



Digitale Pressemappe 2026

Oktober 2026

Herzlich Willkommen bei den NEUEN STIMMEN 2026

- Diese (digitale) Pressemappe enthält alle wichtigen Informationen zur Endrundenwoche sowie Hintergrundmaterial zum 21. Internationalen Gesangswettbewerb NEUE STIMMEN 2026. Digital finden Sie diese Pressemappe hier:



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Inhalt

1. Wochenplan/ Week Schedule.....	5
2. Zeitpläne Vorsingen.....	6
Montag, 5. Oktober.....	6
Dienstag, 6. Oktober	7
3. Übersicht der Sänger:innen der Endrunde in alphabetischer Reihenfolge	8
4. Nationen, Stimmfächer und Durchschnittsalter der Endrunde im Überblick	9
5. Steckbriefe der Endrundenteilnehmer:innen mit Wettbewerbsrepertoire	10
Iana Aivazian	11
Aigerim Altynbek.....	12
Esau Alvarez.....	13
Madeleine Bazola-Minori	14
Nathan Bryon	15
Defne Çelik	16
Medea Chikashvili.....	17
Young Choi.....	18
Max Alexander Cook.....	19
Ziyi Dai	20
Ruijia Dong	21
Marcel Durka	22
Karima El Demerdasch	23
Neima Fischer	24
Vanessa Alejandra Gama Amezcua	25
Ya Gao	26
Natasha Isabella Gesto	27
Marianna Herzig	28
Haneul Jo.....	29
Dafydd Jones	30
Dora Jana Klarić.....	31
Daria Kolisan	32
Dohoon Lee	33
Zihao Li	34
Yiming Liu	35
Themba Mdlalose	36
Titus Muzi	37

Hovhannes Ordanyan	38
Felix Pacher	39
Xuandi Peng	40
Irakli Pkhaladze	41
Rafael Humberto Rojas	42
Valentin Ruckebier	43
Arpi Sinanyan	44
Klara Solén	45
Louisa Stuart-Smith	46
Korin Thomas-Smith	47
Jiazhou Wang	48
Liere Wu	49
Younji Yi	50
Shiyu Zhuo	51
7. Mitglieder der Jury	52
8. Biografie Juryvorsitzender Alexander Neef	53
9. Junior-Jury	55
10. Mitwirkende	56
11. Orchester und Dirigent	57

1. Wochenplan

Montag, 5. Oktober 2026:

Vorsingen: 12:00–19:00 Uhr

Gruppe 1: 12:00–13:15

Gruppe 2: 14:00–15:30

Gruppe 3: 15:45–17:00

Gruppe 4: 17:30–19:00

Dienstag, 6. Oktober 2026:

Vorsingen: 11:00–14:00 Uhr

Gruppe 5: 11:00–12:30

Gruppe 6: 12:45–14:00

Bekanntgabe der Semifinalist:innen: 17:00-17:30 Uhr

Mittwoch, 7. Oktober 2026:

11:00–12:00: Pressegespräch (Stadthalle, Restaurant Fritz → Raum “Luise”)

19:00–22:30: Semifinal-Konzert mit Klavierbegleitung

Donnerstag, 8. Oktober 2026:

12:30–15:00: Erste Orchesterprobe (nicht öffentlich)

18:30–21:30: Zweite Orchesterprobe (nicht öffentlich)

Freitag, 9. Oktober 2026:

11:00–14:00: Öffentliche Generalprobe

19:00–23:00: Finalkonzert begleitet von den Duisburger Philharmonikern unter der Leitung von Vitali Alekseenok

Alle Veranstaltungen finden in der Stadthalle Gütersloh statt.

2. Zeitpläne Vorsingen

Montag, 5. Oktober

GROUP 1 – Rehearsal 10:50–11:50, Auditions 12:00–13:15			
Pianist: Alfredo Abbati		Room: K 11A	
1	Dohoon Lee	Bass	Korea, South
2	Daria Kolisan	Soprano	Ukraine
3	Rafael Rojas	Tenor	Mexico
Pianist: Susanna Stranders		Room: K 12 left	
4	Karima El Demerdasch	Mezzo-Soprano	Egypt
5	Zihao Li	Baritone	China
6	Arpi Sinanyan	Soprano	Armenia

GROUP 2 – Rehearsal 12:50–13:50, Auditions 14:00–15:30			
Pianist: Edward Liddall		Room: K 21	
7	Neima Fischer	Soprano	Germany
8	Jiazhou Wang	Baritone	China
9	Medea Chikashvili	Contralto	Georgia
10	Ziyi Dai	Soprano	China
Pianist: Raffaele Cortesi		Room: K 23	
11	Iana Aivazian	Soprano	Armenia
12	Dafydd Jones	Tenor	United Kingdom
13	Haneul Jo	Mezzo-Soprano	Korea, South

GROUP 3 – Rehearsal 14:30–15:30, Auditions 15:45–17:00			
Pianist: Susanna Stranders		Room: K 12 left	
14	Nathan Bryon	Tenor	Australia
15	Marianna Herzig	Soprano	Austria
16	Valentin Ruckebier	Bass-Baritone	Germany
Pianist: Alfredo Abbati		Room: K 11A	
17	Ruijia Dong	Mezzo-Soprano	China
18	Younji Yi	Soprano	Korea, South
19	Irakli Pkhaladze	Bass-Baritone	Georgia
20	Vanessa Alejandra Gama Amezcua	Soprano	Mexico

GROUP 4 – Rehearsal 16:15–17:15, Auditions 17:30–19:00			
Pianist: Raffaele Cortesi			Room: K 23
21	Titus Muzi	Baritone	United States
22	Klara Solén	Mezzo-Soprano	Sweden
23	Liere Wu	Soprano	China
24	Hovhannes Ordanyan	Tenor	Armenia
Pianist: Edward Liddall			Room: K 21
25	Louisa Stuart-Smith	Mezzo-Soprano	United Kingdom
26	Shiyu Zhuo	Soprano	China
27	Young Choi	Bass	Korea, South

Dienstag, 6. Oktober

GROUP 5 – Rehearsal 09:50–10:50, Auditions 11:00–12:30			
	Pianist: Alfredo Abbati		Room: K 11A
28	Felix Pacher	Bass	Austria
29	Madeleine Bazola-Minori	Mezzo-Soprano	France
30	Esau Alvarez	Baritone	Mexico
Pianist: Susanna Stranders			Room: K 12 left
31	Korin Thomas-Smith	Baritone	Canada
32	Natasha Isabella Gesto	Soprano	Australia
33	Ya Gao	Mezzo-Soprano	China
34	Themba Mdlalose	Baritone	Eswatini

GROUP 6 - Rehearsal 11:30-12:30, Auditions 12:45-14:00			
	Pianist: Raffaele Cortesi		Room: K 23
35	Aigerim Altynbek	Soprano	Kazakhstan
36	Yiming Liu	Tenor	China
37	Marcel Durka	Baritone	Germany
Pianist: Edward Liddall			Room: K 21
38	Defne Celik	Soprano	Germany
39	Dora Jana Klarić	Mezzo-Soprano	Croatia
40	Xuandi Peng	Bass-Baritone	China
41	Max Alexander Cook	Tenor	United States

3. Übersicht der Sänger:innen der Endrunde in alphabetischer Reihenfolge

	Last Name	First Name	Voice	Nationality	Year of Birth
1	Iana	Aivazian	Soprano	Armenia	2003
2	Aigerim	Altynbek	Soprano	Kazakhstan	1996
2	Esau	Alvarez	Baritone	Mexico	2002
4	Madeleine	Bazola-Minori	Mezzo-Soprano	France	2000
5	Nathan	Bryon	Tenor	Australia	1996
6	Defne	Celik	Soprano	Germany	2003
7	Medea	Chikashvili	Contralto	Georgia	2001
8	Young	Choi	Bass	South Korea	1995
9	Max Alexander	Cook	Tenor	United States	1997
10	Ziyi	Dai	Soprano	China	1996
11	Ruijia	Dong	Mezzo-Soprano	China	2000
12	Marcel	Durka	Baritone	Germany	2002
13	Karima	El Demerdasch	Mezzo-Soprano	Egypt	1998
14	Neima	Fischer	Soprano	Germany	2001
15	Vanessa Alejandra	Gama Amezcua	Soprano	Mexico	2002
16	Ya	Gao	Mezzo-Soprano	China	1999
17	Natasha Isabella	Gesto	Soprano	Australia	1999
18	Marianna	Herzig	Soprano	Austria	1998
19	Haneul	Jo	Mezzo-Soprano	South Korea	2000
20	Dafydd	Jones	Tenor	United Kingdom	1998
21	Dora Jana	Klarić	Mezzo-Soprano	Croatia	2000
22	Daria	Kolisan	Soprano	Ukraine	2002
23	Dohoon	Lee	Bass	South Korea	1995
24	Zihao	Li	Baritone	China	2002
25	Yiming	Liu	Tenor	China	1998
26	Themba	Mdlalose	Baritone	Eswatini	2001
27	Titus	Muzi	Baritone	United States	1996
28	Hovhannes	Ordanyan	Tenor	Armenia	2001
29	Felix	Pacher	Bass	Austria	1998
30	Xuandi	Peng	Bass-Baritone	China	2003
31	Irakli	Pkhaladze	Bass-Baritone	Georgia	2001
32	Rafael	Rojas	Tenor	Mexico	1996
33	Valentin	Ruckebier	Bass-Baritone	Germany	1997
34	Arpi	Sinanyan	Soprano	Armenia	2002
35	Klara	Solén	Mezzo-Soprano	Sweden	2002
36	Louisa	Stuart-Smith	Mezzo-Soprano	United Kingdom	2000
37	Korin	Thomas-Smith	Baritone	Canada	1996
38	Jiazhou	Wang	Baritone	China	2004
39	Liere	Wu	Soprano	China	2001
40	Younji	YI	Soprano	South Korea	1996
41	Shiyu	Zhuo	Soprano	China	2000

4. Nationen, Stimmfächer und Durchschnittsalter der Endrunde im Überblick

41 Sänger:innen aus 18 Nationen in der Endrunde

Nationen nach Anzahl der Sänger:innen

Nation	Number of Singers
China	9
Germany	4
South Korea	4
Armenia	3
Mexico	3
Australia	2
Georgia	2
United States	2
United Kingdom	2
Austria	2
Eswatini	1
France	1
Canada	1
Kazakhstan	1
Croatia	1
Sweden	1
Ukraine	1
Egypt	1
Total:	41

Stimmfächer

Voice Type	Number of Singers
Soprano	13
Mezzo-Soprano	8
Contralto	1
Tenor	6
Baritone	7
Bass-Baritone	3
Bass	3
Total:	41

Durchschnittsalter

26 Jahre

5. Steckbriefe der Endrundenteilnehmer:innen mit Wettbewerbsrepertoire



Iana Aivazian

Soprano

***2003**

Armenia

Iana works as a freelance artist during the 2026/27 season.

Past Engagements and Roles Performed:

2026 Adina, *L'elisir d'amore* (G. Donizetti), Bregenzer Festspiele, Bregenz, Austria

2025 Barbarina, *Le nozze di Figaro* (W. A. Mozart), Bayerische Staatsoper, Munich, Germany

2025 Giannetta, *L'elisir d'amore* (G. Donizetti), Bayerische Staatsoper, Munich, Germany

2025 First Flower Maiden, *Parsifal* (R. Wagner), Bayerische Staatsoper, Munich, Germany

Roles Studied and Prepared:

Susanna, *Le nozze di Figaro* (W. A. Mozart)

Norina, *Don Pasquale* (G. Donizetti)

Gilda, *Rigoletto* (G. Verdi)

Blondchen, *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* (W. A. Mozart)

Competitions and Awards:

2024 Grand Prix, VIII International B. T. Shtokolov International Vocal Competition, St. Petersburg, Russia

2024 Best Singer Under 25, Cascais International Opera Competition, Cascais, Lisbon, Portugal

2020 First Prize (Category III, Ages 15-17), 8th Elena Obraztsova International Competition of Young Vocalists, St. Petersburg, Russia

Education:

2025-2026 Opera Studio, Bayerische Staatsoper, Munich, Germany

2021-2025 Bachelor of Music in Opera Singing, Gnessin Russian Academy of Music, Moscow, Russia

NEUE STIMMEN Competition Repertoire:

	Composer	Opera/Operetta	Aria	Role
1	V. Bellini	I Capuleti e i Montecchi	Eccomi in lieta vesta	Giulietta
2	N. Rimsky-Korsakow	Snegurochka	S podruzhkami po yagodu khodit	Snow Maiden
3	R. Strauss	Der Rosenkavalier	Ich bin Euer Liebden	Sophie
4	G. Verdi	Rigoletto	Caro nome	Gilda
5	G. Donizetti	L'elisir d'amore	Prendi, per me sei libero	Adina



Aigerim Altynbek

Soprano

***1996**

Kazakhstan

Aigerim is in her second year as a member of the Accademia Teatro alla Scala in Milan, Italy.

Current and Upcoming Engagements:

2026/27, Leïla (cover), *Les pêcheurs de perles* (G. Bizet), Teatro alla Scala, Milan, Italy

Past Engagements and Roles Performed:

2026 Giannetta, *L'elisir d'amore* (G. Donizetti), Teatro alla Scala, Milan, Italy

2025 Nina Berberova / Marina Cvetaeva, Anna A. (S. Colasanti), Teatro alla Scala, Milan, Italy

Roles Studied and Prepared:

Mimi, *La Bohème* (G. Puccini)

Musetta, *La Bohème* (G. Puccini)

Liù, *Turandot* (G. Puccini)

Education:

2023-2026 Conservatorio di Musica "Arrigo Boito", Parma, Italy

2016-2022 Bachelor's and master's degrees in Vocal Performance, Kazakh National University of Arts, Astana, Kazakhstan

Competitions and Awards:

2025 First Prize and Audience Prize, CLIP – Concorso Lirico Internazionale di Portofino, Italy

2024 First Prize, Città di Arcore – Giacomo Puccini International Competition, Italy

2024 Second Prize, Renata Tebaldi International Voice Competition, San Marino

2024 Third Prize, VOX MUTINAE "Nicolai Ghiaurov" International Competition, Italy

Agency:

Represented by Marco Impallomeni, Impallomeni Artists' Management, Milan, Italy

NEUE STIMMEN Competition Repertoire:

	Composer	Opera/Operetta	Aria	Role
1	G. F. Händel	Giulio Cesare	Se pietà	Cleopatra
2	G. Verdi	Il Trovatore	Tacea la notte placida	Leonora
3	B. Britten	Peter Grimes	Embroidery Aria	Ellen Orford
4	P. I. Tchaikovsky	Iolanta	Otchego eto prezhdne ne znala	Iolanta
5	G. Charpentier	Louise	Depuis le jour	Louise



Esau Alvarez

Baritone

***2002**

Mexico

Esau works as a freelance artist and regularly performs in concerts and singing competitions across the United States.

