



**NEWS RELEASE
JUNE 15, 2022**

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FORT WORTH OPERA ANNOUNCES 2022-2023 SEASON:

*A NEW FULL SEASON OF UNIQUE OPERATIC AND MUSICAL EXPERIENCES
INCLUDING CONCERTS, RECITALS, SYMPHONIC CHORALES, A WORLD PREMIERE,
A SPECTACULAR SEMI-STAGED CONCERT PRODUCTION OF AIDA FEATURING THE FORT WORTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
AND THE REINSTATEMENT OF A PARTNERSHIP WITH TCU'S SCHOOL OF MUSIC*

FORT WORTH, TX — Fort Worth Opera (FWO) proudly announced today repertory, casting, and live performances for its 2022-2023 season. The 22/23 season brings forth FWO's continued commitment to being, "The People's Company," as the organization continues to expand its year-round offerings to include unique operatic experiences that speak to and engage with the Fort Worth Community. FWO's 2022-2023 season commences on October 21 with performances of **Noches de Latinidad: El Fuego de Una Mujer** (*Latin Nights: The Fire of a Woman*) with **Catalina Cuervo** and **Eduardo Rojas**, and a one-night-only performance of **Noches de Zarzuela**, a celebratory **Hispanic Heritage Month Concert** at **Artes de la Rosa Cultural Center for the Arts** at the **Rose Marine Theater**. In November the spotlight shines on Metropolitan Opera Star **Karen Slack** in concert at the new **Van Cliburn Concert Hall at Texas Christian University (TCU)**, titled **My Sister's Keeper** and features award-winning pianist **Michelle Cann**. In December, the company will partner with the **Fort Worth Botanic Garden** and the **Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT)** for a return of our Holiday offering, **Amahl and the Night Visitors**. Then in January, FWO will present the Southern premiere of **Damien Geter's** symphonic work **An African American Requiem** at the **Van Cliburn Concert Hall at TCU**. This stunning piece is followed by a revival of the company's immensely successful Black History Month concert, **A Night of Black Excellence**, returning to Fort Worth's historic **I.M. Terrell Academy for STEM and VPA** in February. FWO's season culminates with a grand concert staging of Verdi's **AIDA** with the **Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra (FWSO)** at **Van Cliburn Concert Hall at TCU**, and the annual **Hattie Mae Lesley Resident Artist Showcase**.

This year we are proud and honored to reinstate our collaborative partnership with TCU School of Music. FWO will partner with TCU to hire three of their Artist Diploma Students to join our Hattie Mae Lesley Resident Artists as Studio Artists. This group of emerging singers will be cast in FWO mainstage, Children's Opera Theatre (COT), Civic Impact and Youth Opera productions, and join the Resident Artists in the annual Showcase. They will receive weekly coachings with our Music Staff, guest artists, conductors and stage directors.

"We are incredibly excited for the opportunity that our Artist Diploma students will have working with the Fort Worth Opera. Participating students will receive world-class training from TCU faculty while performing in a fantastic professional opera program," says Sean Atkinson, Director of the TCU School of Music.

Each year a handful of talented young artists are selected through a nationwide audition process to be a part of Fort Worth Opera's prestigious **Lesley Resident Artist Program**. This season we are thrilled to welcome soprano **Adia Evans**, mezzo-soprano **Kaswanna Kanyinda**, tenor **Nathaniel Catasca** and baritone **Malcolm Payne, Jr.** as our **Hattie Mae Lesley Resident Artists**. Joined by **Katherine Watson** and **Andres Felipe Losada Dimate** (TCU Artists Diploma Students) as members of the FWO **Hattie Mae Lesley Studio Artists**, this ensemble will appear in company productions, Children's and Youth Opera Theatre performances, and at various community, donor, and social events while receiving voice lessons, language and diction coaching, acting seminars, and other pertinent training through the year. The 22/23 program will conclude in May with the **Hattie Mae Lesley Resident and Studio Artist Showcase**.

"I am over the moon to be partnering with TCU and Sean Atkinson in reinstating our FWO and TCU Studio Program. This partnership extends beyond our training program and has opened the door for FWO to unique musical experiences for our audience in the stunning new Van Cliburn Concert Hall at TCU" says **General Director Afton Battle**. "It is with these types of rich partnerships that we are able to fully embed and commit ourselves to the growth and sustainability of FWO's mission driven work."

