



SALZBURGER
FESTSPIELE
19. JULI – 31. AUGUST 2024

The Young Singers Project 2024



(SF, 24 April 2024) Founded 16 years ago, the **Young Singers Project** has included and fostered 210 vocalists from 46 countries since its inception.

16 participants have been selected among more than 700 applicants for this summer. They hail from ten nations: Armenia, Australia, Austria, Germany, Great Britain, Iran, Russia, Turkey, the USA and Uzbekistan.

Since 2013, for eleven years, the **Kühne Foundation** has supported the Young Singers Project (YSP). The young talents who qualify for this scholarship receive the opportunity to present themselves in public master classes and perform alongside renowned Festival artists in opera productions, among other benefits. Their joint final concert towards the Festival's end is often a major career step for them.

The Kühne Foundation has been among the main sponsors of the Salzburg Festival since 2019. The contract with the Kühne Foundation has been extended through 2027; the Foundation has generously increased its support.

“With the Young Singers Project, the Kühne Foundation underwrites a project dear to the heart of the Salzburg Festival, offering talented young vocalists a launchpad for an international career,” Festival President **Kristina Hammer** expresses the gratitude of the Festival.

From the international applications, Casting Director and YSP Director **Evamaria Wieser** selects the singers at numerous auditions: “This format of advanced vocal education includes musical coaching, staged rehearsals, language coaching and lied interpretation. The public master classes – led this year by Malcolm Martineau, Violeta Urmana and Stéphane Degout – and the practical relevance of the scholarship make the YSP a unique young artist programme.”

Every year, the Young Singers also feature in the performances of the children’s opera: this year, it is the new production of Carl Orff’s *Die Kluge*.

The YSP’s final concert on 30 August – presented for the first time at the Haus für Mozart – also features the Mozarteum Orchestra Salzburg under the baton of Leo Hussain.

The participants will appear this summer in the following operas and roles:

THE GAMBLER

Elizaveta Kulagina (Soprano) – A Florid Lady
Seray Pinar (Mezzo-Soprano) – A Pale Lady
Cassandra Doyle (Mezzo-Soprano) – A Respectable Old Lady
Samuel Stopford (Tenor) – First Croupier
Michael Dimovski (Tenor) – Second Croupier
Armand Rabot (Baritone) – The Director of the Casino
Navasard Hakobyan (Baritone) – An Unlucky Gambler
Jasurbek Khaydarov (Bass) – A Fat Englishman
Joseph Parrish (Bass-Baritone) – Potapich

THE IDIOT

Daria Strulia (Soprano) – Warwara

HAMLET

Amin Ahangaran (Bass) – Horatio

DIE KLUGE

Marie Maidovski (Soprano) – Die Kluge (The Wise Woman)
Tamara Obermayr (Mezzo-Soprano) – The Woman with the Donkey
Egor Sergeev (Baritone) – The Peasant
Konstantin Igl (Tenor) – First Vagrant
Manuel Winckler (Bass) – Second Vagrant

Further information on master classes and the final concert can be found here:
<https://www.salzburgerfestspiele.at/en/s/young-singers-project-2024>

Biographies of the 2024 YSP Participants

Daria Strulia



The Russian soprano **Daria Strulia** was born in Murmansk in 1999. She initially studied at the Gnessin Russian Academy of Music in Moscow, before going on to further training in Vienna. In 2024 she completed her singing studies at the Music and Arts University of the City of Vienna with Linda Watson. She made her opera stage debut in 2019 as Frau Fluth (*Die lustigen Weiber von Windsor*) in Moscow. In 2022 she appeared as Despina (*Così fan tutte*) with the Vienna Opera Academy, conducted by Toby Purser. In 2023 she sang the roles of the Sandman (*Hänsel und Gretel*) at the Vienna Musikverein and Masetta (*La bohème*) under Niels Muus in a production at the Music and Arts University of the City of Vienna. In the same year she appeared on the concert platform as First Elf in Mendelssohn's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* on tour with the Mozarteum Orchestra, the Salzburg Bach Choir and Klaus Maria Brandauer under the baton of Andrew Manze. This tour took her to the Isarphilharmonie in Munich, the Stadtcasino in Basel, the Alte Oper Frankfurt, the Beethoven-Saal in Stuttgart and the Dresden

Philharmonie.