Past Engagements and Roles Performed:

2026 Simone, *Gianni Schicchi* (G. Puccini), Las Cruces, New Mexico, USA

2025 Belcore, *L'elisir d'amore* (G. Donizetti), Puebla, Mexico

2024/25 Germano, *La scala di seta* (G. Rossini), Puebla, Mexico

2024 Ben, *The Telephone* (G. C. Menotti), Mexico City

Roles Studied and Prepared:

2025 Dr. Falke, *Die Fledermaus* (J. Strauß)

2025 Marcello, *La Bohème* (G. Puccini)

2023 Masetto, *Don Giovanni* (W. A. Mozart)

2020 Dr. Malatesta, *Don Pasquale* (G. Donizetti)

Education:

2025 First fellow of the Novum Fellowship Foundation, with intensive training at HGO's Butler Studio, Houston, USA

2024-2026 Bel Canto Institute of San Miguel de Allende, Mexico

2023 International Vocal Artists Academy of Payerbach, Vienna, Austria

2017-2021 Bachelor of Music with a specialization in singing, University of Zacatecas, Mexico

Competitions and Awards:

2026 Erna D. Butler Young Singer Encouragement Award, Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition, Colorado, USA

2025 Third Prize, Opera Cangemi Competition, San Juan, Argentina

2024 Youth Revelation Award, XLI National Singing Competition Carlo Morelli, Mexico City, Mexico

2024 Winner, Laffont Competition of the Metropolitan Opera, Mexico District, Mexico

NEUE STIMMEN Competition Repertoire:

	Composer	Opera/Operetta	Aria	Role
1	E. W. Korngold	Die tote Stadt	Mein Sehnen, mein Wähnen	Fritz
2	W. A. Mozart	Le nozze di Figaro	Hai già vinta la causa / Vedrò mentr'io sospiro	Conte
3	G. Verdi	Il Trovatore	Il balen / Per me ora fatale	Conte di Luna
4	G. Donizetti	Lucia di Lammermoor	Cruda, funesta smania	Enrico
5	P. I. Tchaikovsky	Yevgeny Onegin	Vy mne pisali	Yevgeny Onegin



Madeleine Bazola-Minori

Mezzo-Soprano

***2000**

France

Following her participation in the Académie du Festival d'Aix-en-Provence in summer 2026, Madeleine will join the 2027–2028 cohort of Génération Opéra.

Current and Upcoming Engagements:

2027 Sorceress, *Dido & Æneas* (H. Purcell), Fontainebleau, France

Past Engagements and Roles Performed:

2026 Dorabella, *Così fan tutte* (W. A. Mozart), Flers, France

2025 Mère Marie de l'Incarnation, *Dialogues des Carmélites* (F. Poulenc), Royaumont Abbey, France

2025 Despinio, *The Greek Passion* (B. Martinů), Halle 47, France

Roles Studied and Prepared:

2026 The Page of Herodias, *Salome* (R. Strauss)

2026 Stéphano, *Roméo et Juliette* (C. Gounod)

2025 Concepción, *L'Heure Espagnole* (M. Ravel)

2025 Carmen, *Carmen* (G. Bizet)

2025 Hélène, *La Belle Hélène* (J. Offenbach)

Education:

2024-2026 Master of Vocal Performance, Paris Conservatory, France

Competitions and Awards:

2025 First Prize, Corneille International Baroque Competition, Rouen, France

2025 Finalist, Belcanto Competition, Béziers, France

Agency:

Since 2025, represented worldwide by RSB Artists, Lyon, France.

Repertoire:

	Composer	Opera/Operetta	Aria	Role
1	C. Monteverdi	L'incoronazione di Poppea	Disprezzata Regina	Ottavia
2	W. A. Mozart	Così fan tutte	Ah scostati / Smanie implacabili	Dorabella
3	G. Meyerbeer	Les Huguenots	Nobles seigneurs, salut!	Urbain
4	G. Rossini	Il barbiere di Siviglia	Una voce poco fa (E major)	Rosina
5	M. Ravel	L'Heure Espagnole	Oh! la pitoyable aventure!	Concepción



Nathan Bryon

Tenor

***1996**

Australia

Nathan is a member of the ensemble of the Hessisches Staatstheater Wiesbaden for the second consecutive season.

Current and Upcoming Engagements:

2026/27 Gastone, *La traviata* (G. Verdi), Hessisches Staatstheater Wiesbaden, Germany

2026/27 First sailor, *Dido and Æneas* (H. Purcell), Hessisches Staatstheater Wiesbaden, Germany

2027 Tamino, *Die Zauberflöte* (W. A. Mozart), Hessisches Staatstheater Wiesbaden, Germany

Past Engagements and Roles Performed:

2026 Pong, *Turandot* (G. Puccini), Hessisches Staatstheater Wiesbaden, Germany

2025 Gastone, *La traviata* (G. Verdi), Hessisches Staatstheater Wiesbaden, Germany

2025 Vierter Knappe, *Parsifal* (R. Wagner), Wiener Staatsoper, Vienna, Austria

Roles Studied and Prepared:

2025 Elemer, *Arabella* (R. Strauss)

2025 First Armed Man, *Die Zauberflöte* (W. A. Mozart)

2025 First Jew, *Salome* (R. Strauss)

2024 Don Ottavio, *Don Giovanni* (W. A. Mozart)

Education:

2026 Internationale Meistersinger Akademie, Neumarkt, Germany

2024 Merola Opera Program, San Francisco, USA

2022-2024 Artist Diploma, San Francisco Conservatory of Music, San Francisco, USA

2023 Aspen Music Festival, Colorado, USA

2022 Melba Opera Trust, Melbourne, Australia

2016-2019 Bachelor of Music (Performance), Sydney Conservatorium of Music, Sydney, Australia

Competitions and Awards:

2025 Winner, German-Australian Opera Grant, Melbourne, Australia

2024 Winner, Wiener Staatsoper Award, Opera Foundation Australia

2024 Winner, MET Laffont Competition (San Francisco District), San Francisco

NEUE STIMMEN Competition Repertoire:

	Composer	Opera/Operetta	Aria	Role
1	R. Strauss	Der Rosenkavalier	Di rigori armato il seno	Der Sänger
2	W. A. Mozart	Idomeneo	Fuor del mar (Bärenreiter version 12a)	Idomeneo
3	C. Gounod	Faust	Salut, demeure chaste et pure	Faust
4	J. Massenet	Werther	Pourquoi me réveiller	Werther
5	F. Lehár	Das Land des Lächelns	Dein ist mein ganzes Herz	Sou-Chong



Defne Çelik

Soprano

***2003**

Germany

Defne just started her first year at the International Opera Studio of the Staatsoper Unter den Linden in Berlin at the start of the 2026/27 season.

Current and Upcoming Engagements:

2027 Echo, *Ariadne auf Naxos* (R. Strauss), Staatsoper Unter den Linden, Berlin, Germany

2027 Adele, *Die Fledermaus für Kinder* (J. Strauß), Staatsoper Unter den Linden, Berlin, Germany

2026/27 Papagena, *Die Zauberflöte* (W. A. Mozart), Staatsoper Unter den Linden, Berlin, Germany

2026 Fortuna/Damigella, *L'incoronazione di Poppea* (C. Monteverdi), Staatsoper Unter den Linden, Berlin, Germany

2026 Barbarina, *Le nozze di Figaro* (W. A. Mozart), Staatsoper Unter den Linden, Berlin, Germany

Past Engagements and Roles Performed:

2024 Despina, *Così fan tutte* (W. A. Mozart), studied and covered at Hochschule für Musik, Theater und Medien Hannover, Germany

Education:

2022-2026 Bachelor of Music in Voice, Hochschule für Musik, Theater und Medien Hannover, Germany

2016-2022 Pre-University Studies "Frühstudium Musik am Institut zur Früh-Förderung musikalisch Hochbegabter", Hannover, Germany

Competitions and Awards:

2025 Third Prize, Award for the Best Singer under 25, Cascais Opera Competition, Cascais, Lisbon, Portugal

2024 Third Prize and Audience Prize, DEBUT International Singing Competition, Weikersheim, Germany

2023 Special Prize for Voice of the Walter and Charlotte Hamel Foundation, Deutscher Musikwettbewerb, Bonn, Germany

NEUE STIMMEN Competition Repertoire:

	Composer	Opera/Operetta	Aria	Role
1	W. A. Mozart	Idomeneo	Solitudini amiche / Zeffiretti lusinghieri	Ilia
2	N. Rimsky-Korsakow	Snegurochka	S podruzhkami po yagodu khodit	Snow Maiden
3	R. Strauss	Der Rosenkavalier	Ich bin Euer Liebden	Sophie
4	G. Verdi	Falstaff	Sul fil d'un soffio etesio	Nannetta
5	G. F. Händel	Giulio Cesare	Se pietà	Cleopatra



Medea Chikashvili

Contralto

***2001**

Georgia

Medea is a guest soloist at the Bolshoi Theater in Moscow.

Past Engagements and Roles Performed:

2026 Flora, *La traviata* (G. Verdi), Palacio de Festivales de Cantabria, Santander, Spain

2026 Duenna, Rosina, *Betrothal in a Monastery* (S. Prokofiev), Mariinsky Theater, St. Petersburg, Russia

2026 Lynette, *The Love of Three Oranges* (S. Prokofiev), Mariinsky Theater, St. Petersburg, Russia

2026 Korobochka, *Dead Souls* (R. Shchedrin), Bolshoi Theater, Moscow, Russia

2025 Marta, *Iolanta* (P. Tchaikovsky), Bolshoi Theater, Moscow, Russia

2025 The Little Robber Girl, *The Story of Kai and Gerda* (S. Banevich), Bolshoi Theater, Moscow, Russia

Roles Studied and Prepared:

Lel, *The Snow Maiden* (N. Rimsky-Korsakov), **Sorceress**, *Dido and Æneas* (H. Purcell), **Konchakovna**, *Prince Igor* (A. Borodin),

Ratmir, *Ruslan and Lyudmila* (M. Glinka), **Olga**, *Eugene Onegin* (P. Tchaikovsky), **Dalila**, *Samson et Dalila* (C. Saint-Saëns)

Giuditta, *Betulia liberata* (W. A. Mozart), **Farnace**, *Mitridate, re di Ponto* (W. A. Mozart), **Erda**, *Das Rheingold* (R. Wagner),

Page, *Salome* (R. Strauss), **Fyodor**, *Boris Godunov* (M. Mussorgsky), **The Weaver**, *The Tale of Tsar Saltan* (N. Rimsky-Korsakov)

Education:

2023-2025 Young Artist Opera Program, Bolshoi Theater of Russia, Moscow, Russia

Since 2023 Diploma of Higher Education in Vocal Performance, Moscow State Institute of Culture, Moscow, Russia

2021-2023 Diploma of Additional Education in Vocal Performance, E. V. Obraztsova Academy of Music, St. Petersburg, Russia

2019-2023 Student at the St. Petersburg Rimsky-Korsakov College of Music, Russia

Competitions and Awards:

2026 Third Prize, (ex aequo), CLIP – Concorso Lirico Internazionale di Portofino, Portofino, Italy

2026 Finalist, XVI Elena Obraztsova International Competition for Young Opera Singers, St. Petersburg, Russia

2026 Third Prize, 9th B. T. Shtokolov International Vocal Competition, St. Petersburg, Russia

2025 Third Prize, Competizione dell'Opera, Moscow, Russia

NEUE STIMMEN Competition Repertoire:

	Composer	Opera/Operetta	Aria	Role
1	G. F. Händel	Semele	Hence, Iris, hence away	Juno
2	G. Rossini	L'italiana in Algeri	Cruda sorte	Isabella
3	P. I. Tchaikovsky	Pikowaja dama	Podrugy milyye	Polina
4	A. Ponchielli	La Gioconda	Voce di donna o d'angelo	La Cieca
5	C. Saint-Saëns	Samson et Dalila	Mon cœur s'ouvre à ta voix	Dalila



Young Choi

Bass

***1995**

South Korea

Since the beginning of the 2026/27 season, Young has been a member of the ensemble of the Deutsche Oper Berlin as a scholarship holder of the Korean National Opera.

Current and Upcoming Engagements:

2026/27 Smaller roles in *Die Zauberflöte*, *Don Carlo*, *La Bohème*, *La traviata* and other productions, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Germany

Past Engagements and Roles Performed:

2026 Antonio, *Le nozze di Figaro* (W. A. Mozart), Korea National Opera, South Korea

2025 Don Alfonso, *Così fan tutte* (W. A. Mozart), Cheonan Seonghwan Cultural Center, South Korea

2025 Le Fauteuil, *L'arbre, l'enfant et les sortilèges* (M. Ravel), Korea National Opera Studio, South Korea

2024 Bartolo, *Le nozze di Figaro* (W. A. Mozart), Cheonan Arts Center, South Korea

Roles Studied and Prepared:

2025 Basilio, *Il barbiere di Siviglia* (G. Rossini)

Education:

2025-2026 Korea National Opera Studio, South Korea

2016-2023 Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance, Kyung-hee University, Seoul, South Korea

NEUE STIMMEN Competition Repertoire:

	Composer	Opera/Operetta	Aria	Role
1	C. Monteverdi	L'incoronazione di Poppea	Ecco la sconsolata donna	Seneca
2	W. A. Mozart	Die Zauberflöte	In diesen heil'gen Hallen	Sarastro
3	G. Verdi	Simon Boccanegra	A te l'estremo	Jacopo Fiesco
4	G. Rossini	Il barbiere di Siviglia	La calunnia (C major)	Don Basilio
5	A. Ponchielli	La Gioconda	Sì, morir ella de'! / Ombre di mia prosapia	Alvise



Max Alexander Cook

Tenor

***1997**

United States of America

Max is a member of the Jan Miller Studio Artist Program at Pensacola Opera for the 2026/27 season and is currently preparing for *The Falling and the Rising*.

