



TUCSON DESERT
SONG FESTIVAL

PRESENTS



Celebrate
Song!

Festival Sponsor
JEANNETTE SEGEL



THIRTEENTH ANNUAL
JANUARY 10 – FEBRUARY 28 | APRIL 1 – APRIL 25

GREETINGS FROM THE LEADERSHIP OF THE TUCSON DESERT SONG FESTIVAL

As TDSF enters our thirteenth season, we thank all of you for being with us on this journey! Our supporters, led by an outstanding board of directors and a generous community of donors, have made it possible for our festival to transform cultural life in Tucson. The vision of founders Jack Forsythe and Cecile Follansbee, plus tons of hard work by a devoted group of music lovers, created something unique and lasting.

Thirteen years ago, it was hard to imagine Tucson's performing arts organizations coordinating and collaborating with mutually supportive programming. Few could dream of Tucson being regarded as a cultural destination for many of the greatest singers in the world. Today, we are grateful to be able to say we achieved both of those goals, and with your continued support, we will continue to grow.

For 2025, TDSF brings to Tucson the premiere of a Festival-commissioned song cycle by Pulitzer Prize and Academy Award-winning composer John Corigliano; extraordinary vocalists from the most important venues in the world will share the stage with Tucson's performing arts groups; TDSF education and outreach continue to expand and inspire future musicians and music lovers.

We are honored to be part of this wonderful organization and grateful to the supporters who have made it possible for TDSF to bring great voices to Tucson.



Jeannette J. Segel

Jeannette J. Segel
TDSF Board President



Julia Pernet

Julia Pernet
Vice President &
Artistic Advisory
Committee Co-Chair



Juliana Osinchuck

Juliana Osinchuck
Artistic Advisory
Committee Co-Chair

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Arizona Arts Live	<i>arizonaartslive.com</i>
Arizona Early Music	<i>azearlymusic.org</i>
Arizona Friends of Chamber Music	<i>arizonachambermusic.org</i>
Arizona Opera	<i>azopera.org</i>
Arizona Theater Company	<i>atc.org</i>
Ballet Tucson	<i>ballettucson.org</i>
True Concord Voices & Orchestra	<i>trueconcord.org</i>
Tucson Guitar Society	<i>tucsonguitarsociety.org</i>
Tucson Jazz Festival	<i>tucsonjazzfestival.org</i>
Tucson Symphony Orchestra	<i>tucsonsymphony.org</i>
University of Arizona School of Music	<i>music.arizona.edu</i>

ARTISTIC STEERING COMMITTEE

Julia Pernet, *Vice President & Artistic Advisory Committee Co-Chair, TDSF; Chairman, Tucson Guitar Society*

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Gerri Wright, *Executive Director, Arizona Theater Company*

OVERVIEW OF PERFORMANCES

JAN 10-12 / TUCSON BAROQUE MUSIC FESTIVAL

Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church / Arizona Early Music / Tickets: azearlymusic.org

Join festival director **Avi Stein** and the period-instrument virtuosi of the TBMF Chamber Players for three exhilarating days of Baroque masterworks.

7pm Jan 10 / All Roads Lead To...

featuring vocal and instrumental works by Handel with **Amanda Forsythe**, soprano

3pm Jan 11 / Bach's Circle

featuring the music of J.S. Bach and his contemporaries with **Dashon Burton**, bass-baritone

3pm Jan 12 / Divine Love

featuring Bach's *Brandenburg* Concerto No. 5 & Cantata BWV 32 *Liebster Jesu, mein Verlangen* with **Amanda Forsythe**, soprano & **Dashon Burton**, bass-baritone

JAN 16 / RECITAL: RYAN SPEEDO GREEN, BASS-BARITONE WITH ADAM NIELSEN, PIANO

7pm / Holsclaw Hall / True Concord Voices & Orchestra / Tickets: trueconcord.org

Acclaimed Metropolitan Opera and Vienna State Opera star **Ryan Speedo Green** makes his Tucson debut with a program of works by Mahler, Liszt, Schubert, Wolf, and Mussorgsky. Distinguished collaborative artist, soloist, and coach **Adam Nielsen** joins him at the piano.

JAN 17 / VOCALIST DOMINIQUE EADE WITH PIANIST ARMEN DONELIAN

7pm & 9pm / The Century Room / Tucson Jazz Festival / Tickets: tucsonjazzfestival.org

Poetic and passionate, American jazz singer and composer **Dominique Eade** blends musical virtuosity with a straightforward emotional sensibility, inspiring audiences across the United States, Europe, and Latin America. Joining Eade at the piano is **Armen Donelian**, who has distinguished himself in 25 countries as a featured solo pianist, band leader, and music educator.

