

Press Release of the Salzburg Festival

The Young Singers Project Celebrates a Double Anniversary in 2023:

Founding of YSP 15 Years Ago
Support from the Kühne Foundation for 10 Years



Left to right.: Lukas Crepaz (Executive Director), Teona Todua, Matteo Guerzé, Evamaria Wieser (Director YSP), Alejandro Baliñas Vieites, Hovhannes Karapetyan, Matteo Ivan Rašić, Johanna Rosa Falkinger, Laura Nicorescu (Assistant Director YSP), Liza Lozica, Daria Kolisan, Paweł Horodyski, Anita Monserrat, Aitana Sanz Pérez, Festival President Kristina Hammer, Lilit Davtyan, Anthony León, Grisha Martirosyan © SF/Jan Friese

With the Young Singers Project, in 2008 the Salzburg Festival created a platform to support rising young vocalists. Since this success story began, 196 young singers from 46 countries have participated in the scheme. This year, the 14 participants come from nine nations: Armenia, Austria, Great Britain, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Ukraine and the USA.

From numerous international applications, many auditions help Evamaria Wieser select those singers who will receive this fellowship and benefit from its comprehensive educational offerings. These include not only musical lessons and repertoire expansion, but also stage rehearsals, language coaching, song interpretation and collaboration with Festival artists. Its



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master classes and practical applicability also contribute to making YSP a young artist programme which has become an international benchmark. This year, public master classes will be given by Malcolm Martineau, Christiane Karg and Michele Pertusi.

Every year, the Young Singers Project participants star in the performances of the children's opera; this year this will be a new production of Maurice Ravel's *L'enfant et les sortilèges*. They also appear in several productions of the current Festival season and during the concerts of this year's Herbert von Karajan Young Conductors Award competition. In their final concert on 25 August, they present themselves to the audience. The concert at the main auditorium of the International Mozart Foundation features the Mozarteum Orchestra Salzburg under the baton of Adrian Kelly. For many guests, this performance of the Young Singers is the emotional highlight of their visit to the Salzburg Festival.

Free tickets to the public master classes will be available online from 1 July 2023 onwards; please visit <https://www.salzburgerfestspiele.at/>. These tickets will be personalized.



The participants in the 2023 Young Singers Project will appear this summer in the following productions and roles:

THE GREEK PASSION

Teona Todua (Soprano) - Despinio

Matteo Ivan Rašić (Tenor) - Adonis

Alejandro Baliñas Vieites (Bass-Baritone) - Kostandis

MACBETH

Grisha Martirosyan (Baritone) - Servant/Apparition

Hovhannes Karapetyan (Bass) – Sicario



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DAS KIND UND DIE ZAUBERDINGE (L'ENFANT ET LES SORTILÈGES)

Johanna Rosa Falkinger (Soprano) – The Child
Aitana Sanz Pérez (Soprano) - Fire, Nightingale, Young Shepherdess
Lilit Davtyan (Soprano) - Armchair, Princess, Bat
Anita Monserrat (Mezzo-Soprano) – Squirrel, Cat, Shepherd
Liza Lozica (Mezzo-Soprano) – The Mother, Tea Cup, Dragonfly
Anthony León (Tenor) - Arithmetician, Tea Pot, Frog
Matteo Guerzé (Baritone) - Clock, Tomcat
Paweł Horodyski (Bass-Baritone) - Armchair, Tree

HERBERT VON KARAJAN YOUNG CONDUCTORS AWARD

YCA Award Concert Weekend 1: Anthony León
YCA Award Concert Weekend 2: Daria Kolisan
YCA Award Concert Weekend 3: Lilit Davtyan

Further information on the master classes and the final concert is available here:

<https://www.salzburgerfestspiele.at/en/young-singers-project>

Photos:

<https://www.salzburgerfestspiele.at/en/photos/young-singers-project-2023>





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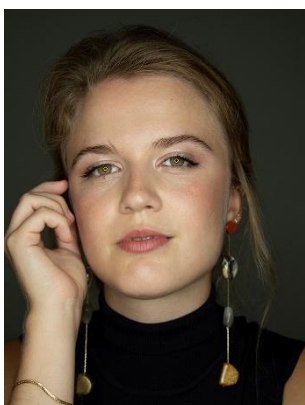
Biographies of the 2023 YSP Participants

