



**Press Release**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 11, 2017

## **MDLO Young Artist Institute Announces Inaugural Class of 8 Singers, Selected From 184 Applicants**

**Revitalized program—totally free for participants—draws  
record number of candidates for its first session**

**Kelly Glyptis, soprano  
Melissa Mino, soprano  
Evelyn Tsen, soprano  
Cong Cong Wang, soprano  
Chelsea Laggan, mezzo-soprano  
Yi Li, tenor  
Chaz'men Williams-Ali, tenor  
Javier Arrey, baritone**

**Gala Concert scheduled for Friday, December 15, 2017  
at The Mansion at Strathmore in North Bethesda**

**Recruitment now underway for next session of the Institute;  
Deadline is January 5, 2018—free and open to all**

(HYATTSVILLE, MARYLAND)—Maryland Lyric Opera (MDLO) today announces the roster for its first session of the MDLO Young Artist Institute, the cornerstone of its new growth and revitalization plan announced in October. The Institute—led by Music Director Louis Salemno, Head of Voice Faculty William Stone, and Coach Rafael Andrade—drew an

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extraordinary 184 applications for its 8 open positions. Instruction began on November 27, 2017 and will culminate with a Gala Concert at The Mansion at Strathmore on December 15, 2017.

“We are so gratified to have the recent refocusing of MDLO’s mission be validated by the overwhelming response to our first call for applications to the Institute,” said Founder and Artistic Director Brad Clark. “There is clearly an important need for the kind of training we are providing to young artists, and it has been exciting to track the progress these gifted singers are making under the guidance of our world-class coaching staff.”

The singers in the first session of the MDLO Young Artist Institute are sopranos **Kelly Glyptis**, **Melissa Mino**, and **Cong Cong Wang**; mezzo-soprano **Chelsea Laggan**; tenors **Yi Li** and **Chaz'men Williams-Ali**; and baritone **Javier Arrey**. These rising young stars have been seen on the international stages of the Vienna State Opera and The Metropolitan Opera, as well as locally at Washington National Opera, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Virginia Opera, the Castleton Festival, Washington Concert Opera, Opera Delaware, Baltimore Concert Opera, Bel Cantati Opera, and Baltimore’s Young Victorian Theatre Company, among others. Full biographies of the singers are available at [MarylandLyricOpera.org](http://MarylandLyricOpera.org).

“It was an exhilarating experience to put together this first class of young artists, many of whom were completely unknown to me when I first heard them at auditions. It is thrilling to hear fresh voices and then have so much dedicated time to work with them on unlocking their full potential,” said MDLO Music Director Louis Salemno. “These singers are all at different stages of their artistic development and careers, and I can already see that our intensive training regimen is helping them each grow to the next level. I am very much looking forward to their performance at the Gala Concert.”

On the final day of each Institute session, the singers perform in a Gala Concert that is free to the local community. The first Gala Concert is scheduled for Friday, December 15, 2017 at 7 p.m. at The Mansion at Strathmore in North Bethesda, Maryland. The program will feature some of the most popular arias in all of opera, with piano accompaniment provided

by MDLO Founder and Artistic Director Brad Clark and Institute Coach Rafael Andrade. Limited seating is available; contact [MDLO@marylandlyricoera.org](mailto:MDLO@marylandlyricoera.org) for more information and seat reservations. In keeping with the organization's mission, singers are paid an honorarium for all public performances.

In its inaugural season, the MDLO Young Artist Institute is offering four sessions of intensive vocal instruction to promising young artists. Future sessions will be held February 5–23, 2018; April 2–20, 2018; and June 4–22, 2018. To eliminate the financial burden on singers at the start of their careers, the MDLO Young Artist Institute does not charge application or tuition fees. The application can be found at [YAP Tracker](#), and the application deadline for the February session is Friday, January 5, 2018. Questions can be directed to [mdlo@marylandlyricopera.org](mailto:mdlo@marylandlyricopera.org).

Maryland Lyric Opera, founded in 2014 and reorganized for expansion in 2017, has produced fully staged performances of *Cavalleria rusticana*, *Pagliacci*, *Roméo et Juliette*, and *Amahl and the Night Visitors*; created a national vocal competition that drew an impressive field of emerging artists; hosted master classes for young singers with opera luminaries Sherrill Milnes and Aprile Mollo; and presented a variety of gala performances, recitals, and holiday programs. With its new strategic plan, it will expand its career-development programs for young artists, return to producing fully staged productions of operas in intimate settings, and grow its outreach programs to the local community.

### **GALA CONCERT INFORMATION**

MDLO Young Artist Institute Gala Concert  
Friday, December 15, 2017  
7 p.m.  
[The Mansion at Strathmore](#)  
10701 Rockville Pike  
North Bethesda, Maryland 20852-3224

The performance is FREE but limited seating is available; contact [MDLO@marylandlyricoera.org](mailto:MDLO@marylandlyricoera.org) for more information and seat reservations.

### **ABOUT MARYLAND LYRIC OPERA**

A company committed to education, **Maryland Lyric Opera**'s mission is to provide employment to all creative artists who are part of the production of opera, and to bring together seasoned professionals with promising young talent for mutually rewarding collaborations. To that end, the

MDLO Young Artist Institute and High School Mentorship Programs were created to ensure that the next generations of singers are exposed to and have the opportunity to learn from experienced opera professionals who have spent years studying and improving their craft on the world's stages. In its short history, MDLO has also produced major operatic works by the likes of Gounod, Leoncavallo, Mascagni, and Menotti, as well as a national vocal competition, aria concerts, and chamber works. MDLO is further dedicated to bringing performances to those who do not have regular access to the professional arts. Programs such as *Sharing Music*, *Sharing Love* bring unique operatic performances to vulnerable populations who are underserved and in need.

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**#NewMDLO**

**PRESS CONTACT**

Matthew Woorman

General Manager

(240) 899-1466

[mwoorman@marylandlyricopera.org](mailto:mwoorman@marylandlyricopera.org)