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## Houston Grand Opera's HGOco Announces Auditions for Bauer Family High School Voice Studio

*Applications Due March 24, with Auditions on March 25 and April 1*

Houston, March 10, 2017—Houston Grand Opera's HGOco announces auditions for the **Bauer Family High School Voice Studio (HSVS)** for students entering their junior or senior year of high school beginning in the fall of 2017. Applications are now being accepted on HGO's website at [HSVS auditions](#). The deadline has been extended to **March 24 at 5 p.m.**

Eligible students can audition at any of the following preliminary auditions sites:

March 25, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.	Ridge Point High School, Missouri City
April 1, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.	Klein High School, Klein
April 1, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.	Mayde Creek High School, Houston

Final Round auditions will be held in the Wortham Center on April 9, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The HSVS's mission is to identify and nurture high school students who exhibit extraordinary talent and are interested in pursuing vocal performance at the collegiate level. The program guides aspiring students to develop healthy vocal technique and artistic expression within a rigorous and supportive environment and offers guidance with the collegiate audition process.

HSVS students will have the opportunity to study with one of HGO's Houston-area college-level voice faculty, including:

- **Barbara Clark**, associate professor of voice, Shepherd School of Music, Rice University
- **Hector Vásquez**, affiliate artist in voice, Moores School of Music, University of Houston

- **Nicole Asel**, assistant professor of voice, Sam Houston University

Monthly masterclasses or meetings will be scheduled in advance of each semester and students must fully commit to attending and participating. Students selected for the 2017–18 Bauer Family HSVS will be required to attend the final recital and awards ceremony of the 2016–17 class on May 15.

Students selected for the 2017–18 HSVS will have the extraordinary opportunity to perform in the world premiere of HGO’s mainstage production of *The House without a Christmas Tree*, with music by **Ricky Ian Gordon** and libretto by **Royce Vavrek**. The performances will be conducted by HGO Associate Music Director **Bradley Moore** and directed by world-renowned stage director **James Robinson**.

Students auditioning for HSVS should have some performance experience (solo classical or high school choral ensemble) and be involved in their high school choral programs or equivalent ensembles. Previous solo voice or musical training is not required. However, interested students must have the ability and sufficient time to prepare appropriate music for the audition and to practice on their own outside of rehearsals and lessons.

For more information about applications and audition requirements, please visit [HSVS auditions](#). Contact Kathleen Staten, HGOco education manager at 713-546-0215, or [kstaten@hgo.org](mailto:kstaten@hgo.org) with any further questions.

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#### About Houston Grand Opera

Since its inception in 1955, Houston Grand Opera has grown from a small regional organization into an internationally renowned opera company. HGO enjoys a reputation for commissioning and producing new works, including 62 world premieres and seven American premieres since 1973. In addition to producing and performing world-class opera, HGO contributes to the cultural enrichment of Houston and the nation through a diverse and innovative program of performances, community events, and education projects that reaches the widest possible public. HGO has toured extensively, including trips to Europe and Asia, and has won a Tony, two Grammy awards, and two Emmy awards—the only opera company to have won all three honors.

Through HGOco, Houston Grand Opera creates opportunities for Houstonians of all ages and backgrounds to create, participate in, and observe art. The NEXUS Initiative is HGO’s multi-year ticket underwriting program that allows Houstonians of all ages and backgrounds to enjoy world-class opera without the barrier of price. Since 2007 NEXUS has enabled more than 225,000 Houstonians to experience first-quality opera through discounted single tickets and subscriptions, subsidized student performances, and free productions.

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