This season brings about many firsts in the company's history. Composer and conductor **Damien Geter** will be the first Black conductor to take the FWO podium and lead FWSO in his riveting work **An African American Requiem**. This season will also bring the first female conductor to Fort Worth Opera as **Elaine Rinaldi**, founder and artistic director of Orchestra Miami, leads a star-studded cast in Verdi's masterpiece, **AIDA**. "In 2022 Fort Worth Opera celebrated its 75th Anniversary, and with the help of our community, it was one of our most successful seasons. We challenged our audiences to think outside the box by bringing them a new production of La Traviata, invited world-class artists to our stage, many making their FWO debut. We invested in our community, our children, our aging adults, and our public schools with programming sponsored by the FWPL (Fort Worth Public Library), BRIT and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. We have built a solid momentum of excitement and growth, and we're just getting started. As we (FWO) work to dismantle the inequalities that have kept tremendous musicians such as Damien and Elaine off the podium at this and many other companies in our industry, I could not be prouder to introduce them to the City of Fort Worth, our staff, board and our community for the first time."

FWO is also pleased to begin rolling out our DEIA (Diversity Equity Inclusion and Access) principals. The work to address the systematic inequities of our industry has been taken on in full dynamic force by the FWO Board of Trustees. With the aim to develop and articulate a strong commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA), the FWO Board of Trustees last year established a DEIA working group headed by Board Trustee Ebony Rose. "Over the course of many months, a diverse group of Fort Worth Opera staff and board members, artists, DEIA professionals, and community leaders have worked to create a meaningful statement of principles to guide the company and move Fort Worth Opera forward in a more inclusive and courageous direction, as well as bring opera performance and education to as many as possible in the most authentic and accessible way," said Rose. Board Chair Ryan Krause said "Thanks to the hard work of trustees, staff, and community volunteers, Fort Worth Opera has articulated a commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility of which we can be proud. We are now engaged in a strategy development process for the future of the company, and this commitment with its specific principles serves as the foundation of that process." More information about these DEIA principles will be provided as they are made available. To read our full DEIA principles, please visit <https://www.fwopera.org/deia>.

This season also brings changes in leadership at Fort Worth Opera. Beginning July 1, 2022, **Artistic Director Joe Illick** will move into a new role as **Music Director Emeritus**. "After 20 wonderful years with Fort Worth Opera, first as Music Director and then as Artistic Director, it's time for me to enter a new phase of my artistic career," said Illick. "The company is now in the right hands, under the leadership of Afton Battle... This will allow me to continue to be a part of Fort Worth Opera, a company and a community that is near and dear to my heart." Board Chair Ryan Krause said "We have been so lucky to have Joe Illick with us for so many years, and we look forward to his continued involvement with the company in his new role. And in Afton Battle, we have a dynamic leader who is ready and excited to take Fort Worth Opera to new heights." In addition to these changes, current **Chorus Master Alfrelynn Roberts** has been appointed **Director of Artistic Operations**, and the company has appointed three new Trustees to the Board, **Susie Olmos-Soto, Judy Bennett Garner, and Randy Sabbagh**.

FALL PERFORMANCES

Continuing our powerful **Noches de Ópera** initiative, the season kicks off with **Noches de Latinidad: El Fuego de Una Mujer** (*Latin Nights: The Fire of a Woman*), a celebration of Latin America's top composers at the **Rose Marine Theater** on **Friday, October 21, at 7:00pm** and **Sunday, October 23 at 4:00pm**, and a one-night-only performance of **Noches de Zarzuela** (*Nights of Zarzuela*) on **Saturday, October 22 at 7:00pm**. Featuring a mix of art songs, arias, and folkloric music from Mexico, Cuba, Colombia, Puerto Rico, Brazil and Argentina, **Noches de Latinidad: El Fuego de Una Mujer** is an exciting Latin-American musical extravaganza curated by and starring "Fiery Soprano" **Catalina Cuervo** and virtuoso pianist **Eduardo Rojas** along with Hattie Mae Lesley Resident Artists **Adia Evans, Kaswanna Kanyinda, Nathaniel Catasca** and **Malcolm Payne, Jr.**, as well as featured tango dancers **George and Jairelbi Furlong** from **Evolution Tango**. Mr. Rojas on piano, leads a string quartet from the **Rojas School of Music** and guitarist **Alvaro Bermudez** in well-known songs such as *Cucurrucucu, La Llorona*, and *El día que me quieras*. **Noches de Zarzuela** will take us across the Atlantic for an evening of excerpts from Spain's most beloved zarzuelas from composers Jacinto Guerrero, Frederico Moreno and Soutullo-Vert. Zarzuela is the traditional Spanish operatic artform, combining musical passages with spoken sections, similar to operetta. Zarzuela performances routinely sell out in Spain, and we are excited to introduce Fort Worth to these captivating works. Catalina, Eduardo, and the Lesley Resident Artists will move the audience through beautiful passages from **Los Gavilanes, La Leyenda del Beso**, and audience favorite **Luisa Fernanda**.