Elizaveta Kulagina



The soprano **Elizaveta Kulagina** was born in Omsk (Russia) in 1998. She studied at the St Petersburg Conservatory with Tamara Novichenko and participated in masterclasses with Susanne Elmark, Martina Rüping, Galina Pisarenko, Elena Obraztsova, Sergei Leiferkus, Barbara Frittoli, Dmitry Vdovin and Ramón Vargas. In Moscow Elizaveta Kulagina performed roles such as Tatyana (*Eugene Onegin*), the title role of *La traviata* and Liù (*Turandot*). In 2023 she won a special prize at the International Tchaikovsky Competition, and third prize in the Elena Obraztsova International Competition for Young Opera Singers.

Marie Maidowski



The soprano **Marie Maidowski** comes from Berlin. In 2022 she made her debut at the Cottbus State Theatre as Barbarina (*Le nozze di Figaro*) and as Nurse in Xavier Dayer's *Alzheimer*. She has appeared at the Munich Chamber Opera as Susanna (*Le nozze di Figaro*) and as Silvia in a German-language version of Haydn's *L'isola disabitata*. In 2023 she performed the role of Lovis in the world premiere of Leonard Evers's children's opera *Der Baumgeist* at the Philharmonie Luxembourg. At the start of the 2024/25 season she will join the international opera studio of the Hamburg State Opera. In 2023 Marie Maidowski and the pianist YoungSeob Jeon were joint winners of the Staetshuys Fund Prize and the Van Amelsvoort Prize at the International Vocal Competition 's-Hertogenbosch and of the jury and audience prizes at the Grand Song Prize of the HIDALGO Festival in Munich. In May 2024 the duo appears at the LIEDBasel Festival. Marie Maidowski holds scholarships from

Cusanuswerk and the Deutscher Bühnenverein. She studied with Julie Kaufmann in Berlin and with Christiane Iven in Munich.

Seray Pinar



Seray Pinar was born in Turkey and studied at the Hacettepe University in Ankara. In 2021 she appeared in several concerts and as Lola (*Cavalleria rusticana*) at the Ankara State Opera. In 2018 she won first prize in the student category of the National Young Soloists Competition in İzmir, and in 2022 she won the first prize in the professional singer category of the same competition. In 2023 she was a finalist in the Paris Opera Competition and the International Hans Gabor Belvedere Singing Competition. Since September 2022 she has been a member of the Académie of the Paris Opéra, where she has appeared in roles including Lucilla (*La scala di seta*) and the Child (*L'Enfant et les sortilèges*) and in the Académie's concert *Nocturne, video en-chantée*. In 2023 she took part in the Lindemann Young Artist Development Program of the Metropolitan Opera in New York as an exchange student, and performed the role of Marchesa Melibea (*Il viaggio a Reims*) at the Rossini Opera Festival in Pesaro.

Cassandra Doyle



The Australian-German mezzo-soprano **Cassandra Doyle** graduated from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music where she studied singing with Maree Ryan and Rowena Cowley. At the IFAC Handa Australian Singing Competition in 2023 she won a scholarship from the Institut Canadien d'Art Vocal (Montreal), the Nell Pascal Award, the Nicole Car Prize and the Zeke Solomon Award, the last of which led to her participating in the young artists programme at Israeli Opera's Meitar Opera Studio. She was also awarded second prize at the 2022 Sydney International Song Prize of the Joan Sutherland and Richard Bonyngé Foundation, and in 2024 received the 2MBS Fine Music Sydney Stefan Kruger Scholarship. Roles that Cassandra Doyle has performed on stage include Hänsel (*Hänsel und Gretel*) and Cherubino (*Le nozze di Figaro*). As a concert soloist she has worked with ensembles including the Willoughby Symphony Orchestra, the Radio Community Chest

Orchestra, the Orchestra of the Sydney Conservatorium and the Bach Akademie Australia.