Current and Upcoming Engagements:

2027 Spoletta, *Tosca* (G. Puccini), Pensacola Opera, Pensacola, USA

2027 Nemorino (cover), *L'elisir d'amore* (G. Donizetti), Pensacola Opera, Pensacola, USA

2027 Lindoro, *L'italiana in Algeri* (Rossini), Bel Cantanti, Maryland, USA

2026 Jumper/Doctor 2, *The Falling and the Rising* (Z. Redler), Pensacola Opera, Pensacola, USA

Past Engagements and Roles Performed:

2026 Don Narciso, *Il turco in Italia* (G. Rossini), Teatro Nuovo, New York, USA

2026 Frederick, *The Pirates of Penzance* (W. S. Gilbert and A. Sullivan), MacBeth Concert Series, Maine, USA

2026 Fabian, *If I Were you* (J. Heggie), University of Maryland Opera Studio, Maryland, USA

2025 Contino Belfiore, *La finta giardiniera* (W. A. Mozart), University of Maryland Opera Studio, Maryland, USA

2025 Fenton (cover), *Die lustigen Weiber von Windsor* (O. Nicolai), University of Maryland, USA

Education:

2024-2026 Master of Music in Voice Performance, University of Maryland, USA

2024, 2025 Ader Emerging Artists Program, Charlottesville Opera, USA

2017-2021 Bachelor of Arts in Politics, Oberlin Conservatory, USA

2016-2021 Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance, Oberlin Conservatory, USA

Competitions and Awards:

2026 Semifinalist, Jensen Foundation Vocal Competition, New York City, USA

2026 First Prize, Robert Hansen Collegiate Opera Scenes Competition, Boston, USA

2025-2026 District Winner, Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition, Baltimore, USA

2025 Semifinalist, Jensen Foundation Vocal Competition, New York, USA

2024-2025 District Winner, Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition, Charlotte, USA

NEUE STIMMEN Competition Repertoire:

	Composer	Opera/Operetta	Aria	Role
1	G. Rossini	L'italiana in Algeri	Languir per una bella	Lindoro
2	C. Gounod	Roméo et Juliette	Ah! lève-toi, soleil!	Roméo
3	I. Stravinsky	The Rake's Progress	Love, too frequently betrayed	Tom
4	J. Massenet	Manon	En fermant les yeux	Des Grieux
5	W. A. Mozart	Die Entführung aus dem Serail	Konstanze! dich wieder zu sehen!	Belmonte



Ziyi Dai

Soprano

***1996**

China

Following her debut at Salzburg Festival in August 2026, Ziyi is preparing for upcoming engagements at the Opernhaus Zürich and the Lyric Opera in Chicago.

Current and Upcoming Engagements:

2026 Violetta, *La traviata* (G. Verdi), Shenzhen, China

2026 Rosina, *Il barbiere di Siviglia* (G. Rossini), Fujian, China

Past Engagements and Roles Performed:

2026 Zerbinetta, *Ariadne auf Naxos* (R. Strauss), Salzburg Festival, Salzburg, Austria

2025 Marzelline, *Fidelio* (L. van Beethoven), Opernhaus Zürich, Zurich, Switzerland

2023 Amina, *La sonnambula* (V. Bellini), Buxton International Festival, Buxton, UK

2022 Comtesse Adèle, *Le comte Ory* (G. Rossini), Opernhaus Zürich, Zurich, Switzerland

Roles Studied and Prepared:

Gilda, *Rigoletto* (G. Verdi)

Adina, *L'elisir d'amore* (G. Donizetti)

Education:

2018-2020 Master's studies, Curtis Institute of Music, Philadelphia, USA

2014-2018 Bachelor's studies, Manhattan School of Music, New York, USA

Agency:

Ziyi has been represented by AIM Artists since 2021.

NEUE STIMMEN Competition Repertoire:

	Composer	Opera/Operetta	Aria	Role
1	V. Bellini	I puritani	O rendetemi la speme / Vien, diletto	Elvira
2	G. Verdi	La traviata	È strano, è strano	Violetta
3	F. Poulenc	Les mamelles de Tirésias	Non, Monsieur Mon Mari!	Thérèse
4	G. Rossini	Il barbiere di Siviglia	Una voce poco fa (F major)	Rosina
5	V. Bellini	La Sonnambula	Ah! non credea mirarti	Amina



Ruijia Dong

Mezzo-Soprano

***2000**

China

Following her participation in the Manetti Shrem Opera Program at Festival Napa Valley in summer 2026, Ruijia began her Graduate Diploma in Vocal Performance at The Juilliard School in New York.

Past Engagements and Roles Performed:

2025 Simone, *La Passion de Simone* (K. Saariaho), Mannes School of Music, USA

2025 Ruggiero, *Alcina* (G. F. Händel), Mannes School of Music, USA

2024 Gulamdam, *Imposter*, Visitors on the Ice Mountain, Central Academy of Drama, China

2023 Mother Jiao, *Savage Land*, Central Academy of Drama, China

2022 Mercédès, *Carmen* (G. Bizet), Central Academy of Drama, China

Roles Studied and Prepared:

2026 Joanne Depuy (cover), *The Judgment of Paris* (J. Heggie)

2026 Rosina, *Il barbiere di Siviglia* (G. Rossini)

2025 Mother (cover), *Fearless*, Opera Delaware

Education:

2026-2028 Graduate Diploma in Vocal Performance, The Juilliard School, USA

2026 (Masterclass) Fellow, Manetti Shrem Opera Program, Festival Napa Valley, USA

2025 (Masterclass) Apprentice Artist, Opera San Antonio, USA

2024-2026 Master of Music in Voice, Mannes School of Music, USA

2019-2024 Bachelor of Arts in Opera Acting, Central Academy of Drama, Beijing, China

Competitions and Awards:

2026 Encouragement Winner, Giulio Gari International Vocal Competition, USA

2024 Encouragement Award, Metropolitan Opera Laffont District Competition, USA

2020 Second Prize (Art Song), Korea & China International Music Competition, South Korea

NEUE STIMMEN Competition Repertoire:

	Composer	Opera/Operetta	Aria	Role
1	G. Rossini	La Cenerentola	Nacqui all'affanno	Angelina
2	J. Massenet	Werther	Werther, Werther	Charlotte
3	R. Strauss	Ariadne auf Naxos	Seien wir wieder gut	Der Komponist
4	W. A. Mozart	La Clemenza di Tito	Parto, parto	Sesto
5	G. Donizetti	La favorita	Dunque è vero / O mio Fernando	Leonora



Marcel Durka

Baritone

***2002**

Germany

Since October 2026, Marcel has been a member of the Music Theatre Academy at Staatstheater Hannover and is simultaneously continuing his master's studies at the Hochschule für Musik, Theater und Medien Hannover.

Current and Upcoming Engagements:

2027 Herr Fluth, *Die lustigen Weiber von Windsor* (O. Nicolai), HMTM Hannover, Germany

Past Engagements and Roles Performed:

2026 Wachtmeister/ 2. Heiduck, *Prinz von Homburg* (H. W. Henze), Salzburg Festival, Austria

2026 Il Notaio "Amantio di Nicolao", *Gianni Schicchi* (G. Puccini), HMTM Hannover, Germany

2025 Il Maestro da Casa, *Andrea Chénier* (U. Giordano), Salzburg Festival, Austria

2025 King/Second Twin Lieutenant/Second Twin Skeleton, *Musketiere!* (S. Schwab), Salzburg Festival, Salzburg, Austria

2024 Frank, *Die Fledermaus* (J. Strauß), HfM Detmold at Landestheater Detmold, Germany

Roles Studied and Prepared:

2027 Marullo, *Rigoletto* (G. Verdi)

2026 Schaunard, *La Bohème* (G. Puccini)

2026 Gianni Schicchi, *Gianni Schicchi* (G. Puccini)

2025 Eisenstein, *Die Fledermaus* (J. Strauß)

Education:

2026 Master of Opera, Hochschule für Musik, Theater und Medien (HMTMH), Hannover, Germany

2022-2026 Bachelor of Voice, Hochschule für Musik, Theater und Medien (HMTMH), Hannover, Germany

2025 Young Singers Project, Salzburg Festival, Salzburg, Austria

2025 Young Artist, Leeds Song Festival, Leeds, UK

2020-2022 Pre-College (Youth Student Program), Hochschule für Musik, Theater und Medien (HMTMH), Hannover, Germany

Competitions and Awards:

2026 Second Prize, Lied Prize and Youth Prize, 8th International Haydn Competition, Rohrau, Austria

2025 Youth Prize, Walter und Charlotte Hamel Wettbewerb, Hannover, Germany

2025 Second Round, 12th International Stanisław Moniuszko Vocal Competition, Warsaw, Poland

NEUE STIMMEN Competition Repertoire:

	Composer	Opera/Operetta	Aria	Role
1	G.F. Händel	Rinaldo	Sibilar gli angui d'Aletto	Argante
2	W. A. Mozart	Le nozze di Figaro	Hai già vinta la causa / Vedrò mentr'io sospiro	Conte
3	A. Lortzing	Der Wildschütz	Heiterkeit und Fröhlichkeit	Graf von Eberbach
4	R. Wagner	Tannhäuser	O, du mein holder Abendstern	Wolfram von Eschenbach
5	V. Bellini	I puritani	Ah per sempre io ti perdei	Riccardo



Karima El Demerdasch

Mezzo-Soprano

***1998**

Egypt

Karima is a second-year member of the International Opernhaus Zürich.

Current and Upcoming Engagements:

2027 Cherubino, *Le nozze di Figaro* (W. A. Mozart), Opernhaus Zürich, Switzerland

2026 Zweite Dame, *Die Zauberflöte* (W. A. Mozart), Opernhaus Zürich, Switzerland

Past Engagements and Roles Performed:

2026 Dido, *Dido and Æneas* (H. Purcell), with the Monteverdi Choir at the Cutty Sark, London, UK and Grieghallen, Bergen, Norway

2026 Buoso, *Gianni Schicchi* (G. Puccini), Opernhaus Zürich, Switzerland

2026 Nireno, *Giulio Cesare in Egitto* (G. F. Händel), Opernhaus Zürich, Switzerland

2024 Orlofsky, *Die Fledermaus* (J. Strauß), Guildhall School of Music and Drama, London, UK

Roles Studied and Prepared:

2025 Ruggiero, *Alcina* (G. F. Händel)

2024 Angelina, *La Cenerentola* (G. Rossini)

2024 Rosina, *Il barbiere di Siviglia* (G. Rossini)

2024 Mercedes, *Carmen* (G. Bizet)

Education:

2025 Member of the Young Singers Project, Salzburg Festival, Austria

2023-2025 Opera Course, Guildhall School of Music and Drama, London, UK

2021-2023 Master of Performance in Vocal Studies, Guildhall School of Music and Drama, London, UK

2016-2020 Bachelor of Musical Arts in Performance, The American University in Cairo, Egypt

Competitions and Awards:

2024 Kathleen Ferrier Awards, Finalist, Wigmore Hall, London, UK

NEUE STIMMEN Competition Repertoire:

	Composer	Opera/Operetta	Aria	Role
1	G. F. Händel	Ariodante	Scherza infida	Ariodante
2	W. A. Mozart	La Clemenza di Tito	Parto, parto	Sesto
3	J. Massenet	Cendrillon	Enfin, je suis ici	Cendrillon
4	G. Meyerbeer	Les Huguenots	Nobles seigneurs, salut!	Urbain
5	G. Rossini	La Cenerentola	Nacqui all'affanno	Angelina



Neima Fischer

Soprano

***2001**

Germany

Neima is an Artist in Residence at the Académie de l'Opéra national de Paris for the second consecutive season.

Current and Upcoming Engagements:

2027 *Églée, Ce qui brûle en silence*, Opéra de Paris, France

Past Engagements and Roles Performed:

2026 *Proserpina/Tesifone/Aglaia, Il Pomo d'oro* (F. Ceresa), Innsbrucker Festwochen der Alten Musik, Innsbruck, Austria

2026 *L'Amour, Pygmalion* (J.-P. Rameau), Schwetzingen SWR-Festspiele, Germany

2026 *Serpetta, La finta giardiniera* (W. A. Mozart), Opéra de Paris, France

2025 *Flora, The Turn of the Screw* (B. Britten), Oldenburgisches Staatstheater, Germany

2024 *Arianna, Arianna in Creta* (G. F. Händel), Innsbrucker Festwochen, Austria

Roles Studied and Prepared:

2026 *Princesse, L'enfant et les sortilèges* (M. Ravel)

2025 *Blonde, Die Entführung aus dem Serail* (W. A. Mozart)

Education:

2024/25 Lied Academy, Heidelberger Frühling Festival, Germany

2020-2025 Bachelor of Music, Hochschule für Musik Theater und Medien, Hannover, Germany

2024 Ton Koopman-Academy, The Hague, Netherlands

2023-2024 Erasmus at Conservatoire National Supérieure de Musique et de Danse de Paris, France

Competitions and Awards:

2026 Lichtenberger Musikpreis, Germany

2025 Semifinalist, Boulanger Competition, France

2025 Nomination for Best Young Singer of the Year, Österreichischer Musiktheaterpreis, Austria

2024 Finalist in Bundeswettbewerb Gesang, Germany

NEUE STIMMEN Competition Repertoire:

	Composer	Opera/Operetta	Aria	Role
1	G. F. Händel	Alcina	Tornami a vagheggiar	Morgana
2	W. A. Mozart	Die Entführung aus dem Serail	Durch Zärtlichkeit	Blondchen
3	M. Ravel	L'enfant et les sortilèges	Arrière! Je réchauffe les bons	Le Feu
4	J. Massenet	Werther	Du gai soleil, plein de flamme	Sophie
5	G. Verdi	Falstaff	Sul fil d'un soffio etesio	Nannetta



Vanessa Alejandra Gama Amezcua

Soprano

***2002**

Mexico

Vanessa is continuing her artistic career in Mexico and will perform with trumpeter Mark Bennett at the Pacific Brass Festival in November 2026, performing works by Handel.