On **November 11, 2022 at 7pm**, Fort Worth Opera will present the World premiere of ***Stand Up!***. Composed by Music Director Emeritus Joe Illick, and with libretto by Director of COT Production and Civic Impact, Sheran Goodspeed-Keyton, *Stand Up!* is a socially conscious chamber opera presented by FWO's Lesley Resident and Studio Artists. *Stand Up!* gives the audience a snapshot of the life of South African activist Stephen Biko during 1960s Apartheid and segues into a modern-day story of a similarly racially divided college campus in Texas. "Racial injustice and inequality take lives, divide communities, and deny millions of people their own humanity. But how can we stop them?" asks composer and Music Director Emeritus Joe Illick. "In this chamber opera, we offer an answer, both from recent history and for right now. The world is one family. Stand up for what you believe in," says Illick. This 45-minute world premiere seamlessly takes us from the formation of the Black Consciousness Movement in the late 1960s right into a Cultural Studies class in 2022, where a young black student struggles with his own will to speak out. With contemporary, high-spirited music and movement at the forefront of this compelling story, audiences will leave not simply applauding the movement, but feeling empowered that they too can play a part in the movement to bring us all together. "*Stand Up!* is an opportunity to show the past challenges of a nation of people and connect with the still very relevant challenges of those people. It will allow young people to be able to relate and encourage them to use their voices at a time when it is needed the most. I am so honored and proud of this piece," says librettist and Director of COT Productions and Civic Impact, Sheran Goodspeed Keyton. A partnership with TCU and Arts Fort Worth, this production will see itself around Tarrant County and North Texas as part of our youth offerings through our music education and civic impact programs.

Metropolitan Opera Star **Karen Slack** returns **November 13 at 2:00pm** on the stage of the new **Van Cliburn Concert Hall at TCU** in ***My Sister's Keeper***, with award-winning pianist **Michelle Cann**. Recently, both Karen and Michelle received the **2022 Sphinx Medal of Excellence**. The highest honor bestowed by the Sphinx Organization, the medal recognizes extraordinary classical musicians of color and comes with a \$50,000 career grant. *My Sister's Keeper* will highlight the music of Margaret Bonds, Nadia & Lili Boulanger, Dorothy Rudd Moore and Florence Price to name a few. "We are extremely excited to bring this thoughtfully curated program...to Fort Worth." Says Karen Slack. "This program represents what both Michelle and I strive to do on and off the stage. Giving voice and the spotlight to female composers who have too often been left out of the recital and concert hall."

WINTER PERFORMANCES

Fort Worth Opera's winter programming continues its annual partnership with the **Botanical Research Institute of Texas** (BRIT) with the return of our popular ***Amahl and the Night Visitors*** in December. Originally composed for television in 1951 by **Gian Carlo Menotti**, our family-friendly production will feature The Lesley Resident Artists **Adia Evans, Kaswanna Kanyinda, Nathaniel Catasca, and Malcolm Payne, Jr.** This holiday favorite will have performances **December 9, 10, and 11, 2022**, at the **Fort Worth Botanic Garden Lecture Hall**. Tickets for this production will only be available through the Fort Worth Botanic Garden.

