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3009 INDUSTRIAL TERRACE, SUITE 100, AUSTIN, TEXAS 78758
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Austin Opera announces the powerful lineup of voices for this winter's *An All-Star Concert*

**Isabel Leonard
Ryan Speedo Green
Sara Gartland
Chad Shelton**

**The concert will now be a filmed performance event,
available in mid-February to current subscribers
and holders of the new Premium Winter Pass**

Highlights of *An All-Star Concert* to air on PBS later this spring

(Austin, TX—December 9, 2020)—Austin Opera General Director & CEO Annie Burrige today announces the four star soloists who will headline *An All-Star Concert*, featuring the **Austin Opera Orchestra** and **Timothy Myers** in his first performance as the company's Sarah and Ernest Butler Principal Conductor & Artistic Advisor. Making their Austin Opera debuts are mezzo-soprano **Isabel Leonard** and bass-baritone **Ryan Speedo Green**, both of whom are mainstays at The Metropolitan Opera and regularly appear at the world's leading opera houses. And returning to the Long Center stage are soprano **Sara Gartland**, who starred as Adina in 2014's *The Elixir of Love*, and tenor **Chad Shelton**, who last appeared as Don José in 2017's *Carmen*. More about these world-class artists is below.

Upon the recommendation of medical experts—and out of concern for the health and safety of audience members as well as the artists on stage—the format of the concert has changed to a filmed performance developed especially for at-home viewing. The acclaimed Austin media firm Subvrsive, which produced the company's recent *Lauren + Mark* concert film, will once again oversee the production.

Highlights from the concert will be edited into a special that will air on Austin PBS in the spring. Supporters Nancy and Neil Schaffel have made a generous underwriting gift to support the filming of the concert for Austin PBS. "We are so impressed with the creativity and ingenuity of Austin Opera in navigating the issues this pandemic has imposed upon the arts. The opportunity for

Austin Opera to be showcased on Austin PBS, allowing the whole community and beyond to enjoy this star-studded concert, is thrilling and we are happy to support it,” say the Schaffels. More information on the Austin PBS broadcast will be announced soon.

Current ticket holders and subscribers to Austin Opera’s 2021 season will receive a link to stream the full *All-Star Concert* film in mid-February 2021. Members of the general public can gain access to *An All-Star-Concert* and select filmed performances from the company’s archives with the new Austin Opera Premium Winter Pass. For a donation of \$100, passholders will receive the complete version of *An All-Star Concert*; priority access to a waiting list to attend a rehearsal or taping of *An All-Star Concert*, pending health and safety approvals from local officials; special *All-Star Concert* gift baskets, which will be available for contactless pickup at the company offices the week of the concert’s streaming premiere; and an invitation to an exclusive watch party with the *All-Star Concert* artists before the premiere of the Austin PBS special in the spring.

Passholders will also receive exclusive streaming access to two critically acclaimed productions from 2019, filmed lived on the Long Center stage: Puccini’s *La bohème*, starring Kang Wang and Elizabeth Caballero, conducted by Peter Bay and directed by Alison Moritz; and Verdi’s *Rigoletto*, starring Michael Chioldi and Madison Leonard, conducted by Robert Wood and directed by Tara Faircloth. These bonus productions will be available for streaming until March 15, 2021.

More information on the Austin Opera Premium Winter Pass can be found at Austin Opera’s website.

Artist Biographies



Mezzo-soprano **Isabel Leonard** makes her Austin Opera debut with *An All-Star Concert*. A New York City native, she regularly stars in leading roles at the Metropolitan Opera and as a host of its *Live in HD* broadcasts. She also regularly appears at the Vienna State Opera, Paris Opera, Salzburg Festival, Bavarian State Opera, Glyndebourne Festival, Aix-en-Provence Festival, Lyric Opera of Chicago, and San Francisco Opera. She serves on the board of trustees of Carnegie Hall, where she recently hosted *Live with Carnegie Hall: Remembering Ruth Bader Ginsburg*, which can be streamed online. She is the winner of the 2013 Richard Tucket Award, a winner of two Grammy Awards for Best Opera Recording, and has appeared on *Sesame Street* singing “Una voce poca fa” from Rossini’s *The Barber of Seville*. Her recordings include two all-Spanish works: *Preludios* with pianist Brian Zeger and *Alma Española* with guitarist Sharon Isbin.



