



## HGO Studio presents

### Mozart's

# *Così fan tutte*



Brendan Tuohy



Catherine Martin



Boris Dyakov



Kiri Deonarine



Rachel Sorenson



Michael Sumuel

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Classical opera meets contemporary style in this ever-popular operatic gem. Houston Grand Opera Studio present Mozart's *Così fan tutte* at the Emery Weiner School from March 11 and 13, 2011.

In true HGO Studio fashion, New York Metropolitan Opera Director, Greg Keller updates Mozart's masterpiece to the 21st century while retaining all the charm and delight of the original work.

Set in Hawaii, the opera begins with two young officers, Ferrando and Guglielmo, engaged to two sisters, Fiordiligi and Dorabella. A cynical bachelor, Don Alfonso wagers a bet with the boys, that women are just as fickle in love as men. Through various tricks, the boys woo each other's lovers, gradually winning over the initially reluctant women. Aided and abetted by the sisters maid, Despina, the farce comes uncomfortably close to tragedy.

With a sublime score full of famous arias and powerful singing by HGO Studio Artists, Rachel Willis-Sørensen as Fiordiligi, Catherine Martin as Dorabella, Brendan Tuohy as Ferrando and Boris Dyakov as Guglielmo, *Così fan tutte* may make you question your ideas about true love, human nature, trust and forgiveness.

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#### Biographies:

##### **Greg Keller. —Director**

*Sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. William H. Guggolz, Jr.*

Gregory Keller has directed a vast repertoire of operatic and theatrical productions across the United States. His most recent projects include Rossini's *Il Turco in Italia* at Wolf Trap Opera, where he has also directed Monteverdi's *L'incoronazione di Poppea*. Other notable opera credits include Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*, Puccini's *Madame Butterfly*, Ravel's *L'heure espagnole* and Menotti's *The Old Maid and the Thief* at Berkshire Opera; Richard Strauss's *Salome* and Floyd's *Susannah* at Cedar Rapids Opera Theater; Offenbach's *The Tales of Hoffmann* and Verdi's *Louisa Miller* for Sarasota Opera; and Rossini's *La Cenerentola* for the Oklahoma Mozart Festival. He has worked on numerous productions for the Metropolitan Opera, including Berg's *Lulu* and *Wozzeck* and Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Don Giovanni* and *The Magic Flute*. He also directed Davies's *Eight Songs for a Mad King* with Eos Orchestra in New York. Other theatrical productions include Jean-Claude van Itallie's *Ancient Boys* at LaMaMa in New York City. Mr. Keller has been a frequent guest faculty member of the Houston Grand Opera Studio, and has also taught master classes and directed for young artists at the Santa Fe Opera and New England Conservatory of Music. Upcoming projects include revivals of Berg's *Wozzeck* and Verdi's *Rigoletto* at the Metropolitan Opera.

##### **Brendan Tuohy. —Ferrando**

*Michelle Beale and Dick Anderson Fellow*

Tenor Brendan Tuohy sang Goro in student performances of *Madame Butterfly* at HGO last fall, and he will sing the role of Don Curzio in Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* and Brighella in Richard Strauss's *Ariadne auf Naxos*. A former member of the Portland Opera Studio, he appeared there in the title role of Britten's *Albert Herring* and in productions of Bizet's *Carmen*, Britten's *The Turn of the Screw*, Cavalli's *La Calisto*, and Verdi's *Rigoletto*. Mr. Tuohy holds a master's degree in vocal performance from the University of

Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (CCM). He was a semi-finalist in the 2008 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions in New York.

**Catherine Martin—Dorabella**

*Dr. and Mrs. Thomas D. Barrow Fellow*

Mezzo-soprano Catherine Martin sang Suzuki in student performances of Puccini's *Madame Butterfly* last fall. A second-year Studio Artist, she won second place in the 2009 Eleanor McCollum Competition and appeared last season at HGO as Giannetta in Donizetti's *The Elixir of Love* and Governess in Tchaikovsky's *The Queen of Spades*. Ms. Martin won the 2011 National Opera Association Competition, held in her native San Antonio. She was also a 2010 recipient of the Richard F. Gold Career Grant and the Catherine Shouse Grant. She holds a bachelor's degree in music from the University of North Texas, and a master's degree from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (CCM). This summer is her second season as a Filene Young Artist at Wolf Trap Opera, where she will appear as Nicklausse in *The Tales of Hoffman*.