JAN 21 / ART SONG LECTURE BY NIGEL FOSTER

3pm / Holsclaw Hall / UA School of Music / Free Admission

Pianist **Nigel Foster** is the founder and director of the London Song Festival, an annual event promoting song repertoire. In addition to featuring internationally known artists, the Festival acts as a major showcase for up-and-coming singers. Nigel's musical interests range from baroque to contemporary music, though his main love and passion is the song repertoire.

JAN 24 / VOCALIST CAITY GYORGY WITH HER PIANO TRIO

7pm / The Century Room / Tucson Jazz Festival / Tickets: tucsonjazzfestival.org

Caity Gyorgy is a two-time JUNO award-winning Canadian vocalist known for singing bebop and swing music. She has performed at major jazz clubs and festivals across Canada, Mexico, Japan, and the USA. In addition to performing, Caity is an award-winning songwriter. She is joined by her frequent piano trio **Anthony D'Alessandro**, piano; **Thomas Hainbuch**, bass; & **Jacob Wutzke**, drums.

OVERVIEW OF PERFORMANCES

JAN 25 / RECITAL: KRISTIN DAUPHINAIS, MEZZO-SOPRANO WITH NIGEL FOSTER, PIANO

3pm / Holsclaw Hall / UA School of Music / Free Admission

Mezzo-soprano **Kristin Dauphinais** is highly regarded for her artistry and versatility. She has worked in a variety of genres including musical theater, opera, concert, oratorio, chamber music, and solo recitals. This program will feature the song settings of American Poetess, Sara Teasdale (1884-1933). London Song Festival Director **Nigel Foster** joins Dauphinais at the piano.

JAN 24 & 26 / MAHLER'S THIRD SYMPHONY WITH SASHA COOKE, MEZZO-SOPRANO

7:30pm Jan 24 / 2pm Jan 26 / Linda Rondstadt Music Hall / Tucson Symphony Orchestra

Tickets: [ticketmaster.com](https://www.ticketmaster.com)

One of the brightest stars on the operatic stage, internationally recognized mezzo-soprano **Sasha Cooke** returns to the TSO for a riveting performance of Mahler's colossal third symphony. Organized over six movements, the work is the composer's hymn to nature and one of his most complete musical statements. **José Luis Gomez**, conductor.

JAN 26-FEB 15 / BLUES IN THE NIGHT: A MUSICAL REVUE CREATED BY SHELDON EPPS

Showtimes vary. Complete listing available at atc.org

Temple of Music & Art / Arizona Theatre Company / Tickets: atc.org

A musical celebration of the blues and its influence on American music, this toe-tapping revue interweaves the stories of three women and one man as they navigate love, heartbreak, and rebirth. Set in a swanky 1930s Chicago hotel, this story features 26 of the hottest torch numbers by icons like Bessie Smith, Johnny Mercer, Harold Arlen, Duke Ellington, Billy Strayhorn, and Benny Goodman.

JAN 29 / NEW DIRECTIONS IN SONG FEATURING SINGERS FROM THE UA SCHOOL OF MUSIC

12pm / Holsclaw Hall / UA School of Music / Free Admission

University of Arizona voice students will present this annual recital of contemporary art song, featuring new trends and discoveries. Hosted by faculty artist Dr. **Kristin Dauphinais**.

FEB 1 / PUCCINI'S LA BOHÈME

2pm / Linda Rondstadt Music Hall / Arizona Opera / Tickets: azopera.org

In the vibrant Latin Quarter of 19th century Paris, a romance ignites between the poet Rodolfo and beautiful but frail seamstress Mimì. With its exquisite melodies and stirring emotions, *La Bohème* continues to captivate audiences around the world. Starring **SeokJong Baek**, Rodolfo; **Caitlin Gotimer**, Mimì; **Benjamin Taylor**, Marcello; and **Emma Marhefka**, Musetta.

OVERVIEW OF PERFORMANCES

FEB 1 & 2 / MAHLER & SCHUMANN WITH SASHA COOKE, MEZZO-SOPRANO

2pm Feb 1 & 2 / 7:30pm Feb 1 / Catalina Foothills High School / Tucson Symphony Orchestra

Tickets: [ticketmaster.com](https://www.ticketmaster.com)

Metropolitan Opera star **Sasha Cooke** will perform selections from Mahler's five-song cycle based on the poems of Friedrich Rückert. Maestro **José Luis Gomez** continues his Schumann cycle with the composer's Symphony No. 3, the *Rhenish*, and Coleridge-Taylor's beautiful, rarely-played *Ballade* completes the program.