Tamara Obermayr



The Austrian mezzo-soprano **Tamara Obermayr** has performed on stage since childhood and has a wide-ranging opera, song and concert repertory. She graduated with a bachelor's and a master's degree from the Mozarteum University in Salzburg, where she studied with Elisabeth Wilke and Pauliina Tukiainen, before continuing her training at the August Everding Theatre Academy in Munich with Daniela Sindram. She has received funding from the August Everding Foundation and the Johann-Adolph-Hasse-Gesellschaft in Munich, and won Opera Europa's Eva Kleinitz Scholarship. Tamara Obermayr has appeared in concert at the Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg, the Isarphilharmonie in Munich and in the Great Hall of the Mozarteum Foundation. In university productions she has appeared in roles such as Prince Orlofsky (*Die Fledermaus*), Ottavia (*L'incoronazione di Poppea*), Juditha (*Juditha triumphans*), Clare in Philip Venables's *4.48 Psychosis* and Roselane in Johann Christian Bach's

Zanaida.

Michael Dimovski



The Australian tenor **Michael Dimovski** was a member of the Richard Divall Emerging Artists Programme of Melbourne Opera in the 2018/19 season. In 2022 he was awarded the title of 'Best Male Singer' at the National Liederfest of the Lieder Society of Victoria and the Michael Stubbs and Malcolm Roberts Opera Prize from Victorian Opera, where he appeared in the 2022/23 season in roles included Arbace (*Idomeneo*). In 2024 he received a scholarship from the Ian Potter Cultural Trust and made his European debut as Officer (*La Juive*) at the Landestheater Linz, where he also took on the role of Der Wanderprediger (the itinerant preacher) in the world premiere of Reinhard Febel's opera *Benjamin Button*. Other roles he has performed include Lo spaventapasseri (the Scarecrow) in Pierangelo Valtinoni's *Il mago di Oz*, Malcolm (*Macbeth*), Jaquino (*Fidelio*) and Young Sailor and Shepherd (*Tristan und Isolde*). Michael Dimovski has a particular affinity with contemporary music and has taken part in several world premieres, with notable appearances including the role of Ma Wencai in the world premiere of Richard Mills's *The Butterfly Lovers* at Victorian Opera and in Singapore.

Samuel Stopford



The British tenor **Samuel Stopford** studied at the Royal Academy of Music in London with Kate Paterson, Janet Haney and Jonathan Papp. There he received a Bicentenary Scholarship, as well as the Royal Academy's ABRSM Scholarship and Her Royal Highness Princess Alice's Prize for Exemplary Studentship. He is an alumnus of the Internationale Meistersinger Akademie, and has participated in masterclasses with singers including Brigitte Fassbaender, Freddie De Tommaso and Nicky Spence. At the beginning of the 2024/25 season he will join the Opera Studio of the Bavarian State Opera. Samuel Stopford's concert engagements have taken him throughout Europe, Asia and the USA. Recent highlights have included his debut at London's Wigmore Hall singing Liszt's *Tre sonetti di Petrarca*, three concerts with the Manhattan Symphony Orchestra at the Shanghai Symphony Hall, several concerts with the Nuremberg Symphony Orchestra and a performance to an audience of more than 12,000 at the Shenzhen Universiade Stadium in China, which reached a further 1.2 million people via livestream.

Konstantin Igl



The tenor **Konstantin Igl** received his first singing training at the Gnadenthal Gymnasium (a specialist music school) in Ingolstadt. Following his graduation from school he studied for a teaching degree in mathematics and music in Munich, which he completed with the first state examination. Since 2022 he has studied singing with Pauliina Tukiainen and Christoph Strehl at the Mozarteum University in Salzburg. He is a member of the ensemble BachWerkVokal Salzburg, which regularly gives small-ensemble performances of works by Johann Sebastian Bach. At the Mozarteum University in Salzburg he has sung roles such as Peter Quint (*The Turn of the Screw*), Aeneas (*Dido and Aeneas*) and, recently, the Witch (*Hänsel und Gretel*) under the musical direction of Kai Röhrig. In 2024 Konstantin Igl made his debut as Mozart in Rimsky-Korsakov's *Mozart and Salieri* at the Mozartwoche in Salzburg.