On **January 28, 2023**, Fort Worth Opera will present ***An African American Requiem*** at the **Van Cliburn Concert Hall at TCU, 6:00pm**. This profound work by **Damien Geter** was recently premiered May 7 by the Resonance Ensemble and Oregon Symphony and is the first Requiem to honor African Americans who have lost their lives due to racial violence. Mr. Geter has integrated the traditional Latin Requiem with contemporary text, such as Ida B. Wells' speech from 1909, *Lynching is Color Line Murder*, civil rights declarations, poetry, and the famous last words of Eric Garner and now George Floyd, "I can't breathe". The music is infused with elements of jazz, gospel, and spirituals. Presented in 19 movements, the Requiem will be conducted by Mr. Geter himself with soloists **Brandie Sifton, Karmesha Peake, Bernard Holcomb, Thomas Cannon**, poet **S. Renee Mitchell**, the **Fort Worth Opera Chorus** prepared by **Alfrelynn Roberts**, and the **Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra**. This epic symphonic social commentary will honor past and present victims of racial violence and spur reflection on how to build a more hopeful future.

In February, Fort Worth Opera will continue its annual celebration of Black History Month, ***A Night of Black Excellence*** with a live performance curated by General Director **Afton Battle**, and **Alfrelynn Roberts** as Music Director, at Fort Worth's historic **I.M. Terrell Academy for STEM and VPA**. Featuring arias and songs exclusively by Black and Afro-Latino(a) composers, the event will be held within the 900-seat auditorium of one of Fort Worth's most revered educational institutions. Opened in 1882, I.M. Terrell was the city's first Black school during the era of formal racial segregation in the United States and has produced many prominent 20th century luminaries, including jazz musician Ornette Coleman, Civil Rights leader Vada Phillips Felder, and Tuskegee Airman Robert T. McDaniel. Performance details will be provided at a later date.

SPRING PERFORMANCES

April 13 and 15, 2023, Fort Worth Opera will present a **symposium series** at the TCU Campus. Moderated by **Dr. Naomi André**, these conversations will address topics of Race and Equitable art-making centered around intentional casting, and making opera stages and companies more inclusive while still addressing the issues and problems of racial injustice. Esteemed speakers will include **Dr. Naomi André**, newly appointed David F. Frey Distinguished Professor of Music at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; **Dr. Antonio C. Cuyler**, Associate Professor, Department of Theatre & Drama School of Music, Theatre & Dance University of Michigan; **Quodesia “Quo” Johnson**, TDO Education and Company Culture Manager; **Kristian Roberts**, TDO Director of Education; **Jennifer Bowman**, Director of Community and Learning at Houston Grand Opera; and **Marcia Sells**, Chief Diversity Officer at Metropolitan Opera. More details and ticket information will be provided as they become available.

Taking the discussion from this powerful symposium series, FWO will close its 76th main-stage season with the Verdi masterpiece, **AIDA**. First presented by FWO in 1958, and last seen in 1999, Giuseppe Verdi’s grandest opera **AIDA**, performs **April 14, 2023 at 7:00 pm** and **April 16, 2023 at 2:00 pm** at the **Van Cliburn Concert Hall at TCU**, as a concert production with the **Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra**.

Making his debut with FWO as director is Broadway star **T. Oliver Reid**. Reid has spent the past 20 years working on Broadway shows which have amassed more than 20 Tony Awards. And to add his long list of theatrical achievements, on June 13, 2022, Reid has been announced to take over the role of Hermes in the critically acclaimed, TONY Award winning *Hadestown* on Broadway.

He has produced and directed concerts for Feinstein’s 54 Below and continues to work in film and television (*Inventing Anna*, *GIRLS*, *Ray Donovan*, *The Blacklist*). He is on faculty at Rider University and is an adjunct professor at NYU-Tisch’s Grad Acting Program and Columbia University School of the Arts’ Grad Acting program. He sits on the Board of Visitors for the University of North Carolina School of the Arts and is co-founder of Black Theatre Coalition (www.blacktheatrecoalition.org).