FEB 14-16 / WINTER CONCERT - FROM TUCSON WITH LOVE: WORLD PREMIERE BALLET BARRIO VIEJO TO THE MUSIC OF LALO GUERRERO WITH VOCALIST CARLOS ZAPIÉN & GUITAR TRIO

7pm Feb 14 & 15 / 2pm Feb 15 & 16 / Leo Rich Theater / Ballet Tucson / Tickets: [ticketmaster.com](https://www.ticketmaster.com)

In celebration of Tucson's 250th birthday, Associate Artistic Director **Chieko Imada** creates another vibrant new ballet to the music of legendary Tucsonan Lalo Guerrero, Father of Chicano music, in collaboration with the Tucson Guitar Society. **Carlos Zapién**, vocalist; **Misael Barraza Díaz**, guitar; **Andrés Pantoja**, guitar; **Diana Schaible**, flute and guitar.

FEB 19 / SPA TRIO FEATURING SUSANNA PHILLIPS, SOPRANO, PAUL NEUBAUER, VIOLA, & ANNE-MARIE MCDERMOTT, PIANO

7:30pm / Leo Rich Theater / Arizona Friends of Chamber Music / Tickets: [arizonachambermusic.org](https://www.arizonachambermusic.org)

Historic recordings of some of the great singers of yesteryear include numerous performances of salon songs that included an obbligato instrument. This trio of stellar artists first performed together in 2011 and have enjoyed continuing this tradition and exploring song repertoire that includes an obbligato instrument.

FEB 28-MAR 2 / THE TUCSON SPIRIT - THE LOVE OF FLIGHT: AN ALL-AMERICAN PROGRAM FEATURING THE MUSIC OF BERNSTEIN, BLITZSTEIN, COPLAND, GERSHWIN, THOMPSON, & WEILL

4pm Feb 28 Valley Presbyterian Church, Green Valley / 7pm Mar 1 Catalina Foothills High School

3pm Mar 2 Catalina Foothills High School / True Concord voices & Orchestra / Tickets: [trueconcord.org](https://www.trueconcord.org)

Celebrate Tucson's connection to the skies with Blitzstein's *Airborne Symphony*—the perfect piece to pay homage to the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Davis-Monthan Air Force Base. Also on the program is Copland's *Lincoln Portrait*, which sets to music the words of Abraham Lincoln, and Randall Thompson's *Testament of Freedom*, featuring text by Thomas Jefferson.

APR 1 / THE CREATIVE PROCESS: A DISCUSSION WITH VIOLINIST JOSHUA BELL, SOPRANO LARISA MARTÍNEZ, & COMPOSER JOHN CORIGLIANO; HOSTED BY GEORGE HANSON

5pm / Holsclaw Hall, UA School of Music / Arizona Friends of Chamber Music / Free & open to the public

Join us for a lively discussion with composer **John Corigliano** and the husband-wife duo of violinist **Joshua Bell** and soprano **Larisa Martínez** about the world premiere of Corigliano's new Festival-commissioned song cycle. Hosted by **George Hanson**.

OVERVIEW OF PERFORMANCES

APR 2 / RECITAL: JOSHUA BELL, VIOLIN & LARISA MARTÍNEZ, SOPRANO FEATURING THE WORLD PREMIERE OF A FESTIVAL-COMMISSIONED SONG CYCLE BY JOHN CORIGLIANO

7pm / Crowder Hall / Arizona Friends of Chamber Music / Tickets: arizonachambermusic.org

This recital program will feature the world premiere of a Festival-commissioned song cycle by celebrated American composer **John Corigliano**, created for the husband-wife duo of famed violinist Joshua Bell and soprano **Larisa Martínez**. The piece reunites Corigliano and Bell, who became a household name after he performed Corigliano's soundtrack for the 1998 film *The Red Violin*.

APR 3 / RECITAL: STEPHEN COSTELLO, TENOR WITH ANTHONY MANOLI, PIANO

7pm / Holsclaw Hall / Arizona Opera / Tickets: ticketmaster.com

Philadelphia-born tenor **Stephen Costello** quickly established a reputation as a "first-class talent" (*Opera News*) after his Metropolitan Opera debut at age 26 and has since appeared at many of the world's most important opera houses and music festivals. This program will feature an enthralling mix of both songs and arias. Distinguished pianist, conductor, and coach **Anthony Manoli** joins him at the piano.