Johanna Rosa Falkinger



Johanna Rosa Falkinger began her musical training at the music high school in Linz, and at the Anton Bruckner Private University there with Christa Ratzenböck. In 2023 she completed a masters degree at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna with Tanya Aspelmeier, along with early music studies at the Music and Arts Private University of Vienna with Roberta Invernizzi. Recent engagements include Lady in the Mozart adaptation *Die Zauberflöte – Eine Extravaganza* at the Vienna Burgtheater, Almirena in Giovanni Bononcini's *Griselda* at the Bayreuth Baroque Opera Festival, Drusilla and Virtue in *L'incoronazione di Poppea* for Wuppertal Opera, and Fiorino in Alessandro Stradella's *Moro per amore* at the Danube Festival in the Strudengau. She has also recently sung Incosia in Andrea Bernasconi's *L'Uomo* at the Herne Early Music Days festival and performed with the ensemble Company of Music at the Vienna Konzerthaus. In 2021 she received second prize in the Concours Corneille in Rouen and in 2022 she received the first prize and audience prize at the International Johann Heinrich Schmelzer Competition at Melk Abbey. In 2022 she was awarded the first prize and orchestra prize at the singing competition Aria Borealis in Bodø, Norway.

Aitana Sanz Pérez



The Spanish soprano Aitana Sanz Perez studied at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna with Krassimira Stoyanova and Florian Bösch. In 2022 she was accepted as a member of the Accademia of the Teatro del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, where in April 2023 she made her debut as Frasquita (*Carmen*) under Zubin Mehta. Past engagements include the Voice from Heaven (*Don Carlos*) and Olympia (*Les Contes d'Hoffmann*) under Yves Abel in Las Palmas, and her debut as Contessa di Folleville (*Il viaggio a Reims*) under Daniel Carter at the Festival Giovane of the Rossini Opera Festival in Pesaro. In 2022 she made her US debut as Oscar (*Un ballo in maschera*) at the Maryland Lyric Opera.

Aitana Sanz Perez has been successful in various competitions, including the Manhattan Music Competition (First Category: Carnegie Hall, 2022), the International Otto Edelmann Singing Competition (Best Young Talent, 2022) and the International Giulio Neri Lyric Singing Competition (First prize, 2023).

Daria Kolisan



The soprano Daria Kolisan was born in Mykolaiv (Ukraine) and started taking lessons in singing, piano and bandura (a traditional Ukrainian string instrument) when she was 12. At the age of 15, she became Olga Paliy's student at the Mykolaiv Music Academy. In 2019, she won the second prize in the junior category at the International Antonín Dvořák Vocal Competition in the Czech Republic and in 2021 the first prize in the same category at the International Vassyl Slipak Competition for young Singers in Lviv (Ukraine). She received scholarships for master courses with Michael Kraus, Gabriele Rossmanith, Jennifer Condon, Sofia Soloviy and Zoryana Kushpler. She is currently a student of Oleksandr Diachenko at the Kyiv National Music Academy and studies with Michael Kraus in Vienna. In September 2022, Daria

Kolisan participated as a guest artist in a concert of the Opera Studio of the Vienna State Opera.

Teona Todua



Originally from Georgia, Teona Todua studied piano in her home city of Donetsk (Ukraine) before beginning her singing training at the National Academy of Music in Kyiv, where in 2022 she completed her masters degree. In 2021 she took part in a training programme at the Dolora Zajick Institute for Young Dramatic Voices in the USA and was appointed a member of the Opera Academy of the Teatr Wielki in Warsaw, under the directorship of Olga Pasichnyk. In 2020 she won third prize in the International Grandi Voci Singing Competition in Istanbul and in 2021 she won first prize in the International Vassyl Slipak Young Vocalists Competition in Lviv (Ukraine). Since September 2022 Teona Todua has been a member of the Académie of the Paris Opéra.

Lilit Davtyan



The soprano Lilit Davtyan received singing lessons from an early age and in 2016 began piano studies at the Komitas State Conservatory of Yerevan. Since graduating with a masters degree in 2022 she has worked as a répétiteur at the Komitas Conservatory, where she also sings in the opera studio. In 2021 she became a member of the Young Artists Opera Programme at the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow, where she studied with Dmitry Vdovin and participated in masterclasses with Sergei Leiferkus, Ildar Abdrazakov, Semion Skigin, Alessandro Amoretti, Giulio Zappa and Mzia Bakhtouridze. Lilit Davtyan has won prizes including the first prize at the Concorso Internazionale Musicale Città di Pesaro in 2019, the second prize and the special prize at the José Carreras Grand Prix of the Elena

Obraztsova Foundation in Moscow in 2021, and the special prize for interpretation of Rachmaninoff songs at the International Rachmaninoff Competition in Moscow in 2022.