Current and Upcoming Engagements:

2027 Lucia, *Lucia di Lammermoor* (G. Donizetti), Teatro Ángela Peralta and Teatro Pablo de Villavicencio, Mexico

Past Engagements and Roles Performed:

2026 Pamina, *Die Zauberflöte* (W. A. Mozart), Centro Cultural Universitario, Mexico

2026 Opera Concert with Orquesta Sinfónica Sinaloa de las Artes and Opera Concert with Camerata Mazatlán, Mexico

2025 Adele, *Die Fledermaus* (J. Strauß), Teatro Ángela Peralta, Mexico

Education:

2023-2026 Mazatlán Opera Studio, Mexico

2025 and 2026 Masterclass with Malin Hartelius, Switzerland

2021-2025 Bachelor of Arts in Opera Singing, Mazatlán, Mexico

Competitions and Awards:

2026 Special Guest and Encouragement Award, Ópera de San Miguel, San Miguel de Allende, Mexico

2025 Finalist and Winner of the Mozart Prize, National Singing Competition "Carlo Morelli", Mexico City

NEUE STIMMEN Competition Repertoire:

	Composer	Opera/Operetta	Aria	Role
1	G. F. Händel	Giulio Cesare	Piangerò la sorte mia	Cleopatra
2	G. Donizetti	Lucia di Lammermoor	Regnava nel silenzio	Lucia
3	G. Verdi	Rigoletto	Caro nome	Gilda
4	W. A. Mozart	Die Entführung aus dem Serail	Ach, ich liebte	Konstanze
5	V. Bellini	I puritani	O rendetemi la speme / Vien, diletto	Elvira



Ya Gao

Mezzo-Soprano

***1999**

China

After serving as a Vocal Fellow at the Tanglewood Music Center, the summer music academy of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Gao has just begun her Artist Diploma in Classical Voice at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.

Past Engagements and Roles Performed:

2026 Vocal Fellow, Tanglewood Music Center, Lenox, Massachusetts, USA

2025 *Rinaldo*, *Rinaldo* (G. F. Händel), Manhattan School of Music, New York, USA

2024 *Cherubino*, *Le nozze di Figaro* (W. A. Mozart), North Virginia, USA

2024 *Cendrillon (Act I)*, *Cendrillon* (J. Massenet), Manhattan School of Music, New York, USA

2023 *Hermia*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (B. Britten), Manhattan School of Music, New York, USA

2023 *L'Écureuil*, *L'enfant et les sortilèges* (M. Ravel), Manhattan School of Music, New York, USA

Education:

2026-2028 Artist Diploma in Classical Voice, University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (CCM), Cincinnati, USA

2024-2025 Professional Studies Certificate (Voice), Manhattan School of Music, New York, USA

2022-2024 Master of Music in Vocal Performance, Manhattan School of Music, New York, USA

Competitions and Awards:

2026 Winner, Opera Scholarship Competition, University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (CCM), Cincinnati, USA

2021 Second Prize, Liaoning Province Youth Competition, Shenyang, China

NEUE STIMMEN Competition Repertoire:

	Composer	Opera/Operetta	Aria	Role
1	G. F. Händel	Giulio Cesare	Svegliatevi nel core!	Sesto
2	G. Rossini	Il barbiere di Siviglia	Una voce poco fa (E major)	Rosina
3	G. Meyerbeer	Les Huguenots	Nobles seigneurs, salut!	Urbain
4	R. Strauss	Ariadne auf Naxos	Seien wir wieder gut	Der Komponist
5	G. Rossini	La Cenerentola	Nacqui all'affanno	Angelina



Natasha Isabella Gesto

Soprano

***1999**

Australia

Natasha is a second-year member of the Junges Ensemble at the Semperoper Dresden in Germany.

Current and Upcoming Engagements:

2026/27 Musetta, *La Bohème* (G. Puccini), Semperoper Dresden, Germany

2026/27 Lenio, *The Greek Passion* (B. Martinů), Semperoper Dresden, Germany

2026/27 Juliette, *Die tote Stadt* (E. W. Korngold), Semperoper Dresden, Germany

2025-27 Erste Dame, *Die Zauberflöte* (W. A. Mozart), Semperoper Dresden, Germany

Past Engagements and Roles Performed:

2025 The Governess, *The Turn of the Screw* (B. Britten), The Juilliard School, USA

2025 Alice Ford (cover), *Falstaff* (G. Verdi), Semperoper Dresden – performed in the first week of staging and musical rehearsals, Germany

2024 Deirdre, *The Righteous* (G. Spears), The Santa Fe Opera, USA

2022/26 Contessa, *Le nozze di Figaro* (W. A. Mozart), performed with Prague Summer Nights at Estates Theater, Prague

Education:

2025 International Meistersinger Akademie, Germany

2023-2025 The Juilliard School, Master of Vocal Arts, Kovner Fellowship

2024 The Santa Fe Opera Apprentice Program for Singers, USA

2018-2021 Bachelor of Music (Classical Performance), The Sydney Conservatorium of Music

Competitions and Awards:

2025 Second Place, Premiere Opera Foundation (Virtual)

2024 Semifinalist, Rochester International Vocal Competition

2023-2025 Kovner Fellowship, Full Scholarship and Stipend to The Juilliard School

Agency:

Since 2026, represented worldwide by Samuel Levine, TACT Artists Management.

NEUE STIMMEN Competition Repertoire:

	Composer	Opera/Operetta	Aria	Role
1	C. M. von Weber	Der Freischütz	Wie nahte mir der Schlummer	Agathe
2	P. I. Tchaikovsky	Yevgeny Onegin	Puskai pogibnu ya	Tatyana
3	B. Britten	Peter Grimes	Embroidery Aria	Ellen Orford
4	R. Wagner	Tannhäuser	Dich, teure Halle	Elisabeth
5	A. Dvořák	Rusalka	Měsíčku na nebi hlubokém	Rusalka



Marianna Herzig

Soprano

***1998**

Austria

Marianna is currently pursuing a specialisation in Early Music at the Schola Cantorum Basiliensis in Basel, Switzerland.

Current and Upcoming Engagements:

2026/27 Carolina, *Il matrimonio segreto* (D. Cimarosa), Les Arts Florissants, Vendée, France

Past Engagements and Roles Performed:

2025 Elisa, *Il re pastore* (W. A. Mozart), Kammerakademie Potsdam, Schloss Rheinsberg, Germany

2023 Cricket and Parrot, *Pinocchio's Abenteuer* (J. Dove), Theater Osnabrück, Germany

2022 Dalinda, *Ariodante* (G. F. Händel), Theaterakademie August Everding Munich, Germany

2020/21 Hodel, *Fiddler on the Roof* (J. Bock), performed at Bühne Baden bei Wien, Austria

Roles Studied and Prepared:

Königin der Nacht, *Die Zauberflöte* (W. A. Mozart)

Zerbinetta, *Ariadne auf Naxos* (R. Strauss)

Olympia, *Les contes d'Hoffmann* (J. Offenbach)

Adele, *Die Fledermaus* (J. Strauß)

Education:

Since 2026 Master of Arts in Music Performance, Early Music, Schola Cantorum Basiliensis, Basel, Switzerland

2023-2026 Master of Music in Concert Singing, Hochschule für Musik und Theater München, Germany

2021-2023 Master of Music in Music Theater/Opera Singing, Theaterakademie August Everding München, Germany

2016-2021 Bachelor of Arts in Vocal Performance, University Mozarteum Salzburg, Austria

Competitions and Awards:

2026 Laureate of Le Jardin des Voix, Les Arts Florissants' International Academy for Young Baroque Singers, France

2024 Laureate, Kammeroper Schloss Rheinsberg, Germany

2023 First Prize, Günter Blobel Award, Weimar, Germany

NEUE STIMMEN Competition Repertoire:

	Composer	Opera/Operetta	Aria	Role
1	G. F. Händel	Giulio Cesare	Se pietà	Cleopatra
2	W. A. Mozart	Die Entführung aus dem Serail	Durch Zärtlichkeit	Blondchen
3	I. Strawinsky	Le Rossignol	Le chant du rossignol	Nightingale
4	W. A. Mozart	Die Zauberflöte	Der Hölle Rache	Königin der Nacht
5	G. F. Händel	Alcina	Tornami a vagheggiar	Morgana



Haneul Jo

Mezzo-Soprano

***2000**

South Korea

Haneul just graduated with a Master of Music in Vocal Performance from the Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler in Berlin.

Past Engagements and Roles Performed:

2023 Contessa, *Le nozze di Figaro* (W. A. Mozart), Chungnam National University Concert Hall, Daejeon, South Korea

2021 Contessa, *Die Opernprobe* (A. Lortzing), Chungnam National University Concert Hall, Daejeon, South Korea

2020 Dorabella, *Così fan tutte* (W. A. Mozart), Chungnam National University Concert Hall, Daejeon, South Korea

2020 Maddalena, *Rigoletto* (G. Verdi), Chungnam National University Concert Hall, Daejeon, South Korea

Roles Studied and Prepared:

2025 Third Fairy, *Rusalka* (A. Dvořák)

2024 Rinaldo, *Rinaldo* (G. F. Händel)

2023 Donna Elvira, *Don Giovanni* (W. A. Mozart)

Education:

2024-2026 Master of Music in Vocal Performance, Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler Berlin, Berlin, Germany

2019-2023 Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance, Chungnam National University, Daejeon, South Korea

Competitions and Awards:

2025 Finalist, 77th AsLiCo Competition in Asia 2025, Seoul, South Korea

2024 Finalist, 40th Concorso Internazionale Valsesia Musica 2024, Valsesia, Italy

NEUE STIMMEN Competition Repertoire:

	Composer	Opera/Operetta	Aria	Role
1	G. F. Händel	Semele	Hence, Iris, hence away	Juno
2	W. A. Mozart	La finta giardiniera	Va' pure ad altri in braccio	Ramiro
3	C. Gounod	Roméo et Juliette	Depuis hier, je cherche / Que fais-tu, blanche tourterelle?	Stéphano
4	C. Saint-Saëns	Samson et Dalila	Mon cœur s'ouvre à ta voix	Dalila
5	G. Rossini	L'italiana in Algeri	Cruda sorte	Isabella



Dafydd Jones

Tenor

***1998**

United Kingdom

Following his performance as the Fool in Alban Berg's *Wozzeck* in Florence, Dafydd is currently preparing for Strauss's *Salome* at the Polish National Opera in Warsaw.

Current and Upcoming Engagements:

2026 First Jew, Salome (R. Strauss), Teatr Wielki – Polish National Opera, Warsaw, Poland

Past Engagements and Roles Performed:

2026 Der Narr, Wozzeck (A. Berg), Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, Florence, Italy

2026 Telemaco, Il ritorno d'Ulisse in patria (C. Monteverdi), Garsington Opera, UK

2024 Fenton, Falstaff (G. Verdi), Verbier Festival, Switzerland

2024 Albert Herring, Albert Herring (B. Britten), Opera North, UK

2023 Don Ottavio, Don Giovanni (W. A. Mozart), Grange Festival, UK

Roles Studied and Prepared:

2024 Tamino, Die Zauberflöte (W. A. Mozart)

Education:

2024-2026 Opera Studio, Bayerische Staatsoper, Munich, Germany

2023-2024 Artist Diploma in Opera, Royal College of Music, London, UK

Competitions and Awards:

2026 Winner, International Voice of the Future, Llangollen International Eisteddfod, Llangollen, Wales, UK

2026 Second Prize, Concurs Internacional de Cant Josep Palet, Martorell, Barcelona, Spain

2024 Winner, Royal Over-Seas League Gold Medal, Wigmore Hall, London, UK

2023 Queen Mother Rose Bowl, Royal College of Music, London, UK

2023 Ferrier Loveday Song Prize, Kathleen Ferrier Awards, Wigmore Hall, London, UK

Agency:

Since 2026, represented worldwide by Keynote Artist Management (Hannah Bishay and Natalie Lewis), London, UK.

NEUE STIMMEN Competition Repertoire:

	Composer	Opera/Operetta	Aria	Role
1	G. F. Händel	Semele	Where'er you walk	Jupiter
2	W. A. Mozart	Don Giovanni	Il mio tesoro	Don Ottavio
3	P. I. Tchaikovsky	Yevgeny Onegin	Kuda, kuda	Lensky
4	G. Donizetti	L'elisir d'amore	Quanto è bella, quanto è cara	Nemorino
5	G. Verdi	Falstaff	Dal labbro il canto	Fenton



Dora Jana Klarić

Mezzo-Soprano

***2000**

Croatia

Dora Jana is currently preparing for her debuts at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam and at the Zurich Opera House.

Current and Upcoming Engagements:

2026/27 Caterina, *Fausto* (L. Bertin), Het Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Netherlands

2026/27 Schwertleite, *Die Walküre* (R. Wagner), Opernhaus Zürich, Zurich, Switzerland

Past Engagements and Roles Performed:

2026 Orlofsky, *Die Fledermaus* (J. Strauß), Hungarian State Opera, Hungary

2026 Third Lady (cover), *Die Zauberflöte* (W. A. Mozart), Hungarian State Opera, Hungary

2025 Contessa di Coigny, *Andrea Chénier* (U. Giordano), Salzburg Festival, Austria

2025 The Nurse, *Boris Godunov* (M. Musorgsky), Lyon National Opera House, France

2025 Die Lehrbuben, *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* (R. Wagner), Deutsche Oper Berlin, Germany

2024 Frau Steinbock, *Immermehr* (G. Kampe), Deutsche Oper Berlin, Germany

2024 Suzuki, *Madama Butterfly* (G. Puccini), Croatian National Theater Varaždin, Croatia

Education:

2025/26 Eva Marton International Opera Studio, Hungarian State Opera, Hungary

2025 Young Singers Project, Salzburg Festival, Austria

2024 Erasmus+ Student at the Universität der Künste, Berlin, Germany

Bachelor and Master of Music in Opera Singing, Arts Academy in Split, Croatia

Competitions and Awards:

2025 Special Recognition Award, Zagreb Philharmonic, Croatia

2023 Grand Prix, Oper Oder Spree, Beeskow, Germany

2023 Grand Prix, Lav Mirski International Opera Competition, Opera Trio, Osijek, Croatia

Agency:

Since 2026, represented by IMG Artists, Andrew Owens.