APR 4 & 6 / ORFF'S CARMINA BURANA

7:30pm Apr 4 / 2pm Apr 6 / Linda Rondstadt Music Hall / Tucson Symphony Orchestra

Tickets: ticketmaster.com

Carl Orff's singular and powerful work comes to the stage with soloists **Ashley Fabian**, soprano; **Joseph Tancredi**, tenor; and **Octavio Moreno**, baritone; plus the full might of the Tucson Symphony Chorus. Completing the program is Gabriela Ortiz's *Kauyumari* and Robert Muczynski's *Symphonic Memoir*, premiered by the TSO in 1979 and the latest in the TSO's exploration of this Tucson-based composer.

APR 6 / SILKROAD ENSEMBLE: UPLIFTED VOICES WITH SPECIAL GUEST VOCALIST PURA FÉ

6:30pm / Centennial Hall / Arizona Arts Live / Tickets: ticketmaster.com

Through a stunning collaboration of global instrumentation, **Silkroad Ensemble's** newest project, *Uplifted Voices*, alongside special guest Tuscarora/Taíno musician **Pura Fé**, tells a musical journey that connects the music of indigenous North America to the World, drawing inspiration from the folk music of Japan, China, Armenia, Ireland, Scotland, and native populations across North America into a contemporary musical tapestry.

APR 19 / VERDI'S AIDA

2pm / Linda Rondstadt Music Hall / Arizona Opera / Tickets: azopera.org

The splendor of Egypt comes to life through this visually arresting, projection-based concert production of Verdi's *Aida*, a story of forbidden love amidst political intrigue, as the looming shadow of war envelops the sands of Egypt. Starring **Leah Hawkins**, Aida; **Jennifer Johnson Cano**, Amneris; **Limmie Pulliam**, Radamès; **Kidon Choi**, Amonasro.

THE JACK AND TERRY FORSYTHE RECITAL SERIES

by James Reel

The History of the Tucson Desert Song Festival

Tucson has a long tradition of classical music leadership in the Southwest. The University of Arizona has offered instruction in music since the late 1800s, and the Tucson Symphony Orchestra is the oldest continuing professional performing arts organization in Arizona. With these and other artistic partners as a foundation, the Tucson Desert Song Festival was formed in 2010 as a Section 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation by a group of music-loving volunteers.

The driving force behind the festival was Jack Forsythe. Under Jack's leadership, TDSF was founded to coordinate, subsidize, and publicize a unique classical voice festival highlighting Tucson's rich musical tradition with the aim of bringing to Tucson internationally renowned vocal performers to celebrate and advance vocal music as an art form.

A Vision Realized

Throughout the winter and spring of 2025, the Tucson Desert Song Festival will present its 13th festival, showcasing, in collaboration with our performing partners, one of the widest array of world-class vocal performers since the festival's inception.

Clearly, Jack Forsythe's vision has been realized, enriching Tucson's cultural life in a way that will impact our community for generations to come. The arts are indispensable to who we are as a society. They inspire beauty, kindle new ideas, reveal new truths, and bind us together.



Honoring Jack and Terry Forsythe

We are committed to continuing Jack's work, and we are deeply dedicated to preserving the imprint Jack has made on our community. Toward this end, the Board of Directors of the Tucson Desert Song Festival, led by President Jeannette Segel, has established The Jack and Terry Forsythe Recital Series to honor Jack and Terry.

Our goal is to raise funds for the specific purpose of continuing the tradition of including world-class classical voice recitals as a key part of the Tucson Desert Song Festival for years to come.

Become a supporter of The Jack and Terry Forsythe Recital Series

You can do so by visiting TucsonSongFest.org/donate or by sending a check made out to the Tucson Desert Song Festival with "Jack and Terry Forsythe Recital Series" noted on the check's memo line to:

Tucson Desert Song Festival
P.O. Box 65866
Tucson, AZ 8572

GUEST ARTISTS



SeokJong Baek continues to draw international praise for his arresting lirico/spinto sound and refined technical accomplishment. Baek's critically acclaimed debut as Samson in Saint-Saëns's *Samson et Dalila* at the Royal Opera House was not only a house and role debut but

also his professional debut as a tenor, having transitioned from baritone. Baek made a number of major debuts last season, including a much-anticipated Metropolitan Opera debut as Ismaele in *Nabucco*.



With a career spanning almost four decades, world-renowned violinist **Joshua Bell** is one of the most celebrated artists of his era. Bell has performed with virtually every major orchestra in the world and maintains engagements as a soloist, chamber musician, conductor, and as the Music Director of

the Academy of St Martin in the Fields in London. He has recorded over 40 albums, garnering GRAMMY, Mercury, and Gramophone awards and has collaborated with leading artists across almost every genre.