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Liza Lozica



The mezzo-soprano Liza Lozica began her vocal training at the Maastricht Conservatory, where she completed her bachelor's degree with distinction. This was followed by a master's degree with Sasja Hunnengo at the Amsterdam Conservatory. In 2019 she continued her vocal studies at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London with Ruby Philogene and John Evans. In 2020/21 she took part in the Serena Fenwick Programme of British Youth Opera.

Highlights of her career to date include Annina in an abridged version of *La traviata* at the Nederlandse Reisopera, the opera project *Be Opera XL* for the Dutch National Opera in Amsterdam and Elle in a new version of Poulenc's *La Voix humaine* for the foundation Opera op Zak at the Grachtenfestival in Amsterdam. She also appeared as a chorister in a performance of Berlioz's *Roméo et Juliette* with the London Symphony Orchestra. Liza Lozica has worked with artists such as Eva-Maria Westbroek, Willard White, Edith Wiens, Kamal Khan, Nelly Miricioiu, Ann Murray, Michelle DeYoung, Margreet Honig, Paul Curran and Alexander Oliver.

Anita Monserrat



The British mezzo-soprano Anita Monserrat began her musical education in the Choir of Salisbury Cathedral, and was awarded a Choral Scholarship to Trinity College, Cambridge. She continued her training at the Royal Academy of Music with Alex Ashworth and Catherine Wyn-Rogers. She is currently studying at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna with Michael Schade and Eva Maria Riedl-Buschan. She has also participated in masterclasses with Angelika Kirchschrager and Mary Bevan. In 2022 she was a finalist in the International Handel Singing Competition in London and a semi-finalist in the Mozart Singing Competition. In autumn 2022 she covered the role of Ino in a production of *Semele* at the Opéra de Lille conducted by Emmanuelle Haïm and sang in the extra chorus of the Vienna State

Opera and English National Opera. Concert engagements include Bach's *St John Passion* with the Britten Sinfonia at London's Barbican Centre in April 2023 and, in 2022, a solo appearance in 'Easter at King's', an Easter concert in the Chapel of King's College, Cambridge, broadcast by BBC Two.



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Anthony León



The Cuban-Colombian tenor Anthony León was born in the USA and has performed at the Los Angeles Opera, Santa Fe Opera, and at Carnegie Hall in New York, the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées in Paris, the Victoria Hall in Geneva and the Arsenal in Metz. Since the start of the 2022/23 season he has been a member of the Young Artists Programme (YAP) of the Los Angeles Opera, where he has recently appeared as Normanno (*Lucia di Lammermoor*), Spoletta (*Tosca*), Male Chorus (*The Rape of Lucretia*), Don Curzio (*Le nozze di Figaro*) and Roderigo (*Otello*). He also performed the role of Pelléas in the YAP production *Impressions of Pelléas*, based on Claude Debussy's opera.

In 2022 Anthony León won the first prize and the Zarzuela Prize Don Plácido Domingo in the Operalia Competition, and was also a winner of the Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition (Los Angeles District). He also received a grant from the Sullivan Foundation.

Matteo Ivan Rašić



At the age of six, Matteo Rašić became a member of the Wilten Boys' Choir, where he received his first vocal training. As a boy treble he sang in numerous concerts and performed a variety of solo roles, including in Janáček's *The Cunning Little Vixen* at the Tyrolean State Theatre in Innsbruck. In 2019 he began his singing studies at the Tyrolean State Conservatory, where he appeared as Ecclitico in a student production of Haydn's *Il mondo della luna*. In the same year he transferred to the singing class of Johannes Stecher at the Mozarteum University Salzburg. He has also participated in master classes with Brigitte Fassbaender, Thomas Hampson, Karlheinz Hanser, Robert Holl, Vesselina Kasarova, Linda Watson and Stephan Matthias Lademann. In 2022 he won the Opera for Peace Prize at the

International Stanisław Moniuszko Singing Competition at the Teatr Wielki in Warsaw and the Tyrolean Classical Singer Award.

His oratorio repertory includes Bach's Christmas Oratorio and St Matthew Passion, Handel's Messiah, Mendelssohn's psalm-setting *Kommt, laßt uns anbeten* and Haydn's *The Seasons* and *The Creation*.

