

Canadian-Ukrainian Soprano, Kateryna Khartova, Wins the 2024 Wallis Opera Competition



The Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (SMFA) President, Jeri Ryba, is pleased to announce that the 2024 Gordon C. Wallis Memorial Opera Competition was won by soprano Kateryna Khartova. The Canadian-Ukrainian singer performed works by Mozart, Schubert, and Dvorák, and was accompanied by Kathleen Lohrenz Gable. She was awarded the prize of \$5,000 and the opportunity to be a featured soloist in an upcoming season with the Regina Symphony Orchestra and the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra.

Kateryna Khartova is a graduate of the Glenn Gould School of Music in Toronto (2020), as well as a proud alumna of the Music Department at the University of Saskatchewan. During her undergraduate studies Miss Khartova was featured as a soloist in the University's Music Theatre Ensemble under the directory of Dr. Garry Gable and Kathleen Lohrenz Gable. Katya is a passionate performer of Ukrainian art song through the Ukrainian Art Song Project (UASP) in Toronto. She made her Koerner Hall debut as Pamina in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*, directed by Joel Ivany and conducted by Nathan Brock.

Eight singers competed on Saturday, February 24, in the Heritage Lecture Theatre at the Conservatory of Performing Arts, University of Regina, followed by a masterclass on February 25. The competition was judged by Phillip Addis (Calgary, AB) and Kim Mattice Wanat (Edmonton, AB). The competition was established by the late Gordon C. Wallis, former assistant director of the University of Regina, Conservatory of Music and is presented by the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association. The competition is held every two years and is intended to support young singers in further studies in opera.

For more information, visit www.smfa.ca.

The Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (SMFA), established in 1908, is a non-profit charitable organization whose mission is to promote excellence in music and speech arts by providing performance and educational opportunities through 47 competitive music festivals in the Province of Saskatchewan.