NEUE STIMMEN Competition Repertoire:

	Composer	Opera/Operetta	Aria	Role
1	G. F. Händel	Semele	Hence, Iris, hence away	Juno
2	G. Rossini	L'italiana in Algeri	Cruda sorte	Isabella
3	P. I. Tchaikovsky	Pikowaja dama	Podrugy milyye	Polina
4	A. Ponchielli	La Gioconda	Voce di donna o d'angelo	La Cieca
5	C. Saint-Saëns	Samson et Dalila	Mon cœur s'ouvre à ta voix	Dalila



Daria Kolisan

Soprano

***2002**

Ukraine

Daria is currently pursuing her Master's degree in Vocal Performance at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna, Austria.

Past Engagements and Roles Performed:

2026 Susanna, *Le nozze di Figaro* (W. A. Mozart), Schloss Walpersdorf, Austria
2024 Giannetta, *L'elisir d'amore* (G. Donizetti), Wiener Staatsoper, Austria
2024 Modistin, *Der Rosenkavalier* (R. Strauss), Wiener Staatsoper, Austria
2024 Barbarina (cover), *Le nozze di Figaro* (W. A. Mozart), Wiener Staatsoper, Vienna, Austria
2023 Vertraute, *Elektra* (R. Strauss), Wiener Staatsoper, Austria

Roles Studied and Prepared:

2026 Susanna, *Le nozze di Figaro* (W. A. Mozart)
2024 Mimi, *La Bohème* (G. Puccini)
2024 Micaëla, *Carmen* (G. Bizet)
2023 Giannetta, *L'elisir d'amore* (G. Donizetti)

Education:

Since 2026 Master's degree in Vocal Performance, University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna, Austria
2023-2024 Opera Studio of the Wiener Staatsoper, Vienna, Austria
2020-2024 Bachelor's degree in Vocal Performance, National Music Academy of Ukraine, Kyiv
2023 Young Singers Project, Salzburg Festival, Austria

Competitions and Awards:

2025 Winner of the International Singing Competition of the Academy of Performing Arts, Bratislava, Slovakia
2025 Winner and recipient of the Audience Prize of the International Singing Competition "Vissi d'arte", Vienna, Austria

NEUE STIMMEN Competition Repertoire:

	Composer	Opera/Operetta	Aria	Role
1	G. F. Händel	Giulio Cesare	Se pietà	Cleopatra
2	V. Bellini	La Sonnambula	Ah! non credea mirarti	Amina
3	G. Bizet	Carmen	C'est des contrebandiers... / Je dis que rien ne m'épouvante	Micaëla
4	G. Puccini	La Bohème	Si, mi chiamano Mimi	Mimi
5	V. Bellini	I Capuleti e I Montecchi	Eccomi in lieta vesta	Giulietta



Dohoon Lee

Bass

***1995**

South Korea

In the 2026/27 season, Dohoon is a member of the ensemble of the Teatro Regio di Torino in Italy.

Current and Upcoming Engagements:

2027 Colline, *La Bohème* (G. Puccini), Teatro Regio di Torino, Turin, Italy

2027 Zuniga, *Carmen* (G. Bizet), Teatro Regio di Torino, Turin, Italy

2027 Il Marchese d'Obigny, *La traviata* (G. Verdi), Teatro Regio di Torino, Turin, Italy

2027 Un uomo di Cappadocia, *Salome* (R. Strauss), Teatro Regio di Torino, Turin, Italy

2027 Il Cieco, *Iris* (P. Mascagni), Teatro Regio di Torino, Turin, Italy

Past Engagements and Roles Performed:

2026 Bartolo, *Le nozze di Figaro* (W. A. Mozart), Schloss Walpersdorf Festival, Austria

2025 Grégorio, *Roméo et Juliette* (C. Gounod), Wiener Staatsoper, Vienna, Austria

2024 Medico, *Macbeth* (G. Verdi), Wiener Staatsoper, Vienna, Austria

Roles Studied and Prepared:

2025 Truffaldino, *Ariadne auf Naxos* (R. Strauss)

2024 Masetto, *Don Giovanni* (W. A. Mozart)

2023 Commendatore, *Don Giovanni* (W. A. Mozart)

2022 Banco, *Macbeth* (G. Verdi)

Education:

2024-2026 Opera Studio, Wiener Staatsoper, Vienna, Austria

2022-2024 Master of Music in Opera, Berlin University of the Arts (UdK), Berlin, Germany

Agency:

Since 2026, represented worldwide by TACT Artists Management, Netherlands.

NEUE STIMMEN Competition Repertoire:

	Composer	Opera/Operetta	Aria	Role
1	G. F. Händel	Orlando	Sorge infausta	Zoroastro
2	G. Rossini	Il barbiere di Siviglia	La calunnia (C major)	Don Basilio
3	P. G. Verdi	Macbeth	Come dal ciel precipita	Banco
4	G. Bizet	La jolie fille de Perth	Quand la flamme de l'amour	Ralph
5	V. Bellini	La Sonnambula	Vi ravviso, o luoghi ameni	Rodolfo



Zihao Li

Baritone

***2002**

China

Zihao Li is currently studying at the Opera Department of the Central Academy of Drama in Beijing, China.

Current and Upcoming Engagements:

2027 Belcore, *L'elisir d'amore* (G. Donizetti), Macerata Opera Festival, Macerata, Italy

2026 Figaro, *Il barbiere di Siviglia* (G. Rossini), China National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA), Beijing, China

Past Engagements and Roles Performed:

2025 Danilo Danilowitsch, *Die lustige Witwe* (F. Lehár), China National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA), Beijing, China

2024 Alfio, *Cavalleria rusticana* (P. Mascagni), Riccardo Muti Italian Opera Academy, Tianjin, China

2024 Ping, *Turandot* (G. Puccini), Changsha Theater, Changsha, China

2024 Marcello, *La Bohème* (G. Puccini), Shanghai Daning Opera House, Shanghai, China

Roles Studied and Prepared:

Belcore, *L'elisir d'amore* (G. Donizetti)

Giorgio Germont, *La traviata* (G. Verdi)

Rigoletto, *Rigoletto* (G. Verdi)

Education:

Since 2025 Master of Music in Vocal Performance, Central Academy of Drama, Beijing, China

2024 Riccardo Muti Italian Opera Academy, China

Competitions and Awards:

2026 Fifth Prize, 21st Seoul International Music Competition, Seoul, South Korea

2024 First Prize, 1st Sumi Jo International Singing Competition, Paris, France

2023 Second Prize (Opera Division), 35th Marmande International Singing Competition, Marmande, France

2023 First Prize, Golden Peacock, National Vocal Music Exhibition of Colleges and Universities of Arts, Hangzhou, China

NEUE STIMMEN Competition Repertoire:

	Composer	Opera/Operetta	Aria	Role
1	G. F. Händel	Rinaldo	Sibilar gli angui d'Aletto	Argante
2	E. W. Korngold	Die tote Stadt	Mein Sehnen, mein Wähnen	Fritz
3	W. A. Mozart	Le nozze di Figaro	Hai già vinta la causa / Vedrò mentr'io sospiro	Conte
4	C. Gounod	Roméo et Juliette	Mab, la reine des mensonges	Mercutio
5	G. Rossini	Il barbiere di Siviglia	Largo al factotum	Figaro



Yiming Liu

Tenor

***1998**

China

Since the beginning of the 2026/27 season, Yiming has been a member of the Académie de l'Opéra national de Paris.

Past Engagements and Roles Performed:

2026 Ferrando, *Così fan tutte* (W. A. Mozart), Theater Bourla, Belgium

2026 Laurie, *Little Women* (M. Adamo), Theater Minard, Belgium

2026 Alfredo, *La traviata* (G. Verdi), studied at International Opera Academy, Ghent, Belgium

2023 Rodolfo, *La Bohème* (G. Puccini), Teatro Pacini, Italy

Education:

2025-2026 Member of International Opera Academy Ghent, Belgium

2022-2025 Master of Music in Vocal Performance, Zhejiang Conservatory of Music, Hangzhou, China

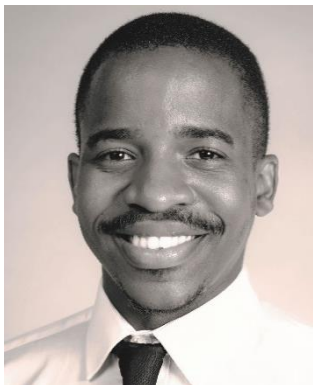
Competitions and Awards:

2025 Second Prize, 14th Klaudia Teav Competition, Shanghai, China

2025 Third Prize, Sesto Bruscantini International Vocal Opera Competition, Shijiazhuang, China

NEUE STIMMEN Competition Repertoire:

	Composer	Opera/Operetta	Aria	Role
1	G. Rossini	L'italiana in Algeri	Languir per una bella	Lindoro
2	G. F. Händel	Alcina	E un folle, un vile affetto	Oronte
3	P. I. Tchaikovsky	Yevgeny Onegin	Kuda, kuda	Lensky
4	W. A. Mozart	Die Zauberflöte	Dies Bildnis ist bezaubernd schön	Tamino
5	G. Donizetti	Don Pasquale	Povero Ernesto / Cercherò	Ernesto



Themba Mdlalose

Baritone

***2001**

Eswatini

Themba has been studying Opera Performance at the University of Cape Town since 2024.

Current and Upcoming Engagements:

2026 Don Giovanni, *Don Giovanni* (W. A. Mozart), OperaUCT, Cape Town, South Africa

Past Engagements and Roles Performed:

2025 Dr. Falke, *Die Fledermaus* (J. Strauß), OperaUCT, Cape Town, South Africa

2025 Papageno, *Die Zauberflöte* (W. A. Mozart), OperaUCT, Cape Town, South Africa

2024 Ridolfo, *Dalinda* (G. Donizetti), OperaUCT, Cape Town, South Africa

Education:

2024-2027 Bachelor of Music in Opera Performance, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa

2019-2023 Bachelor of Arts in Social Science (Economics and Political Science), University of Eswatini, Eswatini

Competitions and Awards:

2026 Finalist, 7th UNISA International Voice Competition, Pretoria, South Africa

2025 Fourth Prize, Schock Foundation Prize for Singing, Cape Town, South Africa

2025 Third Prize, 4th Aviva Pelham Operetta Competition, Cape Town, South Africa

2020 First Prize (Under-22 Category), Voices of South Africa International Singing Competition, Durban, South Africa

NEUE STIMMEN Competition Repertoire:

	Composer	Opera/Operetta	Aria	Role
1	W. A. Mozart	Le nozze di Figaro	Hai già vinta la causa / Vedrò mentr'io sospiro	Conte
2	E. W. Korngold	Die tote Stadt	Mein Sehnen, mein Wähnen	Fritz
3	C. Gounod	Faust	Avant de quitter ces lieux	Valentin
4	V. Bellini	I puritani	Ah per sempre io ti perdei	Riccardo
5	G. Rossini	Il barbiere di Siviglia	Largo al factotum	Figaro



Titus Muzi

Baritone

***1996**

United States of America

Titus is pursuing an Artist Diploma in Opera Studies at The Juilliard School in New York City.

Current and Upcoming Engagements:

2028 Marcello, *La Bohème* (G. Puccini), Cincinnati Opera, Cincinnati, USA

2027 Ping, *Turandot* (G. Puccini), Cincinnati Opera, Cincinnati, USA

Past Engagements and Roles Performed:

2026 Ford, *Falstaff* (G. Verdi), The Juilliard School, New York City, USA

2025 Don Giovanni, *Don Giovanni* (W. A. Mozart), Livermore Valley Opera, USA

2024 Schaunard, *La Bohème* (G. Puccini), Opera Theater of Saint Louis, USA

2022 Baritone Soloist, *Carmina Burana* (C. Orff), Cincinnati Ballet, USA

Roles Studied and Prepared:

2026 George, *Of Mice and Men* (C. Floyd)

2025 Peter, *Hänsel und Gretel* (E. Humperdinck)

2023 Guglielmo, *Così fan tutte* (W. A. Mozart)

Education:

2025-2027 Artist Diploma in Opera Studies, The Juilliard School, New York City, USA

2020-2023 Artist Diploma, The Academy of Vocal Arts, Philadelphia, USA

2015-2019 Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance, Florida State University, Tallahassee, USA

Competitions and Awards:

2026 Top Prize Winner, The Gerda Lissner Foundation, New York City, USA

2026 Regional Encouragement Award, The Laffont Competition, Los Angeles, USA

2025 First Place, The Mildred Miller International Voice Competition, Pittsburgh, USA

2022 Finalist, Vincerò World Singing Competition, Naples, Italy

Agency:

Since 2023, represented by Ken Benson Artists LLC, New York City, USA.

NEUE STIMMEN Competition Repertoire:

	Composer	Opera/Operetta	Aria	Role
1	W. A. Mozart	Le nozze di Figaro	Hai già vinta la causa / Vedrò mentr'io sospiro	Conte
2	G. Verdi	Falstaff	È sogno? O realtà?	Ford
3	G. F. Händel	Rinaldo	Sibilar gli angui d'Aletto	Argante
4	J. Massenet	Hérodiade	Vision fugitive	Hérode
5	G. Verdi	Don Carlo	Son io, mio Carlo / Per me giunto / O Carlo, ascolta / Io morirò	Rodrigo



Hovhannes Ordanyan

Tenor

***2001**

Armenia

Hovhannes is pursuing his second year of a master's degree at the State Conservatory of Yerevan in Armenia.