**Kiri Deonarine—Despina**

*Sandy and Lee Godfrey Fellow*

Second-year HGO Studio Artist Kiri Deonarine made her HGO debut in 2009 as Adina in student performances of Donizetti's *The Elixir of Love*, and recently sang the First Niece in Britten's *Peter Grimes* and Sister Catherine in *Dead Man Walking* by Jake Heggie and Terrence McNally. She returns to the HGO stage this spring as Barbarina in Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* and Naiad in Richard Strauss's *Ariadne auf Naxos*. Ms. Deonarine was an award winner in the 2010 George London Vocal Competition, and the winner of the 2010 Dallas Opera Guild Competition. The soprano holds a master's degree in vocal performance from Indiana University, and has twice been a Young American Artist at the Santa Fe Opera.

**Michael Sumuel—Don Alfonso**

*Mr. and Mrs. James W. Crownover Fellow*

Houston Grand Opera Studio Artist Michael Sumuel appeared earlier this season as Sharpless in performances of Puccini's *Madame Butterfly* and as both the Motorcycle Cop and a Prison Guard in Heggie's *Dead Man Walking* and will return to the HGO stage this spring as Antonio in Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*, and as a Lackey in Richard Strauss's *Ariadne auf Naxos*. Last season, his HGO credits included Doctor Dulcamara in performances of *The Elixir of Love*. Mr. Sumuel won the 2010 Richard F. Gold Career Grant from the Shoshana Foundation. An alumnus of the 2009 Merola Opera Program at San Francisco Opera Center, he placed third in the 2009 Eleanor McCollum Competition. This summer will be his second season as a Filene Young Artist at Wolf Trap Opera.

**Rachel Willis-Sørensen—Fiordiligi**

*Mr. and Mrs. Harlan C. Stai, Terrell Tone Owen Memorial Endowed Fund at the Community Foundation of Abilene Fellow*

Soprano Rachel Willis-Sørensen made her HGO debut last season as Mascha in Tchaikovsky's *The Queen of Spades* and appeared earlier this season as Kate Pinkerton in Puccini's *Madame Butterfly*, a role she will also perform at Miller Outdoor Theatre in May. She also appeared this winter as Alisa in Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor*. Ms. Willis-Sørensen won first place in the 2009 Eleanor McCollum Competition for Young Singers and was a winner of the 2010 Metropolitan National Council Auditions. She recently sang the High Priestess in Verdi's *Aida* at Utah Opera and the First Lady in Mozart's *The Magic Flute* at the Santa Fe Opera. The soprano is an alumna of Brigham Young University, where she earned both a bachelor's and a master's degree in music.

**Boris Dyakov—Guglielmo**

*Andrew C. Schirrmeyer III Fellow*

First-year Studio Artist Boris Dyakov made his mainstage debut as Prince Yamadori in Puccini's *Madame Butterfly* last fall, and returned as a Prison Guard in *Dead Man Walking* by Jake Heggie and Terrence McNally. He will sing Harlequin in Richard Strauss's *Ariadne auf Naxos* at HGO this spring. The baritone was born in Moscow and began his musical studies as a violinist. Winner of both the Bella Voce and Ippolitov-Ivanov competition, he was the principal soloist in the Russian Army's Red Army Ensemble from 2006 to 2009, with whom he appeared in concert in China, Poland, Morocco, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Turkey, Germany, Slovakia, Belgium, India and Canada. He placed third in the 2010 Eleanor McCollum Competition.

**HGO Studio:** The Houston Grand Opera Studio is one of the most respected young artists programs in the country. For more than 30 years the studio has served young singers pianist-coaches providing a bridge between full-time training and full-fledged operatic careers. Each year after an exhaustive nationwide search, a hand-selected group of talented individuals is brought to Houston to work alongside the best in the business at Houston Grand Opera. On the mainstage and in recital, these artists hone their craft as singing actors. During residency of up to three years, each performer receives personalized training from an expert team while gaining invaluable performance experience at the highest level. Alumni of the Studio perform at the best opera houses around the world – and internationally renowned artists such as Joyce DiDonato, Scott Hendricks and Ana Maria Martinez still regularly return to their home stage at the Wortham Center.

**Season Details:**

**Dates:** March 11, 7.30pm and March 13, 2pm. Becker Theatre at Emery Weiner School, 9825 Stella Link, Houston, TX 77025

**Tickets:** From \$35. [www.houstrongrandopera.org](http://www.houstrongrandopera.org) / 713 228 – OPERA (6737) **Language:** Sung in Italian with English surtitles