

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HGO Announces the Appointment of Miah Im as Studio Music Director

The organization welcomes Im to the prestigious young artist training program

Houston – May 13, 2020—Houston Grand Opera is proud to announce the appointment HGO Studio Music Director Miah Im.

Miah Im joins HGO after serving as the head of music staff for Los Angeles Opera for the past four years. While there, she served as an assistant conductor, pianist, and prompter closely working alongside the organization’s music director, James Conlon. With over 80 operas in her repertoire, Im has served on the music staffs for renowned companies such as Lyric Opera of Chicago, New York City, Wolf Trap Opera, Ravinia Music Festival, Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, The Juilliard School, and the Centre for Opera Studies in Italy. In addition to her new role at HGO, Miah Im will be joining the staff of Rice University, The Shepherd School of Music.

As HGO Studio Music Director, Im will work closely with Director Brian Speck to lead the prestigious training program. In addition to nurturing the development of studio artists, Im will curate the popular Studio Recital Series and serve as a member of the company’s casting committee.

“I am thrilled and incredibly honored to join the HGO family, one of the finest opera companies in America,” say Miah Im. “I will bring my passion and experience in support of this wonderful artform and help to inspire the young artists on their journey to becoming world class singers.”

The Houston Grand Opera Studio is one of the most respected young artist programs in the country. For more than thirty years it has served young singers and 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 here to Houston to work alongside the best in the business at Houston Grand Opera. In main-stage productions and at other less traditional venues, these artists hone their craft as singing actors. During a residency of up to three years, each performer receives customized training from an expert team while gaining invaluable performance experience at the highest level.

“The professional training of singers requires a daunting amount of expertise: musical brilliance, linguistic aplomb, inspiration, a balance of demanding and supportive, an ability to dream out the future of a gifted artist in a way that is unique to each,” says HGO Artistic and Music Director Patrick Summers. “I’m so excited that Miah Im will carry on the amazing legacy of the studio and step into shoes at HGO that have been occupied by some of the greatest coaches in the industry. Miah is a unique combination of everything a young singer will seek in the HGO Studio. Welcome!”

Managing Director Perryn Leech adds, “Miah’s breadth of experience in the opera industry and her commitment to the training and development of emerging artists makes her an invaluable resource for not only our Studio artists, but the company as a whole – we are incredibly fortunate to have her joining our team.”

Alumni of the Studio perform at the best opera houses all around the world—but internationally renowned artists such as Joyce DiDonato, Tamara Wilson, Jamie Barton, Ryan McKinny, and Ana María Martínez still regularly return to their

home stage at the Wortham Theater Center, back to the audiences who watched them bloom in the springtime of their careers.

To learn more about the HGO Studio visit, HGO.org/Studio

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MIAH IM BIO

HGO STUDIO MUSIC DIRECTOR

A native Canadian Miah Im recently joined the Houston Grand Opera Studio as the music director. She is a pianist and graduated from the University of Michigan with multiple degrees including Piano Performance, a minor in Italian, and a Master of Music in Collaborative Piano and Chamber Music. Formerly the head of music staff at Los Angeles Opera, is committed to helping emerging artists from their craft. Im was the inaugural recipient of the Marilyn Horne Foundation Award for Excellence in Vocal Accompanying and appeared as a featured artist on the foundation's annual gala concert. She has performed with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, among others as well as the Saint Louis and New World Symphonies. Her performances have also been featured on WQXR in New York City, NPR and on the CBC radio. Upcoming engagements include a return to the Aspen Music Festival and School this summer as a faculty member for the Aspen Opera Theater and VocalARTS program.

About Houston Grand Opera

Houston Grand Opera (HGO) is one of the largest, most innovative, and most highly acclaimed opera companies in the United States. HGO is the only American finalist for Opera Company of the Year for the 2019 International Opera Awards. In fulfilling its mission to advance the operatic art to serve an ever-evolving audience, HGO has led the field in commissioning new works (65 world premieres to date) and in training and nurturing promising young artists and administrators. The company 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's pioneering community engagement initiative, HGOco, has served as a model for other arts organizations.

The NEXUS Initiative is HGO's multiyear ticket underwriting program that allows Houstonians of all ages and backgrounds to enjoy opera without the barrier of price. Since 2007, NEXUS has enabled more than 250,000 Houstonians to experience superlative opera through discounted single tickets and subscriptions, subsidized student performances, and free productions.

HGO has toured extensively and has won a Tony, two Grammy awards, and three Emmy awards. It is the only opera company to win all three honors.

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