SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 2017

UTEP SONG FESTIVAL
A DAY OF LEARNING FOR HIGH SCHOOL VOCAL SOLOISTS

UTEP FOX FINE ARTS CENTER

8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
SPACE IS LIMITED
COST: $45
REGISTER NOW AT WWW.UTEP.EDU/SONGFESTIVAL

CONTACT
MR. BRIAN DOWNEN / ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF VOICE
BGDOWNEN@UTEP.EDU
(915) 747-6352
ARE YOU...
• Interested in pursuing a college degree in voice?
• Preparing for college auditions?
• Attending solo and ensemble contest?

...THEN THIS DAY IS FOR YOU!

WHAT YOU DO...
• Register now at www.utep.edu/songfestival and pay the $45 fee.
• Arrive August 26, 2017 with one song in the classical repertoire in either English, Spanish, Italian, German or French completely learned and memorized.

WHAT YOU RECEIVE...
• A 30-minute coaching on your piece with a UTEP faculty member (accompanist provided).
• Participation in four 1-hour workshops geared toward vocal technique and performance/audition skills.
• Lunch panel discussion with UTEP voice majors (lunch provided).
• Public recital performance of your piece in Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall at the end of the day.
• Video file of your individual recital performance.

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITY
• Interested students may have their recital appearance serve as an audition for our UTEP Opera Scholars program for high school students.

See www.utep.edu/voice for more information.
BLYTHE CATES
Dr. Blythe Cates joined the voice faculty of the University of Texas at El Paso in 2015. Originally from Southern California, she received her doctorate in vocal pedagogy at the University of Texas at Austin under Darlene Wiley. She also has a Masters in Opera Performance from UT Austin. Dr. Cates began teaching in 2007 and specializes in vocal health, age-appropriate material, musical interpretation and applying classical vocal technique to many genres, including opera, classical, pop, folk and musical theater. An active soloist with many orchestras and ensembles, she has most recently performed with the Inland Master Chorale, Missouri Symphony, Riverside Opera, and will be singing with TMEA Chorus this year. She has also performed opera roles in Lakmé, The Old Maid and the Thief, Summer and Smoke, The Rape of Lucretia, The Consul, Der Schauspielleiter, Die Zauberflöte, Carmen and I Pagliacci and has extensive experience in performing musical theater. Contact Dr. Cates at bdcates@utep.edu or (915) 747-8756.

BRIAN DONNEN
Brian Downen joined the music faculty of the University of Texas at El Paso in the fall of 2014. He teaches applied voice and conducts the Men’s Glee Club. Downen holds an M.M. and A.D. in vocal performance from Yale University. He has enjoyed a long operatic career singing more than 70 leading roles in productions for opera houses in the U.S., Europe and Canada. In 2016, Downen made his Metropolitan Opera debut in Donizetti’s Roberto Devereux and returned there in 2017 for productions of Manon Lescaut and Eugene Onegin. In the Met’s 2017–18 season he will cover roles in Les Contes d’Hoffmann. Mr. Downen has extensive performing, coaching and arranging experience in the pop and musical theater genres. Contact Mr. Downen at bgdownen@utep.edu or (915) 747-6352.

CHERRY DUKE
Cherry Duke joined UTEP’s music faculty in 2015. She directs UTEP’s Opera Workshop ("Opera UTEP") and teaches applied voice. A regular performer of concert, opera, and new music, Duke appeared in the world premiere and the Fall 2016 release of the commercial recording of David T. Little’s 2012 opera Dog Days. In 2016–17, she was a featured recitalist at the Texoma NATS Conference and the Northeastern State University Voice Festival, and performed in two productions with El Paso Opera. In addition to her performance career, Duke gives talks and workshops on music business at universities nationwide. Ms. Duke graduated from Texas Woman’s University where she studied with renowned pedagogue and author Joan Wall. She received her graduate degree in Opera Performance from The Hartt School at the University of Hartford. Contact Ms. Duke at ccduke@utep.edu or (915) 747-6220.
DIANA ESPARZA
Diana Esparza joined the music faculty of UTEP in 2016. She teaches applied voice, class voice, music appreciation and Italian, Spanish, Latin and English Diction. She taught on the voice faculty of the Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez for eight years. At UACJ she also taught Opera Workshop and Choir. She led the background vocals for Sarah Brightman’s concert in Ciudad Juárez for the Festival Internacional Chihuahua. In addition to her teaching in Juárez, Esparza taught choir for seven years at Henderson Middle School in El Paso, where she also coordinated the Fine Arts Concerts. Ms. Esparza has performed frequently at the Festival Internacional Cervantino and in opera, musical theater and zarzuela in the El Paso area. Ms. Esparza received her Bachelor in Music Education and Masters in Vocal Performance from the University of Texas at El Paso. Contact Ms. Esparza at desparza6@utep.edu or (915) 747-7797.

EIKE GUNNARSON
Eike Gunnarson, a native of Germany, received her B.M. from the University of Texas at El Paso and the M.M. from New Mexico State University. Both degrees are in Vocal Performance. She has sung as a soloist for the El Paso Zarzuela Festival and has performed in operas such as Turandot, Romeo et Juliette, Hansel and Gretel, Samson et Delilah, Lucia di Lammermoor, and Le nozze di Figaro. Further performance repertoire includes solos in Vivaldi’s Gloria, Handel’s Messiah and Mozart’s Coronation Mass. Ms. Gunnarson has worked as a clinician for El Paso Strings, as an accompanist for UTEP’s jazz choir, and a vocal coach for Opera UTEP. Besides teaching applied voice at UTEP, she has a private studio for voice, piano and Celtic harp. Contact Ms. Gunnarson at egunnarson@utep.edu, eikegun@aol.com or (915) 204-8473.

ELISA WILSON
Dr. Elisa Fraser Wilson is Director of Choral Activities and Voice Area Coordinator for the UTEP Department of Music, where her duties include conducting the UTEP choirs and teaching choral conducting. Formerly the director of the UTEP Opera Workshop, she was chorusmaster and Director of the Young Artist Program for El Paso Opera 2009-2013. She holds degrees in Choral Music Education, Voice Performance, and Choral Conducting and Literature from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (B.S. and D.M.A.) and the Wichita State University (M.M.). Dr. Wilson has conducted numerous collegiate, secondary, and community choirs, including children’s, jazz and show choirs, and is a regular clinician for local and regional festivals and World Strides/Heritage Festivals, Inc. Contact Dr. Wilson at ewilson@utep.edu or (915) 747-8708.

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