Past Engagements and Roles Performed:

2024 Gherardo, *Gianni Schicchi* (G. Puccini), Yerevan Opera Studio, Armenia

Roles Studied and Prepared:

2024 Nemorino, *L'elisir d'amore* (G. Donizetti)

2024 Lensky, *Eugene Onegin* (P. Tchaikovsky)

2023 Idomeneo, *Idomeneo* (W. A. Mozart)

Education:

Since 2025 Master's degree, Komitas State Conservatory of Yerevan, Armenia

2026 Masterclass with Franziska M. Kaiser, Nora Sourouzhian, Boris Ignatov, Jane Irwin, Yerevan, Armenia

2025 Masterclass with Adrian Kelly, Christoph Böhmke, Gianluca Marcianò, Yerevan, Armenia

2021-2025 Bachelor of Arts in Performing Arts, Komitas State Conservatory of Yerevan, Armenia

Competitions and Awards:

2026 Eva Marton International Singing Competition, Budapest, Hungary

2025 Grand Prix, AGBU Discovering Talents, Yerevan, Armenia

2024 Second Prize, Gohar Gasparyan Competition, Yerevan, Armenia

Additional Information:

Hovhannes has performed frequently with the Armenian State Philharmonic Orchestra, and he participated in the Start Festival in Leverkusen in April 2026.

NEUE STIMMEN Competition Repertoire:

	Composer	Opera/Operetta	Aria	Role
1	W. A. Mozart	Don Giovanni	Il mio tesoro	Don Ottavio
2	P. I. Tschaikowski	Yevgeny Onegin	Kuda, kuda	Lensky
3	I. Strawinsky	The Rake's Progress	Love, too frequently betrayed	Tom
4	G. Verdi	Rigoletto	La donna è mobile	Duca
5	G. Donizetti	L'elisir d'amore	Una furtiva lagrima	Nemorino



Felix Pacher

Bass

***1998**

Austria

Since September 2026, Felix has been a member of the Opera Studio at the Volksoper Wien.

Current and Upcoming Engagements:

2027 Dottore Grenvil, *La traviata* (G. Verdi), Festspiele Erl, Austria

Past Engagements and Roles Performed:

2026 Un vieillard hébreu, *Samson et Dalila* (C. Saint-Saëns), Oper Klosterneuburg, Austria

2025 Third Nobleman, *Lohengrin* (R. Wagner), Bayreuth Festival, Bayreuth, Germany

2025 Don Alfonso, *Così fan tutte* (W. A. Mozart), Croatian National Theater (HNK), Zagreb, Croatia

2025 Masetto, *Don Giovanni* (W. A. Mozart), Landestheater Salzburg, Salzburg, Austria

2024 Masetto, *Don Giovanni* (W. A. Mozart), Opernsommer Wien, Austria

2024 Falstaff, *Die lustigen Weiber von Windsor* (O. Nicolai), Schlosstheater Schönbrunn, Vienna, Austria

2022-2023 Tschick, *Tschick* (L. Vollmer), Wiener Staatsoper, Vienna, Austria

Roles Studied and Prepared:

2025 Angelotti, *Tosca* (G. Puccini)

2025 Tiresias, *Oedipus Rex* (I. Stravinsky)

2024 Sarastro, *Die Zauberflöte* (W. A. Mozart)

2024 Arkel, *Pelléas et Mélisande* (C. Debussy)

Education:

2024-2026 Master of Arts in Vocal Performance, University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna, Vienna, Austria

2020-2024 Bachelor of Arts in Singing, University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna, Vienna, Austria

Competitions and Awards:

2023 Winner, Elīna Garanča "ZukunftsStimmen" Competition

2023 Winner, Stella23 Prize (Outstanding Acting Performance), ASSITEJ Austria, for the role of Tschick

Agency:

Since 2026, represented by Crescendi Artists (Maria Gabriella Mafara), Hørsholm, Denmark.

NEUE STIMMEN Competition Repertoire:

	Composer	Opera/Operetta	Aria	Role
1	G. F. Händel	Orlando	Sorge infausta	Zoroastro
2	G. Bizet	La jolie fille de Perth	Quand la flamme de l'amour	Ralph
3	W. A. Mozart	Die Zauberflöte	In diesen heil'gen Hallen	Sarastro
4	R. Wagner	Der fliegende Holländer	Mögst du, mein Kind	Daland
5	O. Nicolai	Die lustigen Weiber von Windsor	Als Büblein klein an der Mutter Brust	Falstaff



Xuandi Peng

Bass-Baritone

***2003**

China

Xuandi is pursuing his master's degree at the School of Music at the Chinese University of Hong Kong in Shenzhen.

Past Engagements and Roles Performed:

2026 Escamillo, *Carmen* (G. Bizet), School of Music at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen, China

2026 Le Bailli, *Werther* (J. Massenet), Shenzhen Guangming Concert Hall, China

Roles Studied and Prepared:

2026 Don Pasquale, *Don Pasquale* (G. Donizetti)

2025 Malatesta, *Don Pasquale* (G. Donizetti)

Education:

2025-2027 Master of Music in Vocal Performance, School of Music at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen, China

2021-2025 Vocal Performance, Wuhan Conservatory of Music, Wuhan, China

Competitions and Awards:

2024 The Best Young Vocals Award and the Outstanding Talent Training Program Award of Novara Opera House in Italy, Paolo Coni International Opera Vocal Competition

NEUE STIMMEN Competition Repertoire:

	Composer	Opera/Operetta	Aria	Role
1	G. Rossini	Il barbiere di Siviglia	La calunnia (C major)	Don Basilio
2	G. Bizet	La jolie fille de Perth	Quand la flamme de l'amour	Ralph
3	C. Debussy	Pelléas et Mélisande	Maintenant que le père de Pelléas est sauvé	Arkel
4	G. Donizetti	L'elisir d'amore	Udite, udite, o rustici	Dulcamara
5	C. M. von Weber	Der Freischütz	Schweig, schweig	Kaspar



Irakli Pkhaladze

Bass-Baritone

***2001**

Georgia

Irakli is a second-year member of the International Opera Studio of the Staatsoper Unter den Linden in Berlin.

Current and Upcoming Engagements:

2026/27 Smaller roles in *Samson et Dalila*, *Rigoletto*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Tosca* and other productions, Staatsoper Unter den Linden, Berlin, Germany

Past Engagements and Roles Performed:

2026 **Masetto**, *Don Giovanni* (W. A. Mozart), Staatsoper Unter den Linden, Berlin, Germany

2025 **Leporello**, *Don Giovanni* (W. A. Mozart), Music Academy of the West, Santa Barbara, USA

2024 **Lord Sidney**, *Il viaggio a Reims* (G. Rossini), Rossini Opera Festival, Pesaro, Italy

2024 **Samuel**, *Un ballo in maschera* (G. Verdi), Palau de les Arts Reina Sofia, Valencia, Spain

2024 **Der Sprecher**, *Die Zauberflöte* (W. A. Mozart), Palau de les Arts Reina Sofia, Valencia, Spain

Roles Studied and Prepared:

Guglielmo, *Così fan tutte* (W. A. Mozart)

Don Giovanni, *Don Giovanni* (W. A. Mozart)

Schaunard, *La Bohème* (G. Puccini)

Mustafà, *L'italiana in Algeri* (G. Rossini)

Education:

2026 Voice Residency, Festival d'Aix-en-Provence, Aix-en-Provence, France

2025 Lehrer Vocal Institute, Music Academy of the West, Santa Barbara, USA

2023-2025 Centre de Perfeccionament, Palau de les Arts Reina Sofia, Valencia, Spain

2024 Accademia Rossiniana Alberto Zedda, Rossini Opera Festival, Pesaro, Italy

2023 Corso Cantanti, Teatro Pavarotti-Freni, Modena, Italy

2019-2023 Bachelor's degree in Performing Arts, Tbilisi State Conservatoire, Tbilisi, Georgia

Agency:

Represented worldwide by Askonas Holt (Nicholas Moloney), London, UK.

NEUE STIMMEN Competition Repertoire:

	Composer	Opera/Operetta	Aria	Role
1	G. F. Händel	Orlando	Sorge infausta	Zoroastro
2	W. A. Mozart	Don Giovanni	Madamina	Leporello
3	S. Rachmaninow	Aleko	Ves' tabar spit	Aleko
4	R. Wagner	Tannhäuser	O, du mein holder Abendstern	Wolfram von Eschenbach
5	W. A. Mozart	Le nozze di Figaro	Tutto è disposto	Figaro



Rafael Humberto Rojas

Tenor

***1996**

Mexico

This 2026/27 season Rafael will join the International Opera Studio at Opernhaus Zürich.

Current and Upcoming Engagements:

2026/27 Roles in *Die Zauberflöte* (W. A. Mozart), *Samson et Dalila* (C. Saint-Saëns) and *La fanciulla del West* (G. Puccini), Opernhaus Zürich, Zurich, Switzerland

Past Engagements and Roles Performed:

2026 Alfredo, *La traviata* (G. Verdi), Buxton International Festival, Buxton, Derbyshire, UK

2026 Rafael, *El gato montés* (M. Penella), Teatro de la Zarzuela, Madrid, Spain

2026 Schoolmaster, *The Cunning Little Vixen* (L. Janáček), Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester, UK

2025 Le Prince, *L'amour des trois oranges* (S. Prokofiev), Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester, UK

Education:

2025-2026 International Artist Diploma in Vocal Studies and Opera, Royal Northern College of Music (RNCM), Manchester, UK

Competitions and Awards:

2026 Second Prize, Clonter Opera Competition, UK

2024 Participant, Houston Grand Opera *Concert of Arias*, Houston, USA

2023 First Prize, Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition, Mexico District

2022 First Prize, Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition, Mexico District

2022 First Prize, Carlo Morelli Zarzuela Competition, Palacio de Bellas Artes, Mexico City, Mexico

Agency:

Rafael has been on the Askonas Holt roster since September 10, 2025. He joined the agency as part of the Askonas Holt Singers Fellowship alongside several other emerging artists, receiving strategic mentorship, coaching sessions, and financial support to bridge the gap between his studies and his professional career.

NEUE STIMMEN Competition Repertoire:

	Composer	Opera/Operetta	Aria	Role
1	G. F. Händel	Semele	Where'er you walk	Jupiter
2	G. Donizetti	Lucia di Lammermoor	Fra poco a me ricovero/ Tombe degli avi miei	Edgardo
3	G. Verdi	Luisa Miller	Quando le sere al placido	Rodolfo
4	G. Verdi	La Traviata	Lunge da lei / De' miei bollenti spiriti	Alfredo
5	J. Massenet	Werther	Pourquoi me réveiller	Werther



Valentin Ruckebier

Bass-Baritone

***1997**

Germany

Valentin has been a member of the ensemble of Deutsche Oper am Rhein since the 2024/25 season.

Current and Upcoming Engagements:

2026/27 Hans Schwarz, *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* (R. Wagner), Deutsche Oper am Rhein, Düsseldorf, Germany

2026/27 Figaro, *Le nozze di Figaro* (W. A. Mozart), Deutsche Oper am Rhein Düsseldorf, Germany

2026/27 Colline, *La Bohème* (G. Puccini), Deutsche Oper am Rhein, Duisburg, Germany

2026/27 Faust, *Der feurige Engel* (S. Prokofiev), Staatstheater Kassel, Kassel, Germany

Past Engagements and Roles Performed:

2025/26 Doktor, *Wozzeck* (A. Berg), Staatstheater Braunschweig, Braunschweig, Germany

2025/26 Alidoro, *La cenerentola* (G. Rossini), Deutsche Oper am Rhein, Düsseldorf, Germany

Roles Studied and Prepared:

2024/25 Leporello, *Don Giovanni* (W. A. Mozart)

2023/24 Gremin, *Eugene Onegin* (P. Tchaikovsky)

Education:

2026 Master of Music, Singing (Opera/Concert/Lied), Robert Schumann Hochschule Düsseldorf, Germany

2022-2024 Opera Studio, Deutsche Oper am Rhein, Düsseldorf, Germany

2017-2023 Vocal Performance, Robert Schumann Hochschule Düsseldorf, Düsseldorf, Germany

2014-2023 Composition, Robert Schumann Hochschule Düsseldorf, Düsseldorf, Germany

Competitions and Awards:

2026 First Prize, International Haydn Competition, Rohrau, Austria

2024 First Prize, SWR Junge Opernstars (Emmerich Smola Prize), Landau, Germany

2024 Nomination as Best Young Artist at Opernwelt Magazin

2024 Förderpreis of the City of Düsseldorf (as Composer & Singer), Germany

Agency:

Since 2023, represented worldwide by Sonoartists (Agent: Samantha Farber), Vienna, Austria.

NEUE STIMMEN Competition Repertoire:

	Composer	Opera/Operetta	Aria	Role
1	W. A. Mozart	Don Giovanni	Madamina	Leporello
2	G. Verdi	Simon Boccanegra	A te l'estremo	Jacopo Fiesco
3	G. F. Händel	Orlando	Sorge infausta	Zoroastro
4	C. Gounod	Faust	Vous qui faites l'endormie	Méphistophélès
5	P. I. Tchaikovsky	Yevgeny Onegin	Lyubvi vse vozrasty pokorny	Prince Gremin



Arpi Sinanyan

Soprano

***2002**

Armenia

Arpi has been a member of the Young Artists Opera Program and a guest soloist at the Armenian National Opera and Ballet Theater in Yerevan since 2022.

Current and Upcoming Engagements:

2026/27 *Reflections* (contemporary chamber mono-opera), Armenian National Opera and Ballet Theater, Yerevan, Armenia

2027/28 *Santuzza*, *Cavalleria rusticana* (P. Mascagni), Armenian National Opera and Ballet Theater, Yerevan, Armenia

Past Engagements and Roles Performed:

2025 *Alto Soloist*, *Messiah* (G. F. Händel), Armenian National Opera and Ballet Theater, Yerevan, Armenia

2025 *Soloist*, *Misa a Buenos Aires* (M. Palmeri)

2025 *Soloist*, *Eh* (V. Sharafyan)

Roles Studied and Prepared:

Tatiana, *Eugene Onegin* (P. I. Tchaikovsky)

Carmen, *Carmen* (G. Bizet)

Tosca, *Tosca* (G. Puccini)

Santuzza, *Cavalleria rusticana* (P. Mascagni)

Sacerdotessa, *Aida* (G. Verdi)

Education:

2026 Workshop, Polish National Opera Academy (Akademia Operowa), Warsaw, Poland

2021-2025 Bachelor's degree in Vocal Performance, Komitas State Conservatory, Yerevan, Armenia

Competitions and Awards:

2025 Second Prize, 12th International Stanisław Moniuszko Vocal Competition, Warsaw, Poland

2025 Second Prize, 14th Klaudia Taev Competition for Opera Singers, Pärnu, Estonia

2025 Finalist, Houston Grand Opera *Concert of Arias*, Houston, Texas, USA

2024 Second Prize, "Città di Alcamo" Concorso Internazionale per Cantanti Lirici, Alcamo, Sicily, Italy

Agency:

Arpi just joined the roster of TACT Artists Management.