Conductor, vocal coach, recitalist and educator with over 35 years’ experience on the concert stage, **Elaine Rinaldi** will make her FWO debut as she conducts the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra in this Verdian masterpiece. She is the founder and artistic director of Orchestra Miami, a professional symphonic ensemble based in Miami, Florida, where for the past 15 season she has programmed and conducted performances which critics have called “thrilling” and “absolutely exceptional”. Of the many highlights of her work with Orchestra Miami, she was most recently recognized with the First Prize in **The American Prize Ernst Bacon Award for the Performance of American Music**, in the professional ensemble division, for her performance of Marvin David Levy’s *Inquisition & Masada*. Of her work with Orchestra Miami, Lawrence Budmen of the *Miami Herald* wrote “Rinaldi clearly has a penchant for offering interesting thematic programming and promising soloists” and Daniel Fernandez of *El Nuevo Herald* wrote, “Rinaldi is a conductor who marries her professionalism with an exquisite sensitivity”.

This larger-than-life concert production will feature Metropolitan Opera and Lyric Opera of Chicago star **Michelle Bradley** in the title performance that earned her great acclaim in Prague. Ms. Bradley has performed in Vienna, Frankfurt, Paris, and with San Francisco Opera. In 2017, George Grella of *New York Classical Review* wrote “Beyond the sheer beauty of her voice and her technical command, Bradley had clearly thought deeply about the music. The shape of her phrases distilled not only the character but the drama of the opera down to a musical essence.”

Hailed as “an outstanding tenor” (*Opera News*) and “...startlingly-gifted” (*San Francisco Classical Voice*), the American operatic tenor **Ben Gulley** will sing the role of Radames. Mr. Gulley’s career is burgeoning with lead and feature roles in opera, solo engagements, concert work, film work, nationwide touring, and prestigious appearances abroad.

Grammy Award winning American mezzo soprano **Tichina Vaughn**, who has established an important presence among the world’s leading opera houses, concert halls and theaters will sing the role of Amneris. As an outstanding singing-actress versatile in opera, operetta, musical theater, and jazz, Vaughn continues to gather both popular and critical acclaim. In addition to her title as Kammersängerin, Ms. Vaughn has received many awards and honors during her distinguished career including the Metropolitan Opera National Council Award, the Richard Tucker Foundation Study Grant Award, the Opera Index Vocal Competition Award, Licia Albanese Puccini Foundation Award, and a Birgit Nilsson Foundation Award. Most recently she was presented the Consul General’s Award for Cultural Diplomacy from the Consulate General in Milan.

Grammy and Emmy-Award winning baritone **Reginald Smith Jr.** will sing the role of the Amonasro. This season marks the baritone’s debuts with the Lyric Opera of Chicago as Uncle Paul in Terrence Blanchard’s *Fire Shut Up in My Bones*, with the San Diego Opera as Don Alfonso in *Così fan Tutte* and with Charleston’s Holy City Arts and Lyric Opera as Germont in *La Traviata*. “Reginald Smith, Jr., has one of the most exciting...sounds to come along in years. His voice is ample and thrillingly dramatic...” *Opera News*. Also in the cast is FWO’s 2021 **A Night of Black Excellence**

soloist **Kevin Thompson**. Hailed for his “stentorian bass voice” he will join this stellar cast as The King of Egypt. Praised for his “commanding stage presence” and “rich resonant voice” bass, **Kenneth Kellogg**, will make his FWO debut as Ramfis, the intolerable priest. Rounding out the cast are **Hattie Mae Lesley Resident Artists**, soprano **Adia Evans** as the High Priestess and **Nathaniel Catasca** as the Messenger.

This season, Fort Worth Opera is honored to receive another award from **Fund to Advance Racial Equity at North Texas Community Foundation** (NTCF). *An African American Requiem, A Night of Black Excellence, and Symposium Series - RACE. EQUITY. ARTS: Addressing Racial Equity in the Arts* are made possible by this generous grant. “FWO is honored to be recognized by NTCF as a cultural institution in Fort Worth doing the work to advance racial equity, says Battle. Music and the creation of art is the primary conduit by which we process emotions and communicate lived experiences. And there is no better way I can think of expressing the lived experiences of Black artists than through the creation of Black art and the conversation of its importance. And that is what we (FWO) will be doing this entire season, especially through our presentations of *An African American Requiem, A Night of Black Excellence, and Symposium Series - RACE. EQUITY. ARTS: Addressing Racial Equity in the Arts.*”

