



THE DALLAS OPERA

## MEDIA ALERT

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# THE DALLAS OPERA HAS ANNOUNCED EIGHT NOMINEES FOR THIS YEAR'S MARIA CALLAS DEBUT ARTIST OF THE YEAR AWARD

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## WINNER TO BE DETERMINED BY SUBSCRIBER VOTE

DALLAS, MARCH 29, 2006 — **The Dallas Opera** proudly announces the selection of eight nominees who will appear on the ballot for consideration in this year's "**Maria Callas Debut Artist of the Year Award.**" The winner of this prestigious award, chosen by season subscribers to The Dallas Opera, will be announced during the annual **Board and Trustee Meeting and Appreciation Dinner** scheduled to take place **Thursday, May 25, 2006, in the Crescent Ballroom of Hotel Crescent Court.**

This year will mark the fifteenth consecutive season in which the singer making the season's most memorable Dallas Opera debut will be honored with this award.

It also honors the memory of the legendary soprano whose concert in the Music Hall at Fair Park in November of 1957 served to launch The Dallas Opera. The award-winning designers of **Tiffany & Co.** have created a special crystal medallion presented to each recipient of this award, featuring a beautifully etched likeness of "La Divina" (i.e. Maria Callas, herself).

The nominees were selected by a distinguished panel of area critics (as well as the company's General Director and Director of Artistic Administration) from a list of 24 eligible singers who made their Dallas Opera debuts last season in principal roles.

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“The 2005-2006 Season was an artistic triumph for The Dallas Opera,” says **General Director Karen Stone**. “The breadth and depth of these performances leaves our season subscribers with a truly difficult, but satisfying, choice before them. Each of these remarkable nominees created characters as permanently etched in our memories as the face of Maria Callas upon this beautiful award.”

**This season’s nominees are:** **Christophe Dumaux**, nominated for the role of “Unulfo” in *Rodelinda*; **Mary Dunleavy**, who portrayed all four of Hoffmann’s loves in *The Tales of Hoffmann*; **Wolfgang Holzmair**, nominated for “Papageno” in *The Magic Flute*; **Brandon Jovanovich**, nominated for the role of “Turiddu” in *Cavalleria rusticana*; **Maria Kanyova**, who portrayed “Nedda” in *Pagliacci*; **Jeffrey Kneebone** for the dual roles of “Alfio/Tonio” in *Cav/Pag*; **Antonello Palombi**, nominated for the role of “Canio” in *Pagliacci*; and **Lyubov Petrova**, who portrayed “Zerbinetta” in *Ariadne auf Naxos*.

Ballots will be mailed to Dallas Opera Season Subscribers this week. These dedicated opera lovers will decide which of the outstanding artists and performances nominated made the most significant contribution to the success of the 2005-2006 Season.

All ballots will be tabulated by the independent accounting firm of Travis Wolff.

Previous winners of the Maria Callas Award include **Jerry Hadley** (1993), **Cecilia Bartoli** (1994), **Hei-Kyung Hong** (1996), **Denyce Graves** (1997), **Mary Mills** (1999), **Patricia Racette** (2000), **Irina Tsirakidis** (2003), **Indira Mahajan** (2004), and **Latonia Moore** (2005).

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**The Dallas Opera: Celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season, “A Season of Masters,”  
Coming in November, 2006**

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