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Chris Cox, Director of Marketing and Communications
412-281-0912 ext. 217; ccox@pittsburghopera.org

Pittsburgh Opera announces its 2026-27 Resident Artists

Pittsburgh Opera is proud to announce its stellar class of 2026-27 Resident Artists:

- [Drew Comer](#), bass
- [Maya Davis](#), mezzo-soprano
- [Ayanna Delk-Lewis](#), soprano
- [Olivia Gacka](#), stage director
- [Léa Nayak](#), soprano
- [Erik Nordstrom](#), baritone
- [Joseph Stevens](#), pianist
- [Logan Wagner](#), tenor

Pittsburgh Opera's [Resident Artist Program](#) is one of the country's leading training programs for young singers. Over 800 applicants from around the world regularly vie for just a handful of openings.

After completing advanced education such as graduate degrees, Pittsburgh Opera's Resident Artists further their careers under the guidance of the opera world's leaders and innovators. They study languages, diction, movement, and acting, while developing their vocal skills, expanding their repertoire, and performing on stage in Pittsburgh Opera productions.

In addition to singers, Pittsburgh Opera's Resident Artist program includes a Stage Director position and a pianist position.

Pittsburgh Opera's Resident Artists regularly go on to headline at the world's most prestigious opera houses, including the Metropolitan Opera. **Both [Emily Richter](#) (2024) and [Shannon Crowley](#) (2026) were Grand Finals Winners of the Metropolitan Opera Eric and Dominique Laffont Competition while they were Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artists.** Other notable alumni include:

- [Maire Therese Carmack](#) (returning this season as Maddalena in *Rigoletto*)
- [Daniel O'Hearn](#) (returning this season as the Duke of Mantua in *Rigoletto*)
- [Marianne Cornetti](#)
- [Sean Panikkar](#)
- [Kevin Glavin](#)
- [Danielle Pastin](#)
- [Stephanie Havey](#)
- [Taylor Raven](#)
- [Alexandra Loutsion](#)
- [Benjamin Taylor](#)
- [Audrey Luna](#)
- [Craig Verm](#)
- [Rolando Villazón](#)

Pittsburgh Opera's Resident Artist Program is made possible, in part, by the generosity of individual sponsors. The 2026-27 Resident Artists, and the Pittsburgh Opera Music Staff, are sponsored by:

*Premier Sponsors**

- Robert J. & Sharon E. Sclabassi (Drew Comer)
- Susan Campbell & Patrick Curry (Maya Davis)
- Alice Victoria Gelormino and Susan Candace Hunt (Léa Nayak)

Sponsors

Pittsburgh Opera celebrates its 88th season in 2026-27. Established by five intrepid women in 1939, Pittsburgh Opera is viewed as one of the most vibrant opera organizations in the U.S. It boasts a rich artistic tradition of classic and contemporary operas, including world premieres; outstanding educational programs; an acclaimed Resident Artist training program; and a progressive outlook toward the future as a true community partner and resource.

- John Battaglia, The Bernadette G. Callery Endowed Fund for Resident Artists, and Steven Seibert (Olivia Gacka)
- Eugene N. Myers, MD, Frank & Laurie Bruns, and Steve & Gail Mosites (Ayanna Delk-Lewis)
- Mike & Kumiko Lancet, John A. Gillespie, MD and Hilda Fu (Erik Nordstrom)
- John & Virginia DiPucci and Rob & Janet Squires (Joseph Stevens)
- Eileen & John Olmsted ([Director of Musical Studies and Chorus Master Mark Trawka](#))
- Mr. John E. Traina, Janice Talerico, and Abby L. Morrison in memory of Dr. Lesa B. Morrison (Logan Wagner)

* *Premier Sponsors underwrite the full stipend of an artist's residency*

Pittsburgh Opera is profoundly grateful for these sponsors, who are helping to develop the next generation of opera stars. **For information on how you can become a Resident Artist sponsor, please contact Jennifer Shorstein Clark, Senior Manager of Individual Giving, at 412-281-0912 x259 or jclark@pittsburghopera.org.**