



MEROLA OPERA PROGRAM ANNOUNCES 2024 MEROLA ARTISTS

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (27 February 2024) – One of the most prestigious opera training programs in the world, San Francisco’s acclaimed **Merola Opera Program** has selected 29 artists from a pool of more than 1,300 international applicants to participate in its 2024 program. This year’s cohort of participants hail from Australia, China, France, Georgia, and South Korea, as well as across the United States and Canada.

“We look forward to welcoming these 29 talented artists to San Francisco to experience what Merola has provided for nearly 70 years, a transformative summer of artistic development and growth,” said **San Francisco Opera Center Artistic Director Carrie-Ann Matheson** and **San Francisco Opera Center General Manager Markus Beam** (Merola ’02). “At Merola, the selected young artists not only receive musical, dramatic, and linguistic training from our outstanding faculty, but will also be given access and exposure to real-world experiences that will build a foundation for managing their future careers.”

Public performances by these artists in the 2024 Merola Summer Festival will be announced on March 26. Tickets will be available to Merola members March 26, 2024, at 10am PST and to the public April 9, 2024, at 10am PST, online at merola.org or by calling the San Francisco Opera Box Office at **415-864-3330**.

The 2024 Merola Opera Program artists include:

Sopranos

Moriah Berry, *Atlanta, Georgia*
Hannah Cho, *Seoul, South Korea*
Alexa Frankian, *Oakville, Ontario, Canada*
Viviana Aurelia Goodwin, *Tulsa, Oklahoma*
Lydia Grindatto, *Tijeras, New Mexico*
Elizabeth "Hanje" Hanje, *Vestavia Hills, Alabama*
Mary Hoskins, *Saratoga Springs, New York*
Tessa McQueen, *Loveland, Colorado*

Mezzo-sopranos

Lucy Joy Altus, *New York, New York*
Simona Genga, *Toronto, Ontario, Canada*
Lindsay Martin, *San Diego, California*
Kara Morgan, *Andover, Minnesota*

Tenors

Nathan Bryon, *Geurie, Australia*
Michael John Butler, *Bowie, Maryland*
Giorgi Guliashvili, *Rustavi, Georgia*
Angelo Silva, *Houston, Texas*
Samuel White, *Columbia, South Carolina*

(list continues on the following page)

Baritones

Sihao Hu, *Shenzhen, Guangdong, China*
Hyungjin Son, *Seoul, South Korea*
Olivier Zerouali, *Middletown, Delaware*

Bass-baritones

Donghoon Kang, *Seoul, South Korea*
Benjamin R. Sokol, *Westbury, New York*
Justice Yates, *Leesburg, Florida*

Pianists/Coaches

Sujin Choi, *Seoul, South Korea*
Julian Garvue, *Seattle, Washington*
Hyemin Jeong, *Seoul, South Korea*
Yedam Kim, *Paris, France*
Ji Youn Lee, *Seoul, South Korea*

Stage Director

Anna Theodosakis, *Vancouver, B.C., Canada*

The **Merola Opera Program** is widely regarded as the foremost opera training program for aspiring singers, pianists, and stage directors. Merola nurtures the opera stars of tomorrow through master classes and private coaching with opera's most accomplished singers, conductors, and directors. Participants also receive training in operatic repertoire, languages, diction, acting, stage movement, and professional development. Offered free of charge to all participants, the Merola Opera Program is unique in the industry in many ways. It is the only young artist program to provide financial support to developing artists for five years following their participation, offering aid for essential career development expenses including coaching, language classes, and audition travel. Since Carrie-Ann Matheson and Markus Beam formed the new Merola artistic team in 2021, the program has redoubled its efforts to provide exciting new curricula and added focus on preparing the burgeoning artists for extramusical aspects of a performance career. Learn more at merola.org.

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PHOTOS: Downloadable high-res photos are available here:
<https://cbpr.co/press/Merola2024>