

OPERA AMERICA'S
CONVERSATIONS

AILYN PÉREZ

The National Opera Center

May 3, 2018 | 7:00 p.m.

THE NATIONAL **OPERA** CENTER
AMERICA



DARIO ACOSTA

Hailed by *The New York Times* as “a beautiful woman who commands the stage” and “a major soprano,” **Ailyn Pérez** is in high demand from the world’s leading opera houses and concert halls. She has won both the 2012 Richard Tucker Award, thereby becoming the only Hispanic recipient in the award’s 35-year history, and the 15th annual Plácido Domingo Award. As *Opera News* observes, “The phrase ‘an embarrassment of riches’ might have been invented to describe the combination of talents that belong to Ailyn Pérez ... who truly seems to have it all.”

Career highlights include Violetta in *La traviata* for Opernhaus Zürich, Staatsoper Hamburg, Bayerische Staatsoper, San Francisco Opera, Teatro alla Scala and the Royal Opera House Covent Garden. Other highlights include the title role of Massenet’s *Manon* and Liù in *Turandot* at Covent Garden; Musetta in *La bohème* at the Metropolitan Opera; Adina in *L’elisir d’amore* at the Bayerische Staatsoper, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Wiener Staatsoper and Washington National Opera; the Countess in *Le nozze di Figaro* at Houston Grand Opera; Tatyana Bakst in the world premiere of Jake Heggie’s *Great Scott* at The Dallas Opera; house debuts at the Bolshoi Theatre as Mimì in *La bohème* and at Glyndebourne as Alice Ford in

Falstaff; the Countess in *Le nozze di Figaro* and Marguerite in *Faust* at Staatsoper Hamburg; Marguerite in *Faust* at The Santa Fe Opera; and Amelia Grimaldi in *Simon Boccanegra* at Teatro alla Scala, the Staatsoper Berlin and Opernhaus Zürich.

In concert, Pérez has performed Verdi’s *Requiem* with the Orchestre Métropolitain in Montreal, conducted by Yannick Nézet-Séguin; Mozart’s *Requiem* with Antonio Pappano and the Accademia Santa Cecilia Orchestra in Rome; and Mahler’s Symphony No. 2 with Essen Philharmoniker. Her debut album, *Poème d’un jour* (a program of French and Italian songs on the Opus Arte label) was released to rave reviews in 2013.

In the 2017–2018 season, Pérez made multiple appearances at the Metropolitan Opera as the Countess in *Le nozze di Figaro*, the title role in *Thaïs* (role debut) and Juliette in *Roméo et Juliette*. She made her operatic debut at the Lyric Opera of Chicago as Marguerite in *Faust*, and will close the season with performances as Violetta in *La traviata* at the Deutsche Staatsoper Berlin and Opernhaus Zürich. Notable engagements for next season include her role debut as Elvira in *Ernani* for Teatro alla Scala, Mimì in *La bohème* and Alice Ford in *Falstaff* at the Metropolitan Opera, Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni* at Houston Grand Opera, and Micaëla in *Carmen* at the Royal Opera House.

Pérez is a graduate of Philadelphia’s Academy of Vocal Arts and Indiana University. Her many accolades include the George London Foundation’s Leonie Rysanek Award, Shoshana Foundation Career Grant in 2007, second place in the 2006 Plácido Domingo Operalia Competition, and honors from the Loren L. Zachary Foundation, Opera Index and the Licia Albanese-Puccini Foundation.

Ailyn Pérez appears courtesy of the Metropolitan Opera.



DARIO ACOSTA

Marc A. Scorca joined OPERA America in 1990 as president and CEO. Under his leadership, the OPERA America membership has grown from 120 opera companies to nearly 2,500 organizations and individuals. The organization has also administered two landmark funding initiatives in support of North American operas and opera audiences, and in 2000 it launched an endowment effort to create a permanent fund dedicated to supporting new works and related audience development activities. In 2005, Scorca spearheaded OPERA America's relocation from Washington, D.C. to New York City and the subsequent construction of the National Opera Center, which opened in 2012. The Opera Center's recital hall was dedicated as Marc A. Scorca Hall in 2015 in honor of Scorca's 25th anniversary with the organization.

Scorca has led strategic planning retreats for opera companies and other cultural institutions internationally, and he has participated on panels for federal, state and local funding agencies, as well as for numerous private organizations. He also played an instrumental role in the founding of Opera.ca and Opera Europa, OPERA America's sister organizations. A strong advocate of collaboration, Scorca has led several cross-disciplinary projects, including the Performing Arts Research Coalition and the

National Performing Arts Convention (2004 and 2008). He has served as a member of the U.S. delegation to UNESCO and currently serves as an officer of the Performing Arts Alliance, as a member of the Board of Overseers of the Curtis Institute of Music and on the Music Advisory Board of Hunter College (CUNY). Due in large part to Scorca's contributions to the organization, OPERA America was inducted into the American Classical Music Hall of Fame in 2013. Scorca attended Amherst College, where he graduated with high honors in both history and music.

JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT EVENT AT THE NATIONAL OPERA CENTER:

EMERGING ARTIST RECITALS | ADES VOCAL COMPETITION WINNERS

Monday, May 7, 2018, 7:00 p.m.

Join us for this recital featuring the winners of the Alan M. and Joan Taub Ades Vocal Competition — soprano Shaina Martinez and baritone Seokjong Baek — along with pianist Craig Rutenberg.

Stay tuned this summer for the announcement of our 2018–2019 season of *Onstage at the Opera Center*.

Register for future events at operaamerica.org/Onstage.

Speak to an OPERA America staff member if you have questions about any of our events or if you are interested in becoming a member.

Be a part of the conversation.

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Onstage at the Opera Center is supported in part by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and by grants from the Amphion Foundation and the Aaron Copland Fund for Music.