

Leah Edwards, Soprano



Having been hailed as an “eloquent, versatile soprano” with an “entrancingly beautiful voice,” Leah has forged a unique career path, captivating audiences as an actress, singer, dancer and pianist. Ms. Edwards made her Broadway debut in 2011 as a member of the company of Terrence McNally’s Master Class and, Off-Broadway, regularly joins the company of the Encores! series at New York City Center. Ms. Edwards can be seen in the Emmy-nominated production of Carousel with the New York Philharmonic, has appeared as a musical guest on A Prairie Home Companion, and recorded the most recent cast album of George and Ira Gershwin’s Lady, Be Good. Ms. Edwards has been presented in concert at Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Avery Fisher Hall, with the New York City Ballet Orchestra and nationally with the Charleston Symphony Orchestra, Rochester Philharmonic, Las Cruces Symphony and the Utah Festival Opera Orchestra. Ms. Edwards is also sought after for her experience with new music, which has resulted in world premiere recordings for the Opera America Songbook. An award-winning pianist, Ms. Edwards appeared as a guest artist at The Gilmore International Keyboard Festival, enjoyed the honor of performing as the musical ambassador to the Chinese Consulate, and her presentation of Prokofiev’s Third Piano Concerto was a featured segment on National Public Radio. In 2019, Ms. Edwards founded Holy City Arts & Lyric Opera in Charleston, SC where she serves as General Director.

Tenor Dimitri Pittas



Tenor Dimitri Pittas has graced leading opera stages across North America and Europe, including the Bavarian State Opera, Vienna State Opera, Royal Opera House Covent Garden, Bolshoi, and Canadian Opera Company. A graduate of The Metropolitan Opera’s Lindemann Young Artist Development Program, Dimitri has portrayed iconic roles such as Rodolfo, Macduff, Nemorino, and Tamino on the Met stage. His repertoire spans the title roles of Don Carlo, Werther, and Faust, Don José in Carmen, Pinkerton in Madama Butterfly, Riccardo in Un Ballo in Maschera, Cavaradossi in Tosca, and more.

Recent engagements include debuts as Cavaradossi with Opera Utah, Lyric Opera of Kansas City, and Irish National Opera, and as Don José at Welsh National Opera. Dimitri also performed Pinkerton in Anthony Minghella's production of Madama Butterfly at English National Opera. In concert, he has sung Verdi's Requiem with the Atlanta Symphony, the Portland Symphony, and at the BBC Proms, and Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 with the Oslo Philharmonic.

In 2022, Mr. Pittas joined the vocal arts faculty at Manhattan School of Music, where he brings a wealth of experience and inspires students with his passion for the performing arts. He is also the coordinator of master classes and competitions at MSM, utilizing his 20-year career to bring in artists to guide the next generation of talented vocal artists.

Dimitri is the Founding Artistic Director of HALO (Holy City Arts & Lyric Opera) in Charleston, South Carolina, alongside his wife, Leah Edwards. HALO's mission is to unite communities through innovative and inclusive artistic experiences, with a vision of making the arts essential in society.

Shannon Kessler Dooley - soprano



Known for her lyricism and expressiveness, Shannon Kessler Dooley's most recent operatic credits include; Pamina in Die Zauberflöte and Rosalinda in Die Fledermaus with Opera Wilmington, Cio Cio San (Madama Butterfly) with Chattanooga Symphony and Opera, Opera Theater of Connecticut, First Coast Opera, and Erie Chamber Orchestra, Biancofiore cover (Francsca da Rimini), Alice cover (Le Comte Ory) with The Metropolitan Opera, Pamina (Die Zauberflöte) with Erie Chamber Orchestra, Mimi (La Bohème) with Opera Theater of Connecticut, Narcissa (Philemon and Baucis) with the Spoleto Festival USA, Sister Constance (Dialogues of the Carmelites), Almirena (Rinaldo), Nannetta (Falstaff), Frasquita (Carmen), Lucia (Rape of Lucretia), Susanna (Le nozze di Figaro, youth performance) with Pittsburgh Opera, Marzeline (Fidelio), Zerlina (Don Giovanni), and Clorinda (La Cenerentola) with Utah Opera, Micaëla, (Carmen) with Opera Theater of Pittsburgh. Concert credits include soprano solos in the Messiah, Peer Gynt, Brahms' Ein Deutsches Requiem, Mozart Requiem, Haydn's Lord Nelson Mass , and Ravel's Sheherazade, Schubert Mass in G, with Utah Symphony, Erie Philharmonic, Asheville Symphony, Erie Chamber Orchestra, Long Bay Symphony and Wilmington Choral Society. Martha Bartz - mezzo soprano

John Dooley - baritone



Baritone John Dooley has been praised by The Wall Street Journal for his “warm, supple baritone.” His versatile comedic and “confident, even swaggering, stage presence.” He is an in-demand crossover performer in opera, musical theatre and concert repertoire.

Mr. Dooley can be heard as Badger the Miner on the 2019 Grammy® Award winning Best Opera Recording of Tobias Picker's Fantastic Mr. Fox with Boston Modern Orchestra Project recorded by BMOP sound. He originated the role of Lysander in Michael Ching's A Midsummer Night's Dream: opera a cappella with Opera Memphis/Playhouse on the Square (recorded on Albany Records). He joined the New York Philharmonic in the Emmy® Nominated, Live from Lincoln Center production of Carousel.