at home in the opera house and the concert hall, his vast repertoire spans everything from the foundation works of the operatic and symphonic canon to rarities by Bellini, Cimarosa and Donizetti. His work, acclaimed for its dynamic energy, insight and captivating emotional power, is in demand globally from New York's Metropolitan Opera and the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, to La Scala, Milan and La Monnaie in Brussels.

Carlo Rizzi discovered opera during his formative years in Milan, attending productions at La Scala and then working as a répétiteur with the company, following his graduation from the city's conservatoire. Since launching his conducting career in 1982 with Donizetti's *L'ajo nell'imbarazzo*, he has performed over a hundred operas, with a repertoire list that is rich in Italian works but also well stocked with the music of Wagner, Strauss, Martinů and Janáček. In October, Rizzi opened the Metropolitan Opera season with a new production of *Tosca*.

2018 GUEST OF HONOR

Joseph Calleja / Tenor



Blessed with a golden-age voice that routinely inspires comparisons to “legendary singers from earlier eras: Jussi Björling, Beniamino Gigli, even Enrico Caruso”, Maltese-born Joseph Calleja has quickly become one of the most acclaimed and sought-after tenors today. His expansive discography and frequent appearances on the world's leading opera and concert stages prompted NPR to hail him as “arguably today's finest lyric tenor,” and led to his being voted Gramophone magazine's 2012 Artist of the Year. A Grammy-nominated recording artist for Decca Classics, he has released five solo albums for the label.

Joseph Calleja's 2018-19 season starts off with his role debut as Rodolfo in Verdi's *Luisa Miller* at the Hamburg State Opera. One of his signature roles – Mario Caravadosi (*Tosca*) - takes Calleja to the Metropolitan Opera in New York and to a new production at the renowned Festival in Aix-en-Provence. He appears with many other world's great opera companies, starring as Pollione (*Norma*) and Don José (*Carmen*) at the Bavarian State Opera, as Edgardo (*Lucia di Lammermoor*) and Don José at the Deutsche Oper Berlin as well as Duca (*Rigoletto*) at the Vienna State Opera.

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A Partnership of Note

At A.T. Kearney, we believe that investing in diversity of thought and culture can make the world a richer place. Like the Opera Foundation, we are committed to building cross-cultural bridges.

We are proud to support and celebrate the 33rd Annual Opera Gala.

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2018/19 KINESIS SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Anaïs Mejías / Soprano



Puerto Rican soprano Anaïs Mejías has been a member of the Opera Studio of the Bayerische Staatsoper since the 2018/19 season, after winning the Opera Foundation's Kinesis Scholarship. At the Bayerische Staatsoper, she will be playing the roles of Girl in *Le nozze di Figaro*, Barena in *Jenůfa* and the title role in *Iolanta*.

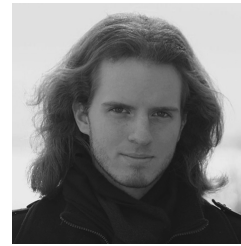
Anaïs Mejías completed her vocal training in 2016 at the Conservatorio Vecchi-Tonelli at Raina Kabaivanska. In addition, she attended master classes including Montserrat Caballé and Diana Soviero.

She is a winner of the prestigious Metropolitan Opera House Council Audition project, and a finalist of the Francisco Viñas International Competition. In March 2018, she also celebrated her debut at New York's Carnegie Hall as a soloist in Joseph Haydn's *Nelson Fair*.

2018/19 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

BJÖRN EKLUND SCHOLARSHIP

Bryan Murray / *Baritone*



Baritone Bryan Murray holds a Master of Musical Arts degree from Yale University's School of Music. In the 2018/19 season, he joins the prestigious Ensemble of the Deutsche Oper Berlin, singing roles of Fiorillo in *The Barber Of Seville*, Moralès in *Carmen* and more. In 2016 he won the Grand Prix of the Heida Hermann's International Voice Competition, the "Sachi Liebergesell" Award of the Opera Index Competition.

CURT ENGELHORN SCHOLARSHIP

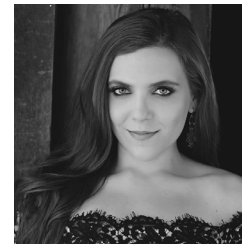
Amber Fasquelle / *Mezzo-Soprano*



Mezzo-soprano Amber Fasquelle is currently completing her vocal studies at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. She starts the 2018/19 season joining the prestigious Ensemble of the Deutsche Oper Berlin, where she will sing the roles of Mercédès in *Carmen*, Flora Bervoix in *La Traviata* and more.

AMBER CAPITAL SCHOLARSHIP

Ashley Milanese / *Soprano*



Known for her "masterful and show-stopping performance of *Zerbinetta*", soprano Ashley Milanese is "both a superb actress and singer". Milanese is quickly emerging as an exciting young presence in the operatic world. In the 2018/19 season, she joins Teatro Regio di Torino as a resident artist after winning the Opera Foundation's Amber Capital Scholarship.

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Sherif Lotfi	Ashley von Perfall

SPECIAL TRIBUTE



The board of trustees is proud to honor Elizabeth Walbröl tonight for her exceptional work as the Opera Foundation's Executive Director for the past 25 years.

Without your tireless work and dedication, our programs would not be possible.

Thank you, Liz!

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 Noseda. In 2012, we announced a 3rd scholarship program with the Bayerische Staatsoper in Munich. The Foundation has awarded 71 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 33 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.



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\$500

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