Matteo Guerzé



The baritone Matteo Guerzé began his musical training in the children's choir of the Teatro Comunale Pavarotti-Freni in Modena, and went on to study at the Conservatorio di Musica Arrigo Boito in Parma with Lelio Capilupi. He was subsequently accepted onto the training programmes of the Teatro Comunale Pavarotti-Freni and the Accademia of the Teatro del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino. He has won prizes in several singing competitions, including the Concorso Lirico Internazionale Magda Olivero and the Concorso Internazionale Toti dal Monte. In 2022 he won the Premio Fausto Ricci in Viterbo for his interpretation of Malatesta (*Don Pasquale*). The same year he appeared as Don Profondo (*Il viaggio a Reims*) at the Festival Giovane of the Rossini Opera Festival in Pesaro. At the start of the 2022/23 season Matteo Guerzé became a member of the Opera Studio of the Deutsche Oper am Rhein, where he has appeared as Quinault (*Adriana Lecouvreur*), the Duke (*La Fille du régiment*), the Imperial Commissioner (*Madama Butterfly*) and the High Priest (*Hérodiade*).

Grisha Martirosyan



The Armenian baritone Grisha Martirosyan studied at the Komitas State Conservatory of Yerevan and at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Glasgow. He is a prize-winner of several international singing competitions, with awards including first prize at the Gohar Gasparyan Singing Competition in Yerevan in 2019, second prize and the audience prize at the Concorso Lirico Internazionale Magda Olivero in 2022, and first prize, audience prize and the Dame Joan Sutherland Prize at the Veronica Dunne International Singing Competition, also in 2022. He is a member of the Mascarade Emerging Artists Programme in Florence, under whose auspices he appeared in April 2022 in excerpts from *Pagliacci* (Tonio) and *Don Pasquale* (Malatesta) at the Teatro La Fenice in Venice. In student productions he has appeared in scenes from *Eugene Onegin* (title role), *L'elisir d'amore* (Belcore), *Il barbiere di Siviglia* (Figaro), *La traviata* (Giorgio Germont) and *Lucia di Lammermoor* (Enrico). Grisha Martirosyan will participate in the Jette Parker Artists Programme at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, from 2023 to 2025.

Alejandro Baliñas Vieites



Alejandro Baliñas Vieites began his musical training in his home city of Santiago de Compostela, before going on to study at the Conservatori Superior de Música del Liceu in Barcelona, at the Conservatorio Luigi Cherubini in Florence and with Carlos Chausson, Manuel Burgueras and Francesca Roig. He recently appeared in concerts for the Amigos de la Ópera de A Coruña as well as in productions of *Falstaff*, *La Cenerentola* and *Die Zauberflöte* in Sabadell. In the 2020/21 season he sang Angelotti (*Tosca*) and the King (*Aida*) with the Associació d'Amics de l'Òpera de Sabadell and Martino in Rossini's *L'occasione fa il ladro* for the Amics de l'Òpera de Sarrià. In September 2021 he was accepted as a member of the Académie of the Paris Opéra; he performed Seneca in the Académie's production *Il Nerone – L'incoronazione di Poppea* with Le Poème Harmonique under Vincent Dumestre. In the 2022/23 season he has sung the Cappadocian (*Salome*) and Zuniga (*Carmen*) at the Paris Opéra.

Paweł Horodyski



Paweł Horodyski was born in Poland, studied singing and cello at the Fryderyk Chopin State Music School in Olsztyn and continued his vocal training at the Karol Lipiński Academy of Music in Wrocław with Bogdan Makal. In 2019 he became a member of the Academy of the Teatr Wielki in Warsaw, and in 2021 he became a member of the Youth Opera of Opera Wrocław, set up by Mariusz Kwiecień, where in 2022 he sang Guglielmo (*Così fan tutte*), followed by the title role in *Le nozze di Figaro*, and Zuniga (*Carmen*). In 2022 he also made his debut at the Teatr Wielki in Warsaw as Zbigniew in Stanisław Moniuszko's opera *The Haunted Manor* and took part in the Académie du Festival d'Aix-en-Provence and the International Meistersinger Akademie.

Hovhannes Karapetyan



The bass Hovhannes Karapetyan studied at the Komitas State Conservatory of Yerevan and appeared in productions there as the title role of *Don Pasquale* and as Leporello (*Don Giovanni*), and in several concerts. He continued his training at the Royal Academy of Music in London, where in 2022 he performed Argenio in Handel's *Imeneo*, Interrogator 1 in the world premiere of Freya Waley-Cohen's opera *WITCH* and Trulove in *The Rake's Progress*. He also sang in Bach's *Coffee Cantata* and in Mozart's Requiem and Mass in C minor. Other concert engagements have taken him to Italy, Austria and Slovakia, and to the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Georgia and Russia. Hovhannes Karapetyan won the special prize at the Tatevik Sazandaryan Voice Competition, the second prize at the Nodar Andguladze Competition in Tiflis and the first prize at the Lusine Zakaryan Competition.



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