A native of Suffolk, Virginia, bass-baritone **Ryan Speedo Green** makes his Austin Opera debut with *An All-Star Concert*. This season he sang the role of Jake in the Gershwins' *Porgy and Bess* for his debut with Theatre an der Wien in Vienna, and he makes his house debut with Opera Columbus in the stage version of his best-selling biography *Sing for Your Life*, written by *New York Times* journalist Daniel Bergner, which tells the story of his personal and artistic journey from a trailer park to juvenile detention to the stage of the Metropolitan Opera. He is a graduate of the Met's Lindemann Young Artist Development Program and a winner of the 2011 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions; he appears regularly at the Met and at the Vienna State Opera, where he was a member of the ensemble for several seasons. He has also starred as Osmin in Mozart's *The Abduction from the Seraglio* at Houston Grand Opera and as Escamillo in *Carmen* at Opera San Antonio.



Soprano **Sara Gartland** starred as Adina in Austin Opera's 2014 production of Donizetti's *The Elixir of Love*. A native of St. Paul, Minnesota, she has recently reared raves for her performances in the title role of Dvořák's *Rusalka* and as Marie in Berg's *Wozzeck* at Des Moines Metro Opera. Recent roles in Texas include Micäela in Bizet's *Carmen* and Musetta in Puccini's *La bohème*, both at The Dallas Opera. Later this season, she returns to Dallas as Countess Almaviva in Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* and to Des Moines for her role debut as Lisa in Tchaikovsky's *The Queen of Spades*. She is a graduate of the Adler Fellows Program and the Merola Opera Program at San Francisco Opera.



A native of Orange, Texas, tenor **Chad Shelton** has appeared at Austin Opera as the Duke of Mantua in Verdi's *Rigoletto* in 2009, as Alfredo in Verdi's *La Traviata* in 2010, and as Don José in Bizet's *Carmen* in 2017. A graduate of the Houston Grand Opera Studio young artist program, he has appeared there in more than a dozen leading roles, including Cavaradossi in Puccini's *Tosca*, Pinkerton in Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*, and Captain Vere in Britten's *Billy Budd*. He has created roles in the world premieres of operas by Mark Adamo, Daniel Catán, Philip Glass, Tarik O'Regan, and Carlisle Floyd. Other recent roles include Rodrigo in Verdi's *Otello* at the Metropolitan Opera and Pollione in Bellini's *Norma* at Calgary Opera, Utah Opera, North Carolina Opera, and in Houston, His international engagements include roles at Opera Australia, Opéra national de Lorraine, and Grand Théâtre de Genève.



Timothy Myers is Austin Opera's Sarah and Ernest Butler Principal Conductor & Artistic Advisor; he made his company debut conducting *Silent Night* in 2019. Earlier this season at Austin Opera, he conducted David T. Little and Royce Vavrek's *Vinkensport, or the Finch Opera*, presented in partnership with Houston Grand Opera at the Blue Starlite Drive-In and on Marquee TV as part of the Sarah & Ernest Butler Performance Series. His other recent conducting successes include Massenet's *Don Quichotte* for his third appearance at the Wexford Festival in Ireland, his debut with Santa Fe Opera leading Bizet's *The Pearl Fishers*, and the world premiere of Joel Puckett and Eric Simonson's *The Fix* for his debut at Minnesota Opera. He also conducted the recent hit production of Bernstein's *West Side Story* at Houston Grand Opera. An experienced collaborator in the creation of new works, he has conducted world premieres at Houston Grand Opera, Washington National Opera,

Fort Worth Opera, and Opera Africa. For seven seasons, he served as Artistic and Music Director of North Carolina Opera. A protégé of renowned conductor Lorin Maazel, he was the first associate conductor of the Castleton Festival, where he led multiple symphonic and opera performances over his tenure.

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Press Contact

Melysa Rogen

Senior Director of Marketing and Communications

Austin Opera

512-610-7680

mrogen@austinopera.org