Hailed as an artist "alight with the spirit of the music" (*Boston Globe*), three-time GRAMMY Award-winning bass-baritone **Dashon Burton** has established a vibrant career appearing regularly throughout the US and Europe, performing Baroque to contemporary repertoire. He received

two of his GRAMMY Awards for recordings with the groundbreaking vocal ensemble Roomful of Teeth, of which he is an original member.



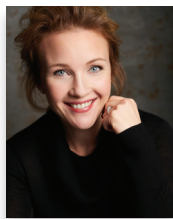
Jennifer Johnson Cano has garnered critical acclaim for performances of both new and standard repertoire, lauded by the *New York Times* for her "rich-toned mezzo-soprano" voice and by *Opera News* as a "matchless interpreter of contemporary opera." She has appeared in more than 100

performances on the stage at The Metropolitan Opera since her debut in the 2009-2010 season, most recently in the roles of Nicklausse, Emilia, Hansel, and Meg Page.



Baritone **Kidon Choi** is a recent graduate of the prestigious Lindemann Young Artist Program at The Metropolitan Opera. While in the program, he was seen as José Castro in *La fanciulla del West*, Herald in *Otello*, and Prince Yamadori in *Madama Butterfly*. Last season, Choi made his debut with San Diego Opera in *Madama*

Butterfly as Sharpless and joined the roster of the Lyric Opera of Chicago for *Aida*.



Two-time GRAMMY Award-winning mezzo-soprano **Sasha Cooke** has been called a "luminous standout" by the *New York Times* and "equal parts poise, radiance, and elegant directness" by *Opera News*. Ms. Cooke has sung at the Metropolitan Opera, San Francisco Opera, English

National Opera, and Opéra National de Bordeaux, among others, and with over 80 symphonies worldwide. 2022 marked Ms. Cooke's appointment as Co-Director of the Lehrer Vocal Institute.



American composer **John Corigliano** continues to add to one of the richest, most unusual, and most widely celebrated bodies of work created over the last forty years. Corigliano's scores, now numbering over one hundred, have won the Pulitzer Prize, the Grawemeyer Award, five GRAMMY Awards, an Academy Award, and have been

performed and recorded by many of the most prominent orchestras, soloists, and chamber musicians in the world.



Stephen Costello has been hailed as "a prodigiously gifted singer whose voice makes an immediate impact" (*Associated Press*). The Philadelphia-born tenor quickly established a reputation as a "first-class talent" (*Opera News*) after coming to national attention in 2007 when, aged 26, he made

his Metropolitan Opera debut. Two years later, Stephen won the prestigious Richard Tucker Award, and he has since appeared at many of the world's most important opera houses and music festivals.

GUEST ARTISTS



Mezzo-soprano **Kristin Dauphinais** is highly regarded for her artistry and versatility. She has worked in a variety of genres including musical theater, opera, concert, oratorio, chamber music, and solo recitals. Her performing career has taken her throughout the United

States as well on tours in Italy, China, and Australia with additional concert performances in Germany, Spain, Austria, and Luxembourg. Dr. Dauphinais is the chair of vocal studies at the University of Arizona.



Since 1975, pianist, composer, and Fulbright Scholar **Armen Donelian** has distinguished himself in 25 countries as a featured solo pianist, band leader, and educator. Donelian's distinctive music blends diverse influences from his Armenian origin, classical technique, and his association with many of the

biggest names in jazz. According to *Metronome* magazine, "he achieves this fusion in such a natural way that one can tell it's a master's work."



As the founder of the internationally renowned Native Women's cappella trio, Ulali, Tuscarora/Taino musician **Pura Fé** has been a driving force in building a bridge for Native music into the mainstream music scene. Her numerous awards include Best World Album from L'Académie Charles Cros in 2006 and most recently the Dora Mayor

Moore Award for Outstanding Music Composition and Sound Design for *Miigis: Underwater Panther*, an interdisciplinary piece that received performances across the globe in 2023.



American soprano **Amanda Forsythe**, celebrated for her performances on both sides of the Atlantic, is a regular soloist with highly acclaimed baroque ensembles, symphonies, and leading opera companies and music festivals. Forsythe is a frequent performer with the Boston Early Music Festival, where her many

roles have included Poppea in *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, Eolie in *Desmarest's Circé*, Angelica in *Orlando*, and Serpina in *La serva padrona*.



