



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
November 20, 2025

Pour la version en français, [click here](#)

**ASSOCIATION FOR OPERA IN CANADA ANNOUNCES 2 CANADIANS SELECTED  
FOR THE 2025 LEADERSHIP INTENSIVE PROGRAM  
ANDREW ADRIDGE AND JACLYN GROSSMAN**

Toronto, ON – The Association for Opera in Canada (AOC) is pleased to announce the two Canadians they selected to attend the OPERA America Leadership Intensive in January 2025; Andrew Adridge, Managing Director Volcano Theatre and Jaclyn Grossman, Soprano/Program Manager Opera5.

The Leadership Intensive is a full week of seminars and networking opportunities, hosted at OPERA America's National Opera Center in New York City. The program provides an active learning environment for addressing strategic issues in the field, building necessary skills, and fostering strong professional connections for meaningful leadership of the opera field. Each year, the Association for Opera in Canada selects and sponsors two Canadians to participate in the OPERA America Leadership Intensive program.

Andrew and Jaclyn were selected by an independent Canadian jury from a competitive pool of more than three times the average number of applicants in any given year since the program began in 2012, demonstrating high demand and boding well for the future of opera leadership in Canada.

Andrew and Jaclyn will join an international cohort made up of 10 individuals from the USA, 2 from Europe, and 2 from Latin America. The program runs January 31-February 7, 2025 in New York at the National Opera Center.

### **About the Association for Opera in Canada**

The Association for Opera in Canada is the national association for opera companies and professionals in Canada. It seeks to create and sustain an environment that centralizes opera to Canadian life. Working with members across the country, the AOC advances the interests of Canada's opera community, creating greater opportunities for opera audiences and professionals alike.

## About Andrew Adridge



Recently named a CBC Hot 30 under 30 Classical Artist, Andrew Adridge is an arts administrator and multidisciplinary artist based in Toronto with a passion for equity and industry reform.

He is a graduate of the University of Toronto holding both a Bachelor of Music Performance in Voice and a Master of Music in Opera. He has been featured as an ensemble soloist both at the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts in Toronto and the Kennedy Centre in Washington, D.C.

Andrew has participated in several young artist programs including The Chautauqua Institution Voice Program, and the Banff Opera program. Andrew is an avid writer having contributed to both Opera Canada and Ludwig Van Toronto and continues his pursuits through his personal blog and through spoken word bringing to light issues around artistry, identity, and race.

Andrew has worked as an arts administrator with such organizations as the Association for Opera in Canada where he was a member of the first Portfolio Artist Collective, Tapestry Opera, Against the Grain Theatre, the Toronto Consort, and is currently the Managing Director of Volcano Theatre. Andrew was granted a prestigious Metcalf Foundation Performing Arts Internship in Artistic Planning which allowed him to work closely with Joel Ivany at Against the Grain. Andrew has a passion for educating young artists and the next generation working as the Artistic Producer for the Banff Centre Opera in the 21st Century program and co-founding the national arts education collective Opera InReach. Andrew's recognizable commitment to EDIJA advancement in the arts sector has made him sought after as a panellist, consultant, and outlet contributor.

## About Jaclyn Grossman



Jaclyn Grossman is a soprano and administrator passionate about fostering community and connection in opera, with a focus on empowering young leaders. Currently Programs Manager with Toronto's Opera 5, Jaclyn created and managed a national Fellowship/Mentorship program and the LINK Artist Workshop Series for the Association for Opera in Canada. She founded the Phoenix Leadership Project, a Canadian charity for youth leadership training, and has been a featured speaker with Opera InReach, TedX McGill, and the Marigold Music Program.

An active performer, Jaclyn's 24/25 season includes role debuts as Brünnhilde (*Die Walküre*) with Edmonton Opera, Nedda (*I Pagliacci*), and Nella (*Gianni Schicchi*) with Opera Kelowna. Recent credits include the soprano soloist (Beethoven's Ninth Symphony) with the Buffalo Philharmonic with conductor JoAnn Falletta and Freia (*Das Rheingold*) with Edmonton Opera.

A co-founder of Likht Ensemble, Jaclyn is passionate about sharing music by Jewish artists from the Holocaust and educating about Jewish representation in opera. Likht has shared concerts and lectures with organizations such as the Canadian Opera Company, the Chattanooga Symphony, Pacific Opera Victoria, and the Harold Green Jewish Theatre.

Jaclyn completed her training at McGill University with residencies in the Rebanks Fellowship (RCM), Pacific Opera Victoria, the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, and Britten Pears Arts.

## Leadership Intensive Class of 2025

- Emily Barber, Director of Production, On Site Opera
- Matt Cahill, Founder & Director, Hogfish Maine
- Megan Carpenter, Senior Manager of Government Affairs and Civic Practice, OPERA America
- Seiko, Artistic & Executive Director, Opera on Tap Rochester
- Graham Fandrei, Chief Development Officer, Persad Center
- Siena Forest, Development Officer, Minnesota Opera
- Kelsey Holmes, Major Gifts Officer, Santa Fe Opera
- Branden C.S Hood, Director of Education, Detroit Opera
- Shawn Marie Jeffery, Vice President, Classical & Creatives, UIA Talent Agency
- Joanna Latini, Director of Resident Artist Programs, Palm Beach Opera
- Katherine Powers, Executive Director, Pacific Opera Project
- Timmy Yuen, Associate Director of Human Resources, San Francisco Opera Association
- (Association for Opera in Canada) Andrew Adridge, Managing Director of Volcano Theatre
- (Association for Opera in Canada) Jaclyn Grossman, Soprano, /Programs Manager, Opera5
- (Opera Europa) Marco Ayala, Head of International Strategy at Teatro Real, Teatro Real Madrid
- (Opera Europa) Celia Grau, Sustainability & Special Projects Manager, Opera Europa
- (Opera Latinoamerica) Silvana Moreno, General and Artistic Director, Teatro del Bicentenario de San Juan Argentina
- (Opera Latinoamerica) Yalilé Cardona-Alonso, Director, Festival Internacional de Música Clásica de Bogotá

## Canadian Leadership Intensive Alumni

- Julie McIsaac, stage director, dramaturg, playwright/librettist – Class of 2023
- Jennifer Szeto, Director, Atelier lyrique de l'Opéra de Montréal– Class of 2023
- Yvette Guigeno, Director of Development, Pacific Opera Victoria – Class of 2020
- Jaime Martino, General Manager, Tapestry Opera –Class of 2019
- Rebecca Hass, Director of Community Engagement, Pacific Opera Victoria– Class of 2019
- Nicole Malcolm, Director of Marketing and Communications, Pacific Opera Victoria – Class of 2017
- Robin Whiffen, General Director, Against the Grain Theatre – Class of 2017
- Michael Blais, Director of Operations, Manitoba Opera – Class of 2016
- Colleen Maybin, Director of Performing and Fine Arts, Douglas College – Class of 2016
- Joe Peacock, Director of Development, McCarter Theater – Class of 2014
- Joanna Verano, Annual Fund Manager, St. Michael School – Class of 2014
- Michael Mori, General Director, Tapestry Opera, Class of 2013
- Katherine Semcesen, Executive Director, Canadian Children's Opera Company – Class of 2013
- Ian Rye, CEO Pacific Opera Victoria – Class of 2012
- Tom Wright, General Director Vancouver Opera – Class of 2012

-30-

### For More Information:

Christina Loewen, Executive Director, Association for Opera in Canada

Email: [christinal@opera.ca](mailto:christinal@opera.ca)\*

<https://www.opera.ca>, Download High-Resolution Images: [Link to Images](#)