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MINNESOTA OPERA ANNOUNCES NEW RESIDENT ARTISTS

**Cohort of five artists will work with the company, develop career skills,
and perform in season productions**

MINNEAPOLIS (March 29, 2024) – Minnesota Opera is proud to announce its cohort of singers and a pianist/coach who will join its Resident Artist Program for the 2024-2025 season: mezzo-soprano Kara Morgan (Andover, MN), tenor Ángel Vargas (San Juan, Puerto Rico), baritone David Wolfe (Shamokin, PA), bass John Mburu (Warwick, RI), and pianist/coach Fumiyasu Kawase (Chiba, Japan).

These five were selected from a field of nearly a thousand applicants after an extensive, multi-round audition process that involved live auditions in four US cities. They will arrive in the Twin Cities in August and, under the guidance of **MN Opera Director of Resident Artist Program and Head of Music Mario Antonio Marra**, gain valuable experience through performing and understudying major roles in season productions at the Ordway, present recitals as part of the newly formed series MNOP+, and receive career guidance from Minnesota Opera staff and guest clinicians.

“I look forward to working with these gifted young artists who represent both the present and future of opera” says Marra. “Through encouraging curiosity, fostering a collaborative spirit, and building on the great talent they already possess, the Resident Artist Program will guide these artists through their careers in this beautiful art form.”

MN Opera’s Resident Artist Program was first introduced in 1997 and has since become one of North America’s premier training programs within the art form.

Headshots and full bios for the new Resident Artists are available [here](#).

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Minnesota Opera advances the art of opera for today and for future generations by expanding the circle of musical storytelling.