Egor Sergeev



The baritone **Egor Sergeev** was born in Zhirnovsk in southern Russia and completed his initial singing training at the Gnessin Russian Academy of Music in Moscow. During his studies he made his debut as Count Almaviva (*Le nozze di Figaro*) at the Novaya Opera in Moscow, where he has returned to sing Guglielmo (*Così fan tutte*) and the title role of *Eugene Onegin*. In 2021 he embarked on further training at the Hanns Eisler School of Music in Berlin. In 2023 he appeared in Germán Alonso's *L'ovale* as part of the Deutsche Oper Berlin's 'Neue Szenen' series, and made his debut at the Berlin Konzerthaus in Donizetti's *Dalinda*. He has made recordings with the Berlin Radio Orchestra for the Deutschlandfunk Kultur radio station.

Armand Rabot



The British-Sri Lankan baritone **Armand Rabot** comes from the north-west of England and studied with Ben Johnson. In 2023 he won the prestigious Grange Festival Prize and first prize at the Hurn Court Opera Singer of the Year Competition. He has also received a scholarship from the Kathleen Ferrier Society and was a semi-finalist at the Mozart Singing Competition in London. His recent engagements include Mercurio/Famigliare III (*L'incoronazione di Poppea*), Keeper of the Madhouse (*The Rake's Progress*) and Narumov (*The Queen of Spades*) at the Grange Festival, Peter (*Hänsel und Gretel*) for Hampstead Garden Opera (HGO) and Pistol in Ralph Vaughan Williams's *Sir John in Love* and various roles in Vaughan Williams's *The Pilgrim's Progress* for British Youth Opera. In 2024 Armand Rabot performed in a concert at the National Concert Hall in Dublin to mark the presentation of a Lifetime Achievement Award to Ann Murray. He has also sung in Mozart's Requiem in Liverpool Cathedral, Handel's *Messiah* in Shrewsbury

Cathedral, Fauré's Requiem in Blackburn Cathedral and Bach's *St John Passion* and *St Matthew Passion* with the Liverpool Bach Collective.

Navasard Hakobyan



The Armenian baritone **Navasard Hakobyan** is currently a member of the Butler Studio of the Houston Grand Opera, where he has most recently appeared as Baron Douphol (*La traviata*), Antonio (*Le nozze di Figaro*) and Second Nazarene (*Salome*). In the 2023/24 season he has made his debut as Sharpless (*Madama Butterfly*) at the Dallas Opera and appeared in a concert at New York's Carnegie Hall celebrating the 150th birthday of Sergey Rachmaninoff. As a participant in the Music Academy of the West he performed the role of Marcello (*La bohème*) at the Granada Theatre in Santa Barbara in summer 2023. Navasard Hakobyan has won numerous awards, including the third prize and the zarzuela prize in Operalia in 2023, the Sullivan Award, first prizes in the Butler International Voice Competition in Austin, in the Eleanor McCollum Competition and at the International Vocal Competition of the Premiere Opera Foundation, and third prize at the José Carreras Grand Prix. Navasard Hakobyan studied at the Komitas State Conservatory of

Yerevan and completed the training programme for young singers at the Armenian National Opera, Yerevan. In 2019 he received the Classical Music Youth Prize from the President of the Republic of Armenia.

