

# PITTSBURGH FESTIVAL OPERA

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## PITTSBURGH FESTIVAL OPERA ANNOUNCES 2020 YOUNG ARTISTS PROGRAM

Pittsburgh, PA (February 19, 2020) - Pittsburgh Festival Opera is pleased to announce the members of the 2020 Young Artists Program (YAP). Newly restructured for 2020, the program provides performance training for talented singers, stage directors and collaborative pianists at the beginning of their professional careers. Integral to the Festival's educational goals, young artists are selected through national auditions to be invited to participate in the Pittsburgh Festival Opera summer season and paid a stipend and housing for the Festival's duration.

Eighteen exceptionally talented young professionals have been selected for this year's class.

Maureen Brabec, Soprano, Chicago, IL  
Natalie Marie Butchko, Soprano, Lorain, OH  
Autumn Capocci, Mezzo-Soprano, Denton, TX  
Sadie Cheslak, Mezzo-Soprano, Champaign, IL  
Lindsey Chinn, Soprano, Knoxville, TN  
Anissa Clay, Soprano, Pittsburgh, PA  
George Cole, Stage Director, Tyler, TX  
Jessica Crowell, Soprano, Akron, OH  
Brent Doucette, Tenor, Orlando, FL  
Taylor-Alexis DuPont, Mezzo-Soprano, Orlando, FL  
Megan Jones, Soprano, Pittsburgh, PA  
Sky Hanuel Lee, Collaborative Pianist, Los Angeles, CA  
Lauren Lenz, Stage Director, Detroit, MI  
Matthew Maisano, Baritone, Philadelphia, PA  
Dorian McCall, Bass-Baritone, Houston, TX  
Myles Pinder, Tenor, Denton, TX  
Emily Roberts, Soprano, Atlanta, GA  
Schlyer Sheltroun, Soprano, Mattawan, MI

During a five-week summer intensive, these artists will take part in a variety of nurturing experiences including master classes and coachings from world-class opera practitioners, preparation for roles on the mainstage, concert and recital work, all leading to two recitals and the production of a fully-staged production of Mark Adamo's *Lysistrata* that headlines the

mainstage Festival season. Under the direction of **Robert Frankenberry**, the faculty includes a who's who of opera legends and scholars including **Maria Spacagna, Robert Chafin, Nancy Maultsby** and special guests.

Pittsburgh Festival Opera's makes "the city as our stage" for its 43rd season from July 11-26, 2020, bringing opera to the people at six diverse and intimate theatrical spaces throughout the City of Pittsburgh. Subscriptions are now on sale and single tickets go on sale March 2, 2020 at [www.pittsburghfestivalopera.org](http://www.pittsburghfestivalopera.org), or by calling the Festival Box Office at 412-326-9687.

The 2020 Pittsburgh Festival Opera summer season includes 18 performances in 16 days under the new artistic direction of **Marianne Cornetti**. The season features the productions *Pagliacci*, *Virgula Divina* (World Premiere), *Lysistrata* (Pennsylvania Premiere), *Siegfried/Götterdämmerung* in concert, *Rusalka: A Mermaid's Tale* (Children's Opera), *The Drowning Boy's Guide to Water*, *Daphne...These Days*, *Marianne Cornetti and Jane Eaglen in conversation with Jim Cunningham*, plus recitals and lectures.

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Pittsburgh Festival Opera is dedicated to presenting innovative opera, including American works, reinterpretations of older works, and new works, for the widest possible audience, focusing on diversity in programming and casting, crossing boundaries and bringing together talents from all the arts, encouraging new talent, and broadening audiences through outreach and education to create a body of work that is original, entertaining, contemporary and relevant.

Pittsburgh Festival Opera

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