



For Immediate Release

THE SANTA FE OPERA AWARDS 27 OUTSTANDING APPRENTICES FOR 2019 SEASON

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Santa Fe, NM — The Santa Fe Opera recently announced the recipients of its annual **Outstanding Apprentice Awards**. Each season, talented young singers and technicians take part in the **Santa Fe Opera's Apprentice Programs**, where they receive intensive training and play critical roles in the creation, both on stage and off, of the season's five mainstage productions. Their work culminates in two nights of fully staged and costumed Apprentice Scenes, created and performed solely by the apprentices. Of this season's 78 apprentice technicians and 42 apprentice singers, **27 won cash rewards**, honoring their exceptional talent and hard work.

Since the Opera's founding in 1957, the company has worked to foster the development of young singers and technicians. Today, these professional training programs are known as some of the most rigorous and selective of their types, with many prominent singers, designers, and directors naming the program as an essential step in their careers. This season's Apprentice Programs were funded in part by the Opera's annual fund, income from endowment funds, and proceeds from both the Summer and Winter Gala.

The following individuals, noted with their department or voice type and hometown, are the 2019 Outstanding Apprentice Award recipients:

SINGERS

Mezzo-soprano **Leia Lensing** of Solon, Iowa received the **Campbell/Wachter Scholarship**, given in memory of Santa Fe Opera patron Sam Campbell and his sister June Wachter.

Bass-baritone **Alan Higgs** of Melbourne Beach, Florida and Baritone **Benjamin Taylor** of Waldorf, Maryland received the **Donald Gramm Memorial Award**, given in the memory of the distinguished American bass-

baritone who appeared with Santa Fe Opera over a period of a dozen years, as well as other leading opera companies.

Soprano **Mary-Hollis Hundley** of Louisville, Kentucky received the **Anna Case Mackay Memorial Award**, given in memory of the early twentieth-century prima donna.

Soprano **Ann Toomey** of Shelby Township, Michigan received the **Katharine Mayer Award**, given in memory of the former president of the Santa Fe Opera Board of Directors.

Tenor **Robert Stahley** of Groveland, Massachusetts received the **Lillian Caroff Mayer Award**, given by Santa Fe Opera patrons Natalie and Barry Beller in memory of Mrs. Beller's mother to assist young singers with the costs associated with auditions and career development.

Tenor **Alec Carlson** of Red Oak, Iowa received the **Richard Tucker Fund Award**, given in memory of America's reigning tenor of the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s.

The following Apprentice Singers received a Grant Award: Tenor **Anthony Ciaramitaro** of Coral Springs, Florida; Soprano **Sylvia D'Eramo** of Tyler, Texas; Mezzo-soprano **Katherine DeYoung** of Traverse City, Michigan; Mezzo-soprano **Kate Farrar** of Lexington Park, Maryland; Soprano **Jana McIntyre** of Santa Barbara, California; and Mezzo-soprano **Gina Perregrino** of Wilmington, Delaware.

TECHNICIANS

Properties Paint Apprentice **Madeline Goddard** of Montpelier, Vermont; Properties Carpenter Apprentice **Adam Hooper** of Gainesville, Georgia; and Stage Crew Apprentice **Kevin Upham** of Holland, Ohio received the **Gustave & Jane Baumann Technician Award**, given in memory of the celebrated Santa Fe artist and his wife.

Electrics Apprentice **Kelly Sandoval** of Santa Fe, New Mexico, received the **Albuquerque Guild Award** for an Apprentice from New Mexico, given in memory of Emmah Ellis.

Electrics Apprentice **Hannah L. Mackey** of Buffalo, New York and Audio/Video Apprentice **Araceli Ramirez** of El Dorado, Arkansas received **The Katharine Mayer Technician Award**, given in memory of the former president of the Santa Fe Opera Board of Directors.

Electrics Apprentice **Christopher Ferranti** of Edison, New Jersey received the **Craig J. Miller Award**, given in memory of the late lighting designer.

Scenic Art Apprentices **Petra Stoppel** of Petoskey, Michigan and **Jacob Caire** of El Paso, Texas received the **Lawrence Reehling Technician Award**, given in memory of the late scenic and costume designer who worked with Santa Fe Opera during many of its early seasons.

Properties Run Crew Apprentice **Shasta Stewart** of Callahan, California; Production Services Crew Apprentice **Tara Tolar-Payne** of Thornton, Colorado; and Wigs and Makeup Apprentice **Lily Komarow** of Vienna, Virginia

received the **James Irven Staley Award**, given in memory of the former member of the Santa Fe Opera Board of Directors and Foundation Board.

Stage Carpenter Apprentice **Natalie Kandra** of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and Costumes Apprentice **Becca Updyke** of Denver, Colorado received the **Greg Teakle Memorial Award**, given in memory of the late interior designer and long-time Santa Fe Opera volunteer.

MEDIA RESOURCES FOR THE SANTA FE OPERA APPRENTICE PROGRAMS

[High-Resolution Imagery](#)

[Video Feature: Celebrating the Santa Fe Opera's Apprentice Programs](#)

[About the Apprentice Program for Singers](#)

[About the Apprentice Program for Theater Technicians](#)

The mission of the Santa Fe Opera is to advance the operatic art form by presenting ensemble performances of the highest quality in a unique setting with a varied repertory of new, rarely performed, and standard works; to ensure the excellence of opera's future through apprentice programs for singers, technicians, and arts administrators; and to foster an understanding and appreciation of opera among a diverse public.

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