Born in Hermosillo, Sonora, **Misael Barraza-Díaz** is one of the most outstanding Mexican guitarists of his generation. He has received 10 first places in international competitions and has performed as a soloist throughout the United States, Mexico, Canada, and Europe. During the summer

of 2019, Misael was part of the prestigious European tour organized by EuroStrings with a cast of artists made up only of guitarists who won first places in important European competitions.



Poetic and passionate, American vocalist and composer **Dominique Eade** blends musical virtuosity with a songwriter's straightforward emotional sensibility, creating music that has inspired audiences across the United States, Europe, and Latin

America and served as a creative signpost for generations of singers. *The New York Times* called Eade "an exceptional singer" with a "wide vocal range and a grasp on the intricacies of style."



Acclaimed by the *New York Classical Review* as "a vision of sunshine and joy," possessing a "lovely lyric soprano," **Ashley Fabian** is quickly garnering recognition for her artistry in both comedic and dramatic roles. Ms. Fabian was a three-time Regional Finalist in the Metropolitan Opera Laffont

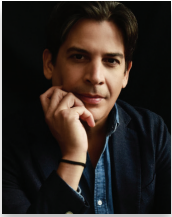
Competition and appears regularly throughout the United States on both the opera and concert stage.



London-born **Nigel Foster** studied piano at the Royal Academy of Music where his teachers were Roger Vignoles, Graham Johnson, and Iain Burnside. At the Academy, he won every prize and award available for piano accompaniment and has since been appointed an Associate

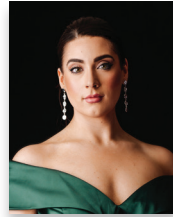
Professor of the Royal Academy of Music. Nigel is also the founder and director of the London Song Festival, an annual event promoting song repertoire. Nigel enjoys a busy schedule performing on the concert platform worldwide.

GUEST ARTISTS



The Venezuelan-born, Spanish conductor **José Luis Gomez** began his musical career as a violinist but was catapulted to international attention when he won first prize in the 2010 International Sir Georg Solti Conductor's Competition in Frankfurt, Germany, securing a sensational and rare

unanimous decision from the jury. In 2016, he was named Music Director of the Tucson Symphony Orchestra.



Praised for her “soaring vocal range and the depth of her acting” (*Broadway World*), **Caitlin Gotimer** made her European debut in the summer of 2024 as Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni* with Deutsche Oper Berlin and also made her debut as the Countess in *The Marriage of*

Figaro at the Aspen Music Festival. In the 2024/25 season, Gotimer debuts in *Il Pagliacci* (Nedda) with Pittsburgh Opera and *La Bohème* (Mimi) with Arizona Opera.



Named “the real showstopper” by the *New York Times*, three time GRAMMY Award-winning bass-baritone **Ryan Speedo Green** has quickly established himself as an artist of international demand at the world's leading opera houses. Honors and awards include National Grand Finals

Winner of the 2011 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, a 2014 George London Foundation Award, and both the Richard and Sara Tucker Grants.



Caity Gyorgy is a two-time JUNO award-winning Canadian vocalist known for singing bebop and swing music. She has performed at jazz clubs and festivals across Canada, Mexico, Japan, and the USA and has worked and recorded with many of today's leading jazz musicians. In addition to

performing, Caity is an avid songwriter. Her compositions have won multiple awards, including Grand Prize in the jazz category of the 2021 John Lennon Songwriting Contest.



George Hanson brings many years of experience in the symphonic world to his current position as Executive Director of the Alexandria Symphony. After several decades of an active conducting career throughout the United States and Europe, Hanson turned his attention to management and administration and served

as Festival Director/Coordinator of the Tucson Desert Song Festival from 2015 to 2024. His career includes 19 years as Music Director of the Tucson Symphony Orchestra.



A native of Philadelphia, soprano **Leah Hawkins** is the 2024 recipient of the Beverly Sills Artist Award from the Metropolitan Opera. She begins the 2024-25 season in recital at the Park Avenue Armory, followed by several concert appearances in New York City. Later this season,

she debuts with the San Francisco Symphony in Verdi's *Messa da Requiem*, returns to Arizona Opera for her role debut as *Aida*, and returns to the Philadelphia Orchestra for Beethoven's 9th Symphony.



Conductor **Eric Holtan**, the founding music director of True Concord Voices & Orchestra, previously served as associate conductor of the Southern Arizona Symphony Orchestra and as the assistant director of the Tucson Symphony Orchestra Chorus. He continues his work in church music, which he began as an

organist at age 12, as minister of music, art, and liturgy at Dove of Peace Lutheran Church.



