



THE SANTA FE OPERA

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2015 SANTA FE OPERA OUTSTANDING APPRENTICE SINGER AWARDS ANNOUNCED

Twelve apprentice singers selected for annual awards,
including bass Tyler Putnam from Chebeague Island, Maine

SANTA FE, NM - Santa Fe Opera recently announced the recipients of its annual Outstanding Apprentice Awards. Each season some of the most talented young singers in the world take part in the Apprentice Singer Program where they receive coaching and lessons in diction, period music, and performance. Additionally, they sing as members of the chorus and in supporting roles for each of the season's five operas.

Of the 40 singers in the program, 12 received cash awards. Bass Tyler Putnam from Chebeague Island, Maine was the recipient of the Agnes M. Canning Memorial Award, given in memory of the longtime Santa Fe Opera supporter. In addition to his chorus roles in the 2015 season, Mr. Putnam portrayed the Second Soldier in Strauss' chilling *Salome*, for which he "sang with knowing power" (*Opera Today*) and performed "splendidly" (*Dallas Morning News*). Mr. Putnam also performed the role of Thomas in the highly-acclaimed world premiere of *Cold Mountain*, with libretto by Gene Scheer and music by Jennifer Higdon.

The Apprentice Program's 2015 budget of \$702,000 was funded in part by the Opera's annual fund, income from endowment funds, and proceeds from the Opening Weekend Celebration and Summer Gala.

The mission of Santa Fe Opera is to advance the operatic art form by presenting ensemble performances of the highest quality in a unique setting with a varied repertory of new, rarely performed, and standard works; to ensure the excellence of opera's future through apprentice programs for singers, technicians, and arts administrators; and to foster and enrich an understanding and appreciation of opera among a diverse public.

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