

HGO Studio Underwriting Opportunities 2015-2016

For more information about HGO Studio underwriting opportunities, please contact Jennifer Wijangco at 713-546-0704.

FULL-TIME HGO STAFF (2 positions) - \$50,000 each**Brian Speck, Director of the Studio**

Brian Speck is responsible for the long-term planning and strategic management of the HGO Studio. He helps Studio artists with career management and development, and is responsible for recruiting artists to the program, through appearances on competition judging panels (such as The Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and The Richard Tucker Award) and connections with music schools and conservatories.

Bradley Moore, Music Director of the HGO Studio

Mr. and Mrs. Albert B. Alkek Chair

Bradley Moore recently conducted *Madame Butterfly* at the Castleton Festival at the invitation of Lorin Maazel. He is the founding music director of the Fire Island Opera Festival, and is a graduate of the Metropolitan Opera's prestigious Lindemann Young Artist Development Program. Mr. Moore oversees the selection and pedagogy of the Studio artists and gives them individual coachings, music advice, and discusses repertoire development, as well as programs Studio concerts and recitals. This season he will conduct performances of HGO's *The Magic Flute*, perform recitals with Susan Graham, and tour internationally with Jamie Barton.

RESIDENT COACHES (4 positions) - \$25,000 each

Patrick Harvey - *Mr. and Mrs. James A. Elkins Endowed Chair*

Peter Pasztor

Emily Senturia

Christopher Turbessi

Full time HGO staff members Peter Pasztor and Patrick Harvey coach Studio artists (both singers and pianists) individually on specific pieces of music, concentrating on interpretation and diction. Each artist works with a vocal coach, for approximately one hour every day, on forthcoming roles for HGO as well as new arias and future repertoire. Vocal coaches also work with the pianists on score analysis and how to turn an orchestral score into a piano piece in order to help singers prepare a work of music. Because the coaches work with the artists on a regular basis over two to three years in the Studio, the coaches understand their history and long-term goals and can participate in the long, hard process of slow improvement.

DIRECTOR OF VOCAL INSTRUCTION - \$25,000

Dr. Stephen King - *The Evans Family/Jill and Allyn Risley Chair*

Director of Vocal Instruction Stephen King focuses on the physical technique of singing. He meets with artists individually each week to work on the "nuts and bolts" of singing, such as breathing technique, positioning of sound and methods of sound production.

DIRECTOR OF SHOWCASE - \$15,000

Gregory Keller

Gregory Keller has directed opera and theater productions across the United States. He returns to Houston Grand Opera this season, where he previously staged *Così fan tutte* with the Studio Artists in 2011 and has been a frequent guest faculty member. He has directed original productions of *Il turco in Italia* and *L'incoronazione di Poppea* for Wolf Trap Opera. *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Madama Butterfly*, *L'heure espagnole* and *The Old Maid and the Thief* for Berkshire Opera. *Salome* and *Susannah* at Cedar Rapids Opera Theater. His production of Peter Maxwell Davies's *Eight Songs for a Mad King* for Eos Orchestra in New York was reprised in East Hampton's Guild Hall, and in Cleveland's Masonic Hall. He is beginning his 21st season as a Guest Stage Director at the Metropolitan Opera, where he has directed many productions. Highlights include:

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Wozzeck with Falk Struckman and Alan Held, and *Lulu* with Marlis Petersen and Christine Schäfer, as well as *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Don Giovanni* and *The Magic Flute*. Keller's extensive theater background informs the immediately communicative style. His production of Mark Crispin Miller's *Patriot Act* at New York Theater Workshop enjoyed a sold-out run, was released on DVD and broadcast nationwide on cable TV. Keller has also taught master classes and directed for young artists at the Santa Fe Opera and the New England Conservatory of Music. He is an alumnus of Columbia College in New York, and hopes to retire someday soon on the Big Island of Hawai'i.

LANGUAGE INSTRUCTORS (5 positions) - \$10,000 each

Christa Gaug, German - *Sponsored by John Turner and Jerry Fisher*

Jonathan Ludwig, Russian

Julie Muller, English

Enrica Vagliani Gray, Italian - *Sponsored by Marsha L. Montemayor*

Nicole Uhlig, French - *Sponsored by Jennifer Sickler*

Every Studio artist has two hours of one-to-one language classes a week. Individual artists choose which languages to study (some focus on one language, while others may divide the two hours into two or more languages). The lessons focus on grammar, conversation, and vocabulary. The individualized attention allows the teacher to tailor the lessons to each artist's learning style. Understanding the language helps the artist not only with pronunciation, but with understanding the libretto, and communicating meaning on stage. It is also a vital tool for working successfully abroad. Artists can request multiple languages. We also offer ESL for non-native English speakers.

GUEST COACHES (3 positions) – \$5,000 each

Gerardo Felisatti - *Laura Lee Blanton Studio Award through the Scurlock Foundation*

Pierre Vallet - *Evans Family Endowed Chair*

Edward Berkeley - *James J. Drach Endowed Chair*

Guest Coaches are well-respected experts in their fields and coach regularly at the best opera houses around the world from The Met to Vienna. They offer focused instruction in a particular subject area and are able to bring a fresh perspective and “eureka moments” to the Studio artists. They teach group masterclasses as well as individual one-to-one sessions in their time at HGO (usually between three and five days).

DRAMA COACH - \$5,000

Tara Faircloth – *Sponsored by Anonymous*

Drama Coaches work with Studio artists in one-on-one and group sessions over the course of the season. They offer instruction and guidance in stage movement, dialogue work, role preparation, and characterization – skills that are vital in auditions, recitals, and on stage. They also observe main-stage rehearsals to give specific dramatic feedback and assistance. Drama Coaches are esteemed directors who work regularly in the top opera houses in the U.S. and abroad.

PIANO and CONDUCTING INSTRUCTORS (2 positions) – \$3,000 each

Melissa Marse

Larry Rachleff – *Sponsored by Joan Hacken Bitar, MD*

Piano teachers work specifically on pianistic technique and interpretation with the Studio pianists. Conducting instructors work with pianists on conducting technique, as a way to improve skill in that area and to better work with conductors.



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STUDIO BENEFACTOR - \$1,500

A contribution of \$1,500 designated towards the HGO Studio supports the general operations of the program.

HGO STUDIO TRAVEL FUND

A contribution of any amount to the Travel Fund helps current HGO Studio artists offset the costs of travel to key auditions, competitions and programs. These opportunities can greatly enhance their development and accessibility as professional artists and are critical to their success. The Travel Fund also accepts contributions in the form of airline miles.

HGO STUDIO ALUMNI FUND

A contribution of any amount can help recent graduates of the HGO Studio as they continue their professional development beyond the walls of HGO. The Alumni Fund helps support the continuation of their training by providing funding for activities such as voice lessons, language study, special coaching, role study, competitions, or audition tours.