NEUE STIMMEN Competition Repertoire:

	Composer	Opera/Operetta	Aria	Role
1	H. Purcell	Dido and Aeneas	Thy hand Belinda / When I am laid in earth	Dido
2	C. W. Gluck	Alceste	Divinités du Styx	Alceste
3	A. Boito	Mefistofele	L'altra notte	Margherita
4	F. Cilea	Adriana Lecouvreur	Io son l'umile ancella	Adriana
5	P. I. Tchaikovsky	Pikowaja dama	Uzh polnoch blizitsya	Lisa



Klara Solén

Mezzo-Soprano

***2002**

Sweden

Since September 2026, Klara has been a member of the Royal Academy Opera at the Royal Academy of Music in London.

Current and Upcoming Engagements:

2027 Cherubino, *Le nozze di Figaro* (W. A. Mozart), Royal Academy Opera, London, UK

2026 Clairon, *Capriccio* (R. Strauss), Royal Academy Opera, London, UK

Past Engagements and Roles Performed:

2026 Rosina, *Il barbiere di Siviglia* (G. Rossini), Dalafloa Operafest, Sweden

2025 Cenerentola, *La cenerentola* (G. Rossini), Hampstead Garden Opera, UK

Roles Studied and Prepared:

2026 Dorabella, *Così fan tutte* (W. A. Mozart)

2025 Octavian, *Der Rosenkavalier* (R. Strauss)

2025 Sesto, *La clemenza di Tito* (W. A. Mozart)

Education:

2026/27 Oxford International Song Festival Young Artist Program

2026 Leeds Song Festival Young Artist Program

2024-2026 Bachelor of Music in Vocal Studies, Royal Academy of Music, London, UK

2021-2024 Opera Studio Kapellsberg (Pre-College Vocal Program), Härnösand, Sweden

Competitions and Awards:

2026/27 Bicentenary Scholarship, Royal Academy of Music, London, UK

2026 Finalist, Royal Over-Seas League competition, London, UK

2026 First Prize and Audience Prize, Somerset Song Prize, Somerset, UK

2026 Third Prize, Schumann Lieder Prize, Royal Academy of Music, London, UK

2024 Ulf Thörnqvist & Terje Groe-Langseth Scholarship for Young Singers, awarded by the Swedish Royal Opera Soloists

Agency:

Since 2025, represented by Eliasson Artist Management, Stockholm, Sweden.

NEUE STIMMEN Competition Repertoire:

	Composer	Opera/Operetta	Aria	Role
1	W. A. Mozart	La finta giardiniera	Va' pure ad altri in braccio	Ramiro
2	C. Gounod	Roméo et Juliette	Depuis hier, je cherche / Que fais-tu, blanche tourterelle?	Stéphano
3	G. F. Händel	Ariodante	Scherza infida	Ariodante
4	G. Rossini	Il barbiere di Siviglia	Una voce poco fa (E major)	Rosina
5	G. Bizet	Carmen	Seguidilla (Près des remparts de Séville)	Carmen



Louisa Stuart-Smith

Mezzo-Soprano

***2000**

United Kingdom

Louisa is currently focusing primarily on concert and song repertoire and regularly performs as a soloist in oratorios such as Handel's *Messiah*, as well as in song recitals.

Current and Upcoming Engagements:

2026 The Shining Night, Edinburgh, UK

2026 Soloist, *Carnegie Ensemble* (Baroque Christmas Concert), Erith, UK

2026 Soloist, *Handel's Messiah* (Mayfield Festival), St. Dunstan's Church, Mayfield, UK

Past Engagements and Roles Performed:

2026 Rising Stars of Voice, Edinburgh International Festival, Edinburgh, UK

2026 Dorabella, *Così fan tutte* (W. A. Mozart), Longhope Opera, UK

2025 Member of an 8-person chorus, *Giustino* (G. F. Händel), Royal Ballet and Opera, London, UK

2024 Dorabella (cover), *Così fan tutte* (W. A. Mozart), Teatro Lorenzo Da Ponte, Da Ponte Festival, Italy

Roles Studied and Prepared:

2021 Rinaldo, *Rinaldo* (G. F. Händel)

Education:

2026 Samling Artist, Samling Artist Program, UK

2024-2026 Artist Diploma, Guildhall School of Music and Drama, London, UK

2025 Alvarez Emerging Artist, Garsington Opera, UK

2022-2024 Master of Performance, Guildhall School of Music and Drama, London, UK

2021-2022 Master of Philosophy in History of Art, Trinity College, University of Cambridge, UK

2018-2021 Bachelor of Arts in History of Art (& Choral Scholar), Trinity College, University of Cambridge, UK

Competitions and Awards:

2026 Semi-Finalist, Royal Over-Seas League Annual Music Competition, London, UK

2025 Winner, Chris Treglown Foundation Singing Competition, UK

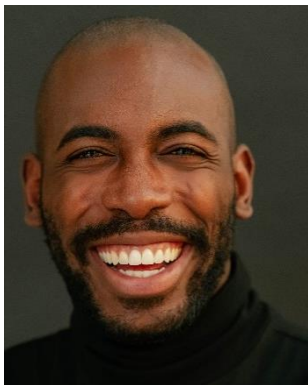
2024 Encouragement Award, Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition, Maryland District, USA

2024 Runner-Up, London Bach Society's Bach Singers Prize Competition, London, UK

2024 Semi-Finalist, VIII Concors Internacional de Cant Josep Palet, Barcelona, Spain

NEUE STIMMEN Competition Repertoire:

	Composer	Opera/Operetta	Aria	Role
1	G. F. Händel	Ariodante	Scherza infida	Ariodante
2	W. A. Mozart	Così fan tutte	Ah scostati / Smanie implacabili	Dorabella
3	C. Gounod	Roméo et Juliette	Depuis hier, je cherche / que fais-tu, blanche tourterelle ?	Stéphano
4	W. A. Mozart	Le nozze di Figaro	Non so più cosa son, cosa faccio	Cherubino
5	G. Rossini	La Cenerentola	Nacqui all' affanno	Angelina



Korin Thomas-Smith

Baritone

***1996**

Canada

Korin is beginning his career as a freelance artist and is engaged at various opera houses across North America during the 2026/27 season.

Current and Upcoming Engagements:

- 2027 Papageno**, *Die Zauberflöte* (W. A. Mozart), Pacific Opera Victoria, Canada
- 2027 Schaunard**, *La Bohème* (G. Puccini), Seattle Opera, USA
- 2026 Dandini**, *La Cenerentola* (G. Rossini), Wolf Trap Opera, USA
- 2026 Figaro**, *Il barbiere di Siviglia* (G. Rossini), Edmonton Opera, Canada
- 2026 Conte Almaviva** (cover), *Le nozze di Figaro* (W. A. Mozart), Santa Fe Opera, USA

Past Engagements and Roles Performed:

- 2025 Mercutio**, *Roméo et Juliette* (C. Gounod), Canadian Opera Company, Canada
- 2024 Malatesta**, *Don Pasquale* (G. Donizetti), covered and performed at the Canadian Opera Company, Canada
- 2024 Valentin** (cover), *Faust* (C. Gounod), Canadian Opera Company, Canada
- 2024 Masetto** (cover), *Don Giovanni* (W. A. Mozart), Canadian Opera Company, Canada

Education:

- 2026** Wolf Trap Opera Filene Artist, USA
- 2025** Santa Fe Opera Apprentice Artist, USA
- 2023-2025** Canadian Opera Company Ensemble Studio, Canada
- 2021-2023** Master of Musical Arts Opera, Yale University, New Haven, USA
- 2018-2020** Master of Music in Opera, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada

Competitions and Awards:

- 2026** Winner, George and Nora London Competition for Singers, New York, USA
- 2026** Top Prize, Gerda Lissner International Vocal Competition, New York, USA
- 2026** Semifinalist, Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition, New York, USA
- 2025** First Prize, Rumbold Vocal Prize, Edmonton, Canada
- 2025** Third Prize, Les Concours Orchestre Symphonique de Montreal, Montreal, Canada

NEUE STIMMEN Competition Repertoire:

	Composer	Opera/Operetta	Aria	Role
1	G. F. Händel	Rinaldo	Sibilar gli angui d'Aletto	Argante
2	W. A. Mozart	Le nozze di Figaro	Hai già vinta la causa / Vedrò mentr'io sospiro	Conte
3	P. I. Tchaikovsky	Yevgeny Onegin	Vy mne pisali	Yevgeny Onegin
4	G. Rossini	La Cenerentola	Come un'ape ne' giorni d'aprile	Dandini
5	J. Massenet	Hérodiade	Vision fugitive	Hérode



Jiazhou Wang

Baritone

***2004**

China

Jiazhou has been a member of the Academy of the Teatro del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino in Florence since autumn 2026.

Current and Upcoming Engagements:

2026/27 Il Marchese d'Obigny, *La traviata* (G. Verdi), Teatro del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, Florence, Italy

2026/27 Ein Steuermann, *Tristan und Isolde* (R. Wagner), Teatro del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, Florence, Italy

2026/27 Quinault, *Adriana Lecouvreur* (F. Cilea), Teatro del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, Florence, Italy

2026/27 Don Parmenione, *L'occasione fa il ladro* (G. Rossini), Teatro Verdi di Pisa, Pisa, Italy

Past Engagements and Roles Performed:

2025 Don Alvaro, *Il viaggio a Reims* (G. Rossini), Rossini Opera Festival, Teatro Rossini, Pesaro, Italy

Roles Studied and Prepared:

2026 Il conte Almaviva, *Le nozze di Figaro* (W. A. Mozart)

2025 Valentin, *Faust* (C. Gounod)

2025 Figaro, *Il barbiere di Siviglia* (G. Rossini)

Education:

2022-2026 Bachelor's degree of Vocal Performance, Shanghai Conservatory of Music, Shanghai, China

2025 Academy of Rossini Opera Festival, Italy

Competitions and Awards:

2025 First Prize & "Best Baritone Award" (Cesare Bardelli Prize) at 75th Concorso Viotti Vercelli, Italy

Agency:

Represented worldwide by Prima Fila Artists (Constantin Philippoff, General Management World).

NEUE STIMMEN Competition Repertoire:

	Composer	Opera/Operetta	Aria	Role
1	G. Rossini	Il barbiere di Siviglia	Largo al factotum	Figaro
2	J. Massenet	Hérodiade	Vision fugitive	Hérode
3	E. W. Korngold	Die tote Stadt	Mein Sehnen, mein Wähnen	Fritz
4	C. Gounod	Faust	Avant de quitter ces lieux	Valentin
5	W. A. Mozart	Le nozze di Figaro	Hai già vinta la causa / Vedrò mentr'io sospiro	Conte



Liere Wu

Soprano

***2001**

China

Liere is a member of the Young Artist Programme at the Shanghai Opera House and regularly performs in contemporary Chinese operas.

Current and Upcoming Engagements:

2027 Hanna Glawari, *Die lustige Witwe* (F. Lehár), Shanghai Grand Theater, Shanghai, China

2026 Donna Anna (cover), *Don Giovanni* (W. A. Mozart), Shanghai Opera House, Shanghai, China

2026 Adina (cover), *L'elisir d'amore* (G. Donizetti), Shanghai Opera House, Shanghai, China

2026 Pamina, *Die Zauberflöte* (W. A. Mozart), Shanghai Conservatory of Music & Hochschule für Musik Freiburg, Shangyin Opera House, Shanghai, China

Past Engagements and Roles Performed:

2026 Liù, *Turandot* (G. Puccini), T4T Project, Sala Verdi, Conservatorio di Milano "Giuseppe Verdi", Milan, Italy

2025/26 Jiu'er, *Red Sorghum* (Guo Wenjing), National Centre for the Performing Arts, Beijing, China

2024 Micaëla (cover), *Carmen* (G. Bizet), Shanghai Opera House & Opéra National de Bordeaux, Shanghai, China

Education:

2026-present Doctoral Candidate in Vocal Performance, Shanghai Conservatory of Music, China

2024-2026 Master of Music in Vocal Performance, Shanghai Conservatory of Music, China

2023-2024 Savonlinna Music Academy, Lied Masterclass with Hartmut Höll, Finland

2019-2024 Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance, Shanghai Conservatory of Music, China

Competitions and Awards:

2026 First Prize, Gulangyu International Opera Competition, China

2025 Finalist, China Golden Bell Award for Music

2024 First Prize, China International Art Song Singing Competition

NEUE STIMMEN Competition Repertoire:

	Composer	Opera/Operetta	Aria	Role
1	W. A. Mozart	Così fan tutte	Temerari! / Come scoglio immoto resta	Fiordiligi
2	G. Puccini	La Bohème	Sì, mi chiamano Mimi	Mimi
3	B. Britten	Peter Grimes	Embroidery Aria	Ellen Orford
4	G. Bizet	Carmen	C'est des contrebandiers... / Je dis que rien ne m'épouvante	Micaëla
5	C. Saint-Saëns	Samson et Dalila	Mon cœur s'ouvre à ta voix	Dalila



Younji Yi

Soprano

***1996**

South Korea

Younji is in her second year as a member of the Opera Studio of Oper Frankfurt.