Japanese-born choreographer **Chieko Imada**, assistant artistic director of Ballet Tucson, has danced professionally with companies including Inoue Ballet of Tokyo and Ballet Arizona. She has staged many classical ballets and has also created numerous original

contemporary works during her more than three decades with Ballet Tucson. She also appeared regularly with the Orts Theatre of Dance and Tenth St. Danceworks modern troupes in Tucson.

GUEST ARTISTS



Pianist and coach **Anthony Manoli** has worked with many leading opera companies throughout the world, both as a conductor and pianist/coach. He was a Fellowship coach at the Tanglewood Festival and has worked for the Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program at the Washington National

Opera and the Los Angeles Opera's Young Artist Program. Mr. Manoli is currently a faculty member of the Mannes College of Music in New York City where he lives and maintains an active coaching studio.



Puerto Rican singer **Larisa Martínez** has been praised and sought after for her "smoky soprano" (*Opera News*), gracing many of the world's top opera and concert stages, including recent debuts as a soloist at the Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall, Madison Square Garden, and the Hollywood Bowl. In

2016, she won the Metropolitan Opera's National Council Auditions in Puerto Rico.



Mexican-American baritone **Octavio Moreno** has sung with Lyric Opera of Chicago, New York City Opera, Houston Grand Opera, San Diego Opera, and Arizona Opera to name a few. Moreno won first place in the Linus Lerner International Opera Competition in 2018 and represented Mexico in the 2009

BBC Cardiff Singer of the World Competition. He was a young artist at the Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia followed by the Houston Grand Opera Studio.



Pianist **Adam Nielsen** enjoys a diverse career as a soloist, collaborator, répétiteur, and coach. His performances have been praised as "deftly and sensitively played" (*New York Times*), "an emotional account of the score" (*Musical America*), and "tapping into the emotional core of his audience" (*Times*

Picayune). Nielsen has served as pianist, coach, chorus master, and assistant conductor for Juilliard's Marcus Institute of Vocal Arts since 2011.



Emma Marhefka, soprano, has country-wide performance credits including Lauretta (*Gianni Schicchi*) with Opera Tampa, Young Alyce (*Glory Denied*) with Knoxville Opera, and Frasquita (*Carmen*) with Des Moines Metro Opera. She has been a young artist with Des Moines Metro

Opera, Wolf Trap Opera, Santa Fe Opera, and Arizona Opera. Marhefka is a two-time regional finalist in the Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition and a 2023 finalist in Houston Grand Opera's Eleanor McCollum Competition.



Pianist **Anne-Marie McDermott** has played concertos, recitals, and chamber music in hundreds of cities throughout the world. In addition to performing, she serves as artistic director of the Bravo! Vail Music and Ocean Reef Music Festivals as well as Curator of Chamber Music for

the Mainly Mozart Festival in San Diego.



Violist **Paul Neubauer's** exceptional musicality and effortless playing led the *New York Times* to call him "a master musician." He recently made his Chicago Symphony debut with conductor Riccardo Muti as well as his Mariinsky Orchestra debut at the White Nights Festival. Mr.

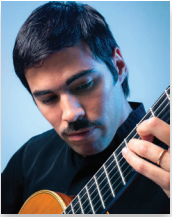
Neubauer is the artistic director of the Mostly Music series in New Jersey and is on the faculty of The Juilliard School and Mannes College.



With his unique combination of theatrical and musical background, conductor **Steven Osgood** brings a musical incisiveness and dramatic insight to the podium. His expertise in repertoire ranges from the Baroque through some of the most challenging contemporary scores. Osgood

recently completed his eighth season as General and Artistic Director of the Chautauqua Opera Company.

GUEST ARTISTS



Award-winning Chilean guitarist **Andrés Pantoja** has performed throughout the United States, Europe, and Latin America. He has been featured in TV programs, radio programs, and as a soloist with prestigious ensembles such as the Santiago Philharmonic Orchestra and

Chamber Orchestra of Chile. He has premiered dozens of works and is fast establishing himself as a leading researcher in contemporary Chilean music for guitar.



Rising dramatic tenor **Limmie Pulliam** has thrilled audiences with his captivating stage presence and “stentorian, yet beautiful” sound at opera houses and concert halls through the U.S. and Europe. Mr. Pulliam was the 2012 Artist Division Winner of the National Opera Association’s Vocal Competition

and participated in the young artist programs of Cleveland Opera, Opera Delaware, and Opera Memphis.