North Texas Community Foundation drives meaningful change through charitable investment. “Grant funds will be used to support FWO’s 2022-23 Racial Equity Impact Programming which is an outgrowth of FWO’s DEIA principles, designed to break down barriers, foster open, productive dialogue, build understanding, and celebrate our shared humanity”, says Battle. The Foundation helps donors meet the needs of our community by providing tax-efficient strategies to support the causes they care about most. At the core of everything we do is a network of generous individuals, families and businesses intent on shaping the future of North Texas for good, forever. The Foundation has \$519 million in assets and made grants totaling approximately \$30 million in 2021. Learn more at northtexascf.org

For the latest Fort Worth Opera news throughout the company’s 2022-2023 season, visit www.fwopera.org.

2022-23 SEASON CASTING AND CALENDAR

*Fort Worth Opera Debut †Former or Current Lesley Resident Artist ^FWO Studio Artist

FALL 2022 PERFORMANCES

Noches de Latinidad: El Fuego Una de Mujer

Friday, October 21, 2022 at 7:00pm & Sunday, October 23 at 4:00pm

Noches de Zarzuela

Saturday, October 22, 2022 at 7:00pm

Artes de la Rosa Cultural Center for the Arts at the Rose Marine Theater

1440 N Main St, Fort Worth, TX 76164

A live concert of arias, art songs, folk music, and Zarzuelas as part of FWO’s fall *Noches de Ópera* community programming.

Artists

Catalina Cuervo*, soprano

Adia Evans†, soprano

Nathaniel Catasca†, tenor

George & Jairelbhi Furlong, dancers

Kaswanna Kanyinda†, mezzo-soprano

Alvaro Bermudez, guitar

Malcolm Payne, Jr.†, baritone

Eduardo Rojas, pianist

and musicians from the Rojas School of Music

Creative Team

Curators - Catalina Cuervo, Eduardo Rojas

Producing Director-Sheran Goodspeed Keyton

Stand Up!* World Premiere

Friday, November 11, 2022 at 7pm

Arts Fort Worth

1300 Gendy St, Fort Worth, Tx 76120

A chamber opera composed by Joe Illick, and libretto by Sheran Goodspeed-Keyton

Stand Up! Cast

Adia Evans – Nontsikelelo “Ntsiki” Mashalaba/Clarissa

Kaswanna Kanyinda – Bukelwa Biko/Mrs. Stafford

Nathan Catasca – SAP Constable/Donald Woods/Big Mike

Malcolm Payne, Jr. – Bantu Stephen Biko/Joseph

Stand Up! Creative Team

Sheran Goodspeed Keyton – Librettist

Joseph Illick - Composer

Dr. Erica Simmons - Director

David Ruffin - Set Designer

Royal Palm - Costume Designer/Wig and Make-up

Music Director-Dr. Charlene Lotz

My Sister's Keeper

Sunday, November 13, 2022 at 2:00pm

Van Cliburn Concert Hall at TCU

2900 W Lowden St, Fort Worth, TX 76109

A recital that spotlights the brilliance of female composers.

Artists

Karen Slack, Soprano

Michelle Cann*, Pianist

WINTER 2021 /2022 PERFORMANCES

Amahl and the Night Visitors

Music and Libretto by Gian Carlo Menotti

December 9, 10, 11, 2022

Fort Worth Botanic Garden

3220 Botanic Garden Blvd, Fort Worth, TX 76107

Artists

Mother - Adia Evans[†], Kaswanna Kanyinda[†]

King Kaspar - Nathaniel Catasca[†]

King Melchior - Malcolm Payne, Jr.[†]

Creative Team

TBA

TICKETS: All tickets will be available through the Fort Worth Botanic Garden.

An African American Requiem

by Damien Geter

January 28, 2023 at 6:00pm

Van Cliburn Concert Hall at TCU

A contemporary Requiem with soloists, full chorus and the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra to honor African Americans who have lost their lives due to racial violence.