Current and Upcoming Engagements:

2026/27 Morgana, Alcina (G. F. Händel), Oper Frankfurt, Germany

2026/27 Oscar, Un ballo in maschera (G. Verdi), Oper Frankfurt, Germany

2026/27 Taumännchen, Hänsel und Gretel (E. Humperdinck), Oper Frankfurt, Germany

Past Engagements and Roles Performed:

2025 Ismene, Mitridate, re di Ponto (W. A. Mozart), Oper Frankfurt, Germany

2025 Piacere, Il trionfo del Tempo e del Disinganno (G. F. Händel), Oper Frankfurt, Germany

2024 Pamina, Die Zauberflöte (W. A. Mozart), Daegu Opera House, South Korea

Education:

2022-2023 Master of Music Studies (Opera Performance), Sydney Conservatorium of Music, Australia

2014-2018 Bachelor of Music (Classical Vocal), Korea National University of Arts, South Korea

Competitions and Awards:

2026 Fourth Prize, Seoul International Music Competition

2025 Semifinalist, Belvedere Singing Competition

2025 Finalist, Renata Tebaldi International Voice Competition (Baroque Section)

2023 Second Prize, Sydney International Song Prize (Joan Sutherland & Richard Bonyng Foundation)

2023 Merenda Legacy Prize, IFAC Handa Australian Singing Competition

NEUE STIMMEN Competition Repertoire:

	Composer	Opera/Operetta	Aria	Role
1	G. F. Händel	Giulio Cesare	Da tempeste	Cleopatra
2	G. Rossini	Il barbiere di Siviglia	Una voce poco fa (F major)	Rosina
3	F. Poulenc	Les mamelles de Tirésias	Non, Monsieur Mon Mari!	Thérèse
4	G. Verdi	Rigoletto	Caro nome	Gilda
5	J. Strauß	Die Fledermaus	Spiel ich die Unschuld vom Lande	Adele



Shiyu Zhuo

Soprano

***2000**

China

In summer 2026, Shiyu was a Fellow of the Manetti Shrem Opera Program at Festival Napa Valley. She is currently pursuing an Artist Diploma at The Juilliard School in New York.

Past Engagements and Roles Performed:

2026 Nannetta, *Falstaff* (G. Verdi), The Juilliard School, New York, USA

2024 Musetta, *La Bohème* (G. Puccini), New England Conservatory, Boston, USA

2023 Calisto, *La Calisto* (F. Cavalli), New England Conservatory, Boston, USA

2023 Gretel, *Hänsel und Gretel* (E. Humperdinck), Vienna Opera Academy, Musikverein Wien, Vienna, Austria

Roles Studied and Prepared:

2026 Giulietta, *I Capuleti e i Montecchi* (V. Bellini)

2026 Mabel, *The Pirates of Penzance* (A. Sullivan)

2026 Stella, *A Streetcar Named Desire* (A. Previn)

2026 Venus, *The Judgment of Paris* (J. Heggie)

2025 Despina, *Così fan tutte* (W. A. Mozart)

Education:

2026-2028 Artist Diploma in Opera Studies, The Juilliard School, New York, USA

2026 Manetti Shrem Opera Program, Festival Napa Valley, Napa Valley, USA

2024-2026 Graduate Diploma in Vocal Arts, The Juilliard School, New York, USA

2022-2024 Master of Music in Vocal Arts, New England Conservatory, Boston, USA

Competitions and Awards:

2026 Finalist, Metropolitan Opera Eric and Dominique Laffont Competition

2025 Second Prize, Opera Index Vocal Competition, New York, USA

NEUE STIMMEN Competition Repertoire:

	Composer	Opera/Operetta	Aria	Role
1	G. Verdi	Falstaff	Sul fil d'un soffio etesio	Nannetta
2	F. Poulenc	Les mamelles de Tirésias	Non, Monsieur Mon Mari!	Thérèse
3	V. Bellini	I Capuleti e i Montecchi	Eccomi in lieta vesta	Giulietta
4	G. Donizetti	Don Pasquale	Quel guardo il cavaliere	Norina
5	W. A. Mozart	Le nozze di Figaro	Giunse alfin il momento / Deh vieni, non tardar	Susanna

7. Mitglieder der Jury



Alexander Neef

Vorsitzender der Jury
Direktor der Opéra national
de Paris

JURY



Samuel Gelber

Direktor für Künstlerische
Planung und Operative
Leitung, Washington
National Opera



Xenia Hofmann

Operndirektorin für Planung
und Casting am Opernhaus
Zürich



Boris Ignatov

Casting Director der
Staatsoper Stuttgart



Sophie de Lint

Direktorin der Dutch National
Opera & Ballet Amsterdam



Bernd Loebe

Intendant der Oper Frankfurt



Christoph Seufferle

Operndirektor der Deutschen
Oper Berlin 2006–2026



Neil Shicoff

Tenor



Evamaria Wieser

Casting Consultant der Salz-
burger Festspiele, European
Casting Consultant der Lyric
Opera Chicago

8. Biografie Juryvorsitzender Alexander Neef

Direktor der Opéra national de Paris

Alexander Neef wurde 1974 in Deutschland geboren. Er studierte Lateinische Philologie und Neuere Geschichte an der Eberhard-Karls-Universität in Tübingen.

Im Jahr 2000 begann er seine Karriere als Produktionsleiter bei den Salzburger Festspielen, wo er zwei Spielzeiten tätig war. Anschließend wechselte er in die künstlerische Leitung der RuhrTriennale, wo er für Opern-, Theater- und Tanzproduktionen sowie Konzerte und Veranstaltungen verantwortlich war. Auf Wunsch von Gérard Mortier, dem damaligen Direktor der Opéra national de Paris, war er von 2004 bis 2008 als Casting-Direktor an dieser Institution tätig. Anschließend unterstützte Alexander Neef Gérard Mortier bei der Vorbereitung seines Programmplans für die New York City Opera.

Von 2008 bis 2020 war Neef Generaldirektor der Canadian Opera Company, wo er Koproduktionen unter anderem mit der Metropolitan Opera in New York, dem Londoner Royal Opera House, dem Teatro Real in Madrid, dem Festival d'Aix-en-Provence und dem Bolschoi-Theater in Moskau entwickelte. Alexander Neef ermöglichte es der Canadian Opera Company außerdem, im März 2011 mit Igor Strawinskys *Die Nachtigall und andere kurze Fabeln* unter der Regie von Robert Lepage an die weltberühmte BAM (Brooklyn Academy of Music) zurückzukehren. Schließlich brachte er neue Energie in das COC Ensemble Studio, ein Ausbildungsprogramm für junge Opernsänger, und lancierte 2011 den Ensemble Studio Competition, bei dem das Publikum zu den Abschlussvorsingen der Sänger eingeladen wurde. Neben seiner Tätigkeit als Intendant der Canadian Opera Company wurde er 2018 zum ersten künstlerischen Leiter der Santa Fe Opera in den Vereinigten Staaten ernannt.

Im Juli 2019 wurde Alexander Neef von Emmanuel Macron, dem Präsidenten der Französischen Republik, zum designierten Direktor der Opéra national de Paris ernannt. Er trat sein Amt als Generaldirektor vorzeitig am 1. September 2020 an. Während seiner Amtszeit wurden Werke wie *Nixon in China* von John Adams, *A Quiet Place* von Leonard Bernstein, *Fin de partie* von György Kurtág und *Ercole amante* von Antonio Vivaldi in das Repertoire der Opéra national de Paris aufgenommen. Mit seinem Gespür für Interdisziplinarität und seinem Bestreben, die Welt der Oper für neue Profile zu öffnen, hat er die Inszenierung von Opern bei der Fotografin und bildenden Künstlerin Shirin Neshat (Verdis Aida im Jahr 2025), den Schauspieler und Regisseur Ralph Fiennes (Tschaikowskys Eugene Onegin im Jahr 2026) und die Choreografen Bobbi Jene Smith und Or Schraiber (Glass' Satyagraha im Jahr 2026) mit der Inszenierung von Opern beauftragt. Alexander Neef hat die vor fast 30 Jahren verschwundene Lyrikgruppe der Opéra national de Paris wieder ins Leben gerufen und das Junior-Ballett gegründet, in dem etwa 20 junge Tänzer aus aller Welt zusammenkommen. Außerdem hat er das Programm ADO ins Leben gerufen, Frankreichs erstes Jugend-Lyrik-Orchester, das 2023 gegründet wurde, sowie den Kinderchor der Opéra national de Paris, der seine erste Saison 26/27 haben wird. Im Jahr 2023 startete er außerdem die Streaming-Plattform POP – Paris Opera Play.

Biography Jury Chair/ Juryvorsitzender Alexander Neef (Seite 2)

Der Präsident der Republik, Emmanuel Macron, hat auf Vorschlag der Kulturministerin Rachida Dati beschlossen, Alexander Neef ein zweites Mandat zu übertragen, das vom 1. September 2026 bis zum Ende der Spielzeit 2031/2032 läuft. Im September 2024 stellte er gemeinsam mit der Kulturministerin ein Renovierungsprojekt vor, das 2027 beginnen und alle vier Standorte der Opéra national de Paris umfassen wird: den Palais Garnier, die Opéra Bastille, die École de Danse in Nanterre und die Ateliers Berthier. Dieses Projekt zielt darauf ab, die technische und bühnentechnische Ausstattung zu modernisieren, die Räumlichkeiten zu renovieren, um die Bedingungen für Publikum, Künstler und Mitarbeiter zu verbessern, und den ökologischen Wandel zu beschleunigen.

Alexander Neef wurde im Dezember 2025 zum Vorsitzenden der Jury des Internationalen Gesangswettbewerbs NEUE STIMMEN ernannt.

Alexander Neef wurde im September 2018 mit dem Verdienstorden der Bundesrepublik Deutschland ausgezeichnet, im Juli 2022 zum Commandeur de l'ordre des Arts et des Lettres ernannt und im Juli 2025 zum Chevalier dans l'ordre national de la Légion d'Honneur.

Stand: Spielzeit 2025/ 2026

9. Junior-Jury

Nachdem 2024 erstmals eine Junior-Jury das Semifinale der NEUEN STIMMEN erfolgreich begleitet hat, wird sie auch in diesem Jahr wieder dabei sein.

Die Jugendlichen wurden im Rahmen eines Bewerbungsverfahrens für die Junior-Jury ausgewählt. Sie erhalten die besondere Gelegenheit, das Semifinale am 7. Oktober 2026 einen ganzen Tag lang hinter den Kulissen zu erleben. Erstmals begleiten sie den kompletten Semifinal-Tag – von der Pressekonferenz über das Kennenlernen der Sänger:innen bis hin zum Konzert mit Preisverleihung am Abend. Auf diese Weise gewinnen sie einen umfassenden Einblick in einen internationalen Gesangswettbewerb und können sich persönlich mit den Künstlerinnen und Künstlern austauschen.

Der diesjährigen Junior-Jury gehören neun Jugendliche im Alter von 16 bis 18 Jahren an, die ihre Begeisterung für Musik verbindet. Sie kommen von den „JunOs“, den Jungen Opernsänger:innen des Theaters Bielefeld, dem Christophorus-Jugendkammerchor des CJD Gymnasiums Versmold oder haben bereits selbst Wettbewerbs-Erfahrung über ihre Teilnahme an „Jugend musiziert“.

Am Abend des Semifinales bewertet die Junior-Jury die 16 Semifinalistinnen und Semifinalisten ganz unabhängig. Dabei orientieren sich die Jugendlichen an den Kriterien Technisches Können, Musikalische Gestaltung, Stimmqualität und Künstlerische Persönlichkeit. Im Anschluss beraten sie sich gemeinsam und wählen eine Sängerin oder einen Sänger aus, die oder der mit dem Sonderpreis der Junior-Jury in Höhe von 1.000 Euro ausgezeichnet wird.

10. Mitwirkende

PIANIST:INNEN



Alfredo Abbati

Korrepetitor und Coach bei den Salzburger Festspielen, dem Festival d'Aix-en-Provence und der Opéra national de Paris



Raffaele Cortesi

Langjähriger Korrepetitor am Teatro Comunale di Bologna und am Teatro Regio di Parma; Coach an der Accademia di Bologna sowie Professor am Conservatorio „Arrigo Boito“ di Parma



Edward Liddall

Korrepetitor und Coach bei den Salzburger Festspielen und an der Académie der Opéra national de Paris



Susanna Stranders

Korrepetitorin am Royal Opera House, Covent Garden in London

MODERATOR:IN



Holger Noltze

Journalist, Moderator, bis 2023 Professor für Musik und Medien/Musikjournalismus an der TU Dortmund



Teresa Vogl

Musikredakteurin von ORF Radio Ö1, Redakteurin und Moderatorin in der TV-Kultur des ORF

MITWIRKENDE

11. Orchester und Dirigent



ORCHESTER

Die **Duisburger Philharmoniker** zählen zu den bedeutenden und traditionsreichen Orchestern Deutschlands. Mit ihrer künstlerischen Qualität und vielseitigen Erfahrung genießen sie sowohl auf dem Konzertpodium als auch im Orchestergraben der Deutschen Oper am Rhein Düsseldorf einen ausgezeichneten Ruf. In diesem Jahr begleiten sie das Finalkonzert von NEUE STIMMEN bereits zum elften Mal und tragen mit ihrer präzisen, ausdrucksstarken Darbietung zum besonderen Charakter des Abends bei.

DIRIGENT

Vitali Alekseenok zählt zu den international gefragten jungen Dirigenten seiner Generation. Als Chefdirigent der Deutschen Oper am Rhein verbindet er Opern- und Konzertrepertoire auf höchstem Niveau. Internationale Aufmerksamkeit erlangte er 2021 mit dem Gewinn des renommierten Arturo-Toscanini-Dirigentenwettbewerbs in Parma. Seit Juni 2021 ist er Künstlerischer Leiter des KharkivMusicFest in der Ukraine und setzt dort auch unter den Bedingungen des Krieges ein eindrucksvolles Zeichen für die verbindende Kraft der Musik. Im Sommer 2026 leitet er das Eröffnungskonzert der Salzburger Festspiele. Beim Internationalen Gesangswettbewerb NEUE STIMMEN steht er im Oktober 2026 erstmals am Pult des Finalkonzerts und dirigiert die Duisburger Philharmoniker.



ORCHESTER

DIRIGENT