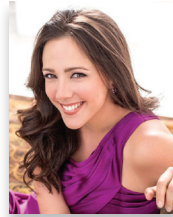
Guitarist and flutist **Diana Schaible** has won prizes at MusicFest Northwest, Northwest Guitar Festival, and the IMEA Collegiate Competition. Since moving to Tucson, Diana has maintained a private flute and guitar teaching studio and is currently an Opening Minds Through the Arts Teaching Artist at

Tucson Unified School District.



Described by *The New York Times* as “a brilliant organ soloist” in his Carnegie Hall debut, Fulbright Scholar and GRAMMY award-winning keyboardist **Avi Stein** has established himself as a distinguished performer, conductor, and educator. He currently serves as Festival Director of the Tucson Baroque Music

Festival, Artistic Director of The Helicon Foundation in New Your City, associate organist and chorus master at Trinity Church Wall Street, and on faculty at the Juilliard School



Soprano **Susanna Phillips**, known for her sparkling portrayal of Musetta, has sung at the Met for 14 consecutive seasons, most recently as Mimì in *La bohème*. Other role highlights at the Met include Donna Anna, Pamina, and Fiordiligi, which the *New York Times* called a “breakthrough

night.” Prestigious awards include The Metropolitan Opera’s Beverly Sills Artist Award, Operalia (First Place), and The Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition.



Stephanie Rhodes Russell recently completed a residency as Conducting Fellow with the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra. She has served on the music staff of the Bolshoi Theatre of Russia, The Dallas Opera, Houston Grand Opera, LA Opera, San Francisco Opera, and Washington National

Opera. Her extensive operatic experience in the roles of conductor, chorus master, rehearsal pianist, and diction coach brings a comprehensive understanding to her work.



Yo-Yo Ma conceived the **Silkroad Ensemble** in 1998 as a reminder that even as rapid globalization resulted in division, it brought extraordinary possibilities for working together. Today, The GRAMMY Award-winning Silkroad Ensemble thrills audiences worldwide with a

collective of artists, representing dozens of nationalities and artistic traditions, demonstrating how great beauty can emerge from great difference.



Hailed by *Opera News* for his “high notes with a ringing, clarion tone,” tenor **Joseph Tancredi** has garnered recognition in the competition circuit and was recently named a National Semifinalist in the Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition. He was an Apprentice Singer at the Santa Fe Opera for two summers,

and other credits include Nemorino (*L’elisir d’amore*), Ferrando (*Così fan tutte*), the title role in Albert Herring, and Conte Almaviva (*Il barbiere di Siviglia*).

GUEST ARTISTS



Baritone **Benjamin Taylor** recently appeared at The Metropolitan Opera for *The Magic Flute* (Papageno) and *Carmen* (Moralès), Opera Philadelphia for *Simon Boccanegra* (Paolo), Austin Opera for *Pagliacci* (Silvio), the Princeton Festival for *Così fan tutte* (Guglielmo), and Bayerische

Staatsoper for *La fanciulla del West* (Bello). Taylor is a graduate of the Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist Program and was a Festival Artist at Opera Theatre of Saint Louis.



Mexican artist **Carlos Zapién** stands out not only as a singer and pianist but also as a cultural promoter and composer. His career has been adorned with many international accolades, showcasing his versatility across various vocal genres, ranging from German Lied to

Latin American bolero. Carlos has captivated audiences throughout Europe, Asia, Mexico, and the United States.

The Tucson Desert Song Festival is committed to highlighting the work of living composers and giving a platform to new song repertoire. Between 2020 and 2024, TDSF commissioned the premiere of four new song cycles through the Wesley Green Composer Project, a series designed to introduce major new works by leading contemporary composers, created for some of the greatest singers in the world today.

TDSF continues this commitment in 2025 with the premiere of a Festival-commissioned song cycle by Pulitzer Prize and Academy Award-winning composer John Corigliano, written for the husband-wife duo of famed violinist Joshua Bell and soprano Larisa Martínez.

2024

Quiet Poems by Jimmy López Bellido,
written for tenor Michael Fabiano, with text by Nilo Cruz

2023

Marvin Gaye Songs by Ricky Ian Gordon,
written for baritone Justin Austin, with text by Langston Hughes

2022

Summertime Music by Jennifer Higdon,
written for mezzo-soprano Sasha Cooke, with text by the composer

2021

What I Miss the Most by Jake Heggie,
written for mezzo-soprano Jamie Barton, with text by Joyce DiDonato,
Patti LuPone, Sister Helen Prejean, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and Kathleen Kelly

2020

Songs of Love and Loss by Richard Danielpour,
written for soprano Hila Plitmann, with text by Rumi

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