

## Soprano Kelsey Ronn Wins the 2026 Wallis Opera Competition



The Saskatchewan Music Festival Association (President, Dianne Gryba) is pleased to announce that the 2026 Gordon C. Wallis Memorial Opera Competition was won by soprano Kelsey Ronn. Kelsey performed works by Donizetti, Strauss, and Cipullo, 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.

Kelsey Ronn is a Canadian soprano known for her euphonious tone, florid coloratura, and warm timbre, performing as a soloist and operatic vocalist across Canada, the United States, and Europe. This season she joins Calgary Opera's McPhee Artist Development Program, making her role debut as Kate Pinkerton and the Aunt in *Madama Butterfly*, with upcoming performances as the title role in *Little Red Riding Hood* and as Berta in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*; last season she appeared in Nino Rota's *The Witty Squirrel* and covered Norina in *Don Pasquale*. An alumna of Opera Kelowna and L'Institut canadien d'art vocal, Kelsey holds degrees from the University of Manitoba and McGill University and brings a passion for acting to every role she embodies.

Seven singers competed on Saturday, February 21, in Convocation Hall at the University of Saskatchewan, followed by a masterclass on February 22. The competition was judged by Robyn Driedger-Klassen (Vancouver, BC) and Mel Braun (Winnipeg, MB). 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](http://www.smfa.ca).

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