



Washington National Opera The Kennedy Center

Domingo-Cafritz Young Artists 2018-2019 Season



Mezzo-soprano **Hannah Meredith Hagerty** is a native of Washington D.C. and joined Washington National Opera's Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program for the 2018-2019 season singing Madeleine Audebert in *Silent Night*, Mary/Carmen in *The Lion, the Unicorn, and Me* and Reba/Passenger/Holiness Congregation Member in *Taking Up Serpents*. She also sang as a soloist in WNO's "A Concert of Comic Masterpieces." Hagerty was a winner of the Capitol District in The Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions in November. This summer she returned to The Santa Fe Opera to sing the role of Kate Pinkerton in *Madame Butterfly*. At Rice University, she sang the role of Hermia in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Sesto in Handel's *Giulio Cesare*. While she was a student at Oberlin Conservatory she performed the roles of Nancy in *Albert Herring*, and Gertrud in *Hänsel und Gretel*. She also had the pleasure to sing for Marilyn Horne in a masterclass as a part of The Artist Recital Series at Oberlin Conservatory. Additionally, her repertoire includes roles such as Suzy in Puccini's *La rondine* and Sesto in *Giulio Cesare*. Hagerty has spent her summers as a Gerdine Young Artist with Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, a Young Artist with The Glimmerglass Festival, and as an Apprentice Singer with The Santa Fe Opera. She completed her undergraduate degree at Oberlin Conservatory where she studied with Daune Mahy. She received her Master of Music from Rice University where she studied with Julie Simson.



Native of Houston, Texas, Lebanese-Mexican soprano **Marlen Nahhas** joined the Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program for the 2018-2019 season, performing as Violetta in *La traviata*, The Flamingo/Brother 2/Horse/Silk Merchant 1 in *The Lion, the Unicorn, and Me*, and Queer Kid/Passenger/Holiness Congregation Member in *Taking Up Serpents*. She sang extracts of *La bohème* with Maestro Gianandrea Noseda and the National Symphony Orchestra in February 2019, performed for the Czech Prime Minister in March 2019, and appeared in WNO's "A Concert of Comic Masterpieces" in May 2019. Rounding out the 2017-2018 season, Nahhas performed Berta in *Il barbiere di Siviglia* with the Lyric Opera of Kansas City as a member of the Resident Artist

Program. This summer Nahhas sang with the San Francisco Opera's prestigious Merola Opera Program in the Schwabacher Concert Series in which she sang Georgietta in *Il tabarro*, as well as a scene from *Don Giovanni* as Donna Elvira. Previous credits include covering the title role in *Tosca* and Fiordiligi in *Così fan tutte* with Central City Opera, the title role in *Madama Butterfly* with the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University, and Antonia in *Les contes d'Hoffmann*. She has also performed with Utah Festival Opera, where she won first place in the Michael Ballam International Opera Competition. Nahhas is also a three-time District Winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and was a semi-finalist for the 2018 competition, singing on the stage of the Metropolitan Opera. Nahhas received her M.M. in Vocal Performance from Indiana University.



A native of Los Angeles, pianist/coach **Michael Sherman** is a recent graduate of WNO's Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program. During the 2018-2019 season, he was an Assistant Conductor for WNO's production of *La Traviata*. During the 2016-2017 season, he returned as Assistant Conductor for *The Marriage of Figaro* at both WNO and Opera Memphis, and also coached the opera at San Francisco Opera's Merola program. In the 2015-2016 season, he served as an Assistant Conductor for WNO's production of *Lost in the Stars*, and as a Young Artist at The Glimmerglass Festival, where he prepared *The Magic Flute*, *Candide*, and the world premiere youth opera *Odyssey*. He returned to The Glimmerglass Festival in 2016 and assisted with *La bohème* and *The Crucible*. In the summer of 2014 he worked on *Les mamelles de Tirésias* as a Coaching Fellow at Wolf Trap Opera. He has been on the music staff at the Curtis Institute of Music and Westminster Choir College and has worked as a coach and répétiteur for the University of Michigan Opera Theatre and Lowell House Opera. In 2012 he served as a pianist for the Metropolitan Opera Urban Voices Initiative. He holds a master's degree in Collaborative Piano from the University of Michigan and a bachelor's degree in Piano Performance from Boston University.



Originally from Princeton Junction, New Jersey, bass **Samuel Weiser** joined the Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program for the 2018-19 season to perform Marquis d'Obigny in Verdi's *La traviata*, Innkeeper/Ox/Shepherd in Jeanine Tesori's *The Lion, the Unicorn, and Me*, Captain in Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin*, and Jailer in Puccini's *Tosca*. He was also a soloist for WNO's "A Concert of Comic Masterpieces." As a participant in the American Opera Initiative 20-minute program, Weiser performed the title role in *Pepito*. This past summer, he was an Apprentice Artist with Central City Opera, covering Ferrando in Verdi's *Il trovatore*, and Der Sprecher in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*. He will be seen as Daland in Miami Music Festival's *Der*

fliegender Holländer in the summer of 2019. During the 2017-2018 season with Chicago Opera Theater (COT), Weiser appeared as George Gissing and Solomon Weil in the critically acclaimed world premiere of Mark Campbell's and Kevin Puts' *Elizabeth Cree*. During the 2016-2017 season, Weiser was a Gerdine Young Artist with Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, and was a recipient of a Richard Gaddes Career Grant during his second season with OTSL. Weiser was chosen as a first place winner of the Saint Louis District in the 2018 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and the 2016 Monastero's Bel Canto Contest. A graduate of Roosevelt University (M.M. Voice Performance '16), Weiser currently studies with Laura Brooks Rice, Neil Shicoff, and baritone Bruce Hall.