Amin Ahangaran



The Iranian bass **Amin Ahangaran** began his singing training in Graz, where he sang Sarastro (*Die Zauberflöte*) in a production at the Johann Joseph Fux Conservatory, and the bass solo in Bruckner's *Te Deum*. In 2018 he received scholarships from the Accademia Belcanto and the American Institute of Musical Studies (AIMS) in Graz. From 2020 to 2022 he was a member of the Accademia of the Teatro del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, appearing in productions of *Rigoletto*, *Ariadne auf Naxos* and Giordano's *Siberia*, and as a soloist in Beethoven's *Choral Fantasy*. In 2022 he sang in Augusto Borgioli's *Messa funebre* in Prato. Since the 2022/23 season he is a member of the International Opera Studio of the Zurich Opera House where he has sung in Wolfgang Rihm's *Jakob Lenz*, and in *La traviata*, *Eugene Onegin*, Donizetti's *Viva la mamma*, *Macbeth* and *La rondine*. In 2023 he performed the role of Bethune in a concert performance of *I vespri siciliani* at the Teatro Regio in Turin and sang Sparafucile in a performance of the third act of *Rigoletto* at the Accademia Musicale Chigiana in Siena. In May 2024 he appears as Theseus (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*) in Zurich. From the 2024/25 season Amin Ahangaran will be a member of the ensemble of the Paris Opéra.

Joseph Parrish



The young bass-baritone **Joseph Parrish** was born in Baltimore and has already performed at renowned concert halls such as the Alice Tully Hall and Carnegie Hall in New York. In the 2023/24 season he has sung in concerts at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington and at the Usedom Music Festival and participated in the Carnegie Hall Citywide Concerts. In June 2024 he makes his debut as Masetto (*Don Giovanni*) with the Cincinnati Opera. Joseph Parrish graduated with an Artist Diploma in Opera Studies from the Juilliard School in New York, where he took part in the Gluck Community Service Fellowship Program and the Morse Teaching Artist Fellowship Program. He is a member of the Shared Voices initiative of the Denyce Graves Foundation, which advocates for diversity, equality and inclusion, and works with a variety of historically black colleges, universities, conservatories and musical schools across the United States.

Manuel Winckhler



The bass **Manuel Winckhler** was born in Munich. He studied at the Mozarteum University in Salzburg and at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Munich with Lars Woldt. In university productions he has sung roles such as Simone (*Gianni Schicchi*) and Sarastro (*Die Zauberflöte*); he has also appeared as Lycomedes in Wolfgang-Andreas Schultz's *Achill unter den Mädchen* at the Prinzregententheater in Munich and as Osmin (*Die Entführung aus dem Serail*) at the Munich Chamber Opera. In the 2023/24 season he has made his house debuts with Opera Vlaanderen in Antwerp and at the Baden State Theatre in Karlsruhe. In the 2024/25 season he will become a member of the International Opera Studio of the Berlin State Opera and will appear as a guest with Opera Vlaanderen. On the concert platform Manuel Winckhler has appeared with orchestras including the Antwerp Symphony Orchestra under Philippe Herreweghe and with the Styriarte

Festival Orchestra under Jordi Savall.

Jasurbek Khaydarov



Jasurbek Khaydarov was born in Namangan in the Republic of Uzbekistan and graduated with a bachelor's degree from the Gnessin Russian Academy of Music in Moscow. In 2022 he became a member of the opera studio of the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow, where he made his debut as a Flemish Deputy (*Don Carlo*). In January 2024 he appeared as Dolokhov in a semi-staged and abridged version of Prokofiev's *War and Peace* at the Novaya Opera Theatre in Moscow. Jasurbek Khaydarov has participated in numerous masterclasses, including with Ildar Abdrazakov, Sergei Leiferkus, Dmitry Vdovin, Ekaterina Semenchuk, Ramón Vargas, Barbara Frittoli, Plácido Domingo, Marina Meshcheryakova, Hibla Gerzmava and Dmitry Bertman, and is a prize-winner of the 2023 Concorso Lirico Internazionale Ottavio Ziino. In September 2023 he made his debut at London's Wigmore Hall alongside the soprano Anush Hovhannisyán and the pianist Iain Burnside, with a programme of Russian songs.

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