Artists

Damien Geter- Conductor*

Brandie Sutton- Soprano

Karmesha Peake- Mezzo-Soprano*

Bernard Holcomb- Tenor*

Thomas Cannon- Baritone

S. Renee Mitchell- Poet*

The Fort Worth Opera Chorus

The Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra

A Night of Black Excellence

February 2022 (specifics TBA)

I.M. Terrell Academy for STEM and VPA

Curated by FWO General Director Afton Battle, Music Director Alfrelynn Roberts

Artists TBA

SPRING 2022 PERFORMANCES

Symposium Series - RACE. EQUITY. ARTS: Addressing Racial Equity in the Arts

Presented by Fort Worth Opera, Hosted by TCU

April 13, 15, 2023 (times TBA)

TCU Campus

Featured Speakers

Dr. Naomi André, David F. Frey Distinguished Professor of Music at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Dr. Antonio C. Cuyler, Associate Professor, Department of Theatre & Drama School of Music, Theatre & Dance University of Michigan

Quodesia "Quo" Johnson, TDO Education and Company Culture Manager

Kristian Roberts, TDO Director of Education

Jennifer Bowman, Director of Community and Learning at Houston Grand Opera

Marcia Sells, Chief Diversity Officer at Metropolitan Opera

AIDA

Music by Giuseppe Verdi; libretto by Antonio Ghislanzoni

April 14, 2022 at 7:00 pm & April 16, 2022 at 2:00 pm

Van Cliburn Concert Hall at TCU

Featuring the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra

In Italian with supertitles in English and Spanish

Cast

Aida	Michelle Bradley*
Radames	Ben Gulley*
Amneris	Tichina Vaughn*
Amonasro	Reginald Smith, Jr.*
King of Egypt	Kevin Thompson*
Ramfis	Kenneth Kellogg*
High Priestess	Adia Evans†*
Messenger	Nathaniel Catasca†*

Creative Team

Conductor – Elaine Rinaldi*

Director – T. Oliver Reid*

Hattie Mae Lesley Resident Artist Showcase

May 2023

Location TBA

Featuring **Adia Evans, Kaswana Kanyinda, Nathaniel Catasca and Malcolm Payne, Jr.** Resident Artists, **Katherine Watson and Andres Felipe Losada Dimate**, Studio Artists

*Fort Worth Opera Debut †Former or Current Lesley Resident Artist ^FWO Studio Artist

TICKETS: All seating for Van Cliburn Concert Hall at TCU and I.M. Terrell Academy is assigned, seating for Rose Marine is general admission. Subscriptions and single tickets are on sale NOW! For more information, please call 817.731.0726 or toll-free at 1.877.396.7372.

www.fwopera.org

About Fort Worth Opera: Founded in 1946, Fort Worth Opera recently celebrated its 75th anniversary in 2021. For the last several seasons, FWO has segued from a festival format to year-round productions, and has made a commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion and access in order to better reflect our community and to truly become “The People’s Company”. The company’s Civic Impact programs bring opera directly into the community making performance experiences accessible to all. The Children’s Opera Theatre program reaches about 60,000 students across North Texas each season with live, interactive performances.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, FWO created an online educational curriculum for local music students that supplemented their in-school studies. This innovative, new material allows COT to now serve entire families and communities beyond the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. Fort Worth Opera is committed to celebrating all North Texans, and through our ongoing *Noches de Ópera* and annual *A Night of Black Excellence* programs the company offers exciting community-driven events and powerful operas that represent the diverse cultures of all of the Americas.

Fort Worth Opera is sponsored in part by awards from The Arts Council of Fort Worth & Tarrant County, The City of Fort Worth, the Texas Commission on the Arts, Visit Fort Worth, and OPERA America. Additional funding for Fort Worth Opera provided by Claytor Family Charitable Foundation Inc., Hattie Mae Lesley Foundation, Sid W. Richardson Foundation, Amon G. Carter Foundation, Crystelle Waggoner Charitable Trust, DuBose Family Foundation, Robert D. & Alma Moreton Foundation, Virginia Hobbs Charitable Trust, The Rea Charitable Trust, The Burnett Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Ann L. & Carol Green Rhodes Charitable Trust, The Thomas M., Helen McKee & John P. Ryan Foundation, North Texas Community Foundation, The Red Oak Foundation, Alcon Foundation, Fifth Avenue Foundation, Garvey Texas Foundation, Mary Potishman Lard Trust, Barbara Ann Baldrige Foundation, Townplace Suites, and Simmons Bank.

American Airlines is the Official Airline of Fort Worth Opera.