

MgA. BOHDANA MALIK

Director of the National Theatre Opera and the State Opera

PLÁCIDO DOMINGO'S WORLD OPERA COMPETITION OPERALIA WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Soprano Adriana Gonzalez from Guatemala and tenor Xabier Anduaga from Spain are the First Prize Winners of Operalia's 27th edition.

Singers from Russia, South Korea, Sweden and USA/Germany were also awarded

Maria Kataeva and Gihoon Kim were voted as favourites by the audience

Prague, Czech Republic; 26 July, 2019 – Soprano Adriana Gonzalez from Guatemala and tenor Xabier Anduaga from Spain have just been announced as the First Prize winners of the 2019 edition of Operalia.

Second Prize honours were awarded to Maria Kataeva, the mezzo-soprano from Russia and Gihoon Kim, baritone from South Korea.

Christina Nilsson, soprano from Sweden and Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen, countertenor from USA/Germany were awarded the Third Prize respectively.

Soprano from Guatemala Adriana Gonzalez won the Pepita Embil Zarzuela Prize, whereas Xabier Anduaga, tenor from Spain, won the Plácido Domingo Ferrer Zarzuela Prize.

Soprano from Russia Anna Shapovalova, was awarded the CulturArte de Puerto Rico Prize in the amount of US\$10,000.00

For the very first time in history, Operalia, the international Opera competition founded by Plácido Domingo, has been presented in the Czech Republic. The 27th edition of the internationally renowned competition has been hosted by the National Theatre and the Domingo-Mozart-Prague organization and took place at the historical building of the National Theatre in Prague which is one of the symbols of the country's national identity and counts more than 130 years of independent artistic performances.

The Final Concert featured 12 of the most promising voices in the opera world today, with singers from Argentina, Canada, Guatemala, Italy, Germany, South Korea, Sweden, South Africa and the United States. Their performances were accompanied by the National Theatre orchestra conducted by Plácido Domingo.

The Final's concert was followed by an award ceremony, where Plácido Domingo presented prizes in 7 categories:

- Two First Prizes - Male/Female - US\$30,000.00
- Two Second Prizes - Male/Female - US\$20,000.00
- Two Third Prizes - Male/Female - US\$10,000.00
- Two Birgit Nilsson Prizes - Male/Female - US\$15,000.00
- The Pepita Embil Prize of Zarzuela - US\$10,000.00
- The Don Plácido Domingo Ferrer Prize of Zarzuela - US\$10,000.00
- Two Audience Prizes - Male/Female - A wrist watch offered by Rolex
- The Culturarte Prize Chosen and offered by Bertita & Guillermo Martinez from CulturArte de Puerto Rico - US\$10,000.00

Founded in 1993 to discover and help launch the careers of the most promising young opera singers of today, Operalia attracts singers of all voice types from every country in the world ranging from 18 to 32 years of age, to be heard by a panel of some of the most influential empresarios in the international Opera industry.

The 40 contestants facing the challenge this year came from 19 different countries, including Argentina, Spain, Guatemala, Mongolia, Germany, South Korea, Sweden, South Africa and the United States. The group was prominently formed by sopranos and tenors, with a good representation of mezzo-sopranos and baritones. Three basses, a bass-baritone, a contralto and countertenor complete the roster.

The accommodation for all the Operalia contestants will be provided by the InterContinental hotel in Prague.

The competition is hosted by a different city every year. The first contest was held in Paris in 1993 and then moved to Mexico City and other cities such as Beijing, Bordeaux, Budapest, Hamburg, Madrid, Milan, Moscow, Quebec, Tokyo, Verona, Los Angeles and London, among others.

The long list of artists who have won Operalia prizes attest to its success in discovering, launching and nurturing great talent. Some of the winners who have firmly established themselves in the world of opera include the great Swedish soprano Nina Stemme, the world-famous mezzo-soprano from the United States, Joyce DiDonato; the Maltese tenor Joseph Calleja, celebrated Mexican tenors Arturo Chacón Cruz and Rolando Villazón, Puerto-Rican soprano Ana María Martínez, and the soprano from Bulgaria, Sonya Yoncheva.

Rolex is proud to present Operalia, the World Opera Competition, for the 19th consecutive year, perpetuating its commitment to the arts. Plácido Domingo has been a Rolex Testimonee since 1982, and Rolex is delighted to extend its support to the

exceptionally gifted young performers who share its quest for excellence and perfection.

The OPERALIA competition organized by the National Theatre and the Domingo-Mozart-Prague organization has been supported by the Czech Republic's Ministry of Culture, Prague City Hall, ČEPS, a.s., CzechTourism and the State Fund for Culture of the Czech Republic.

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Winners, Operalia 2019

First Prize – Male

Xabier Anduaga, tenor, Spain

First Prize – Female

Adriana Gonzalez, soprano,
Guatemala

Second Prize – Male

Gihoon Kim, baritone, South Korea

Second Prize – Female

Maria Kataeva, mezzo-soprano,
Russia

Third Prize – Male

Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen, countertenor,
USA/Germany

Third Prize – Female

Christina Nilsson, soprano, Sweden

Birgit Nilsson Prize – Female

Felicia Moore, soprano, USA
Christina Nilsson, soprano, Sweden

The Pepita Embil Prize of Zarzuela

Adriana Gonzalez, soprano,
Guatemala

The Don Plácido Domingo Ferrer Prize of Zarzuela

Xabier Anduaga, tenor, Spain

Audience Prize – Male

Gihoon Kim, baritone, South Korea

Audience Prize – Female

Maria Kataeva, mezzo-soprano,
Russia

Culturarte Prize

Anna Shapovalova, soprano, Russia

Jury Members Operalia 2019

Marta Domingo

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