

The Solti Foundation U.S.

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ANTHONY BARRESE NAMED 2007 FELLOW BY SOLTI FOUNDATION U.S.

Promising Opera Conductor Receives \$25,000 Grant to Further Musical Career

Anthony Barrese, a young conductor and composer who is rapidly establishing himself in opera houses across the United States, has been named by the Solti Foundation U.S. as its 2007 Fellow. He will receive a two-year grant totaling \$25,000 and receive additional conducting opportunities in the city of Chicago, where the Foundation is based.

“Mr. Barrese has already distinguished himself in work with such companies as The Dallas Opera, Opera Southwest, and the Sarasota Opera,” said Lady Valerie Solti, honorary chair of the Foundation, which was established in memory of her late husband, the legendary conductor Sir Georg Solti. “The Foundation is pleased to be able to assist him in broadening his expertise and furthering his career.”

Barrese, 32, most recently conducted Opera Southwest’s October performances of *Le nozze di Figaro* in Albuquerque, N.M., which the Albuquerque Journal called “a fresh, seemingly spontaneous rendering of Mozart’s eternally joyous music.” In March, 2008, he returns to Dallas Opera, where he served as an assistant conductor in 2006-2007, to conduct its performances of Puccini’s *Tosca*. His operatic conducting debut, in 1999, was with the Felix Company in Milan.

Barrese’s musical activities are not confined to the pit. He has appeared as a conductor at the Spoleto Festival USA, where his well-received *Intermezzo* appearances with the Festival Orchestra included works of Tchaikovsky and Rossini, among others. In recent years he also has received a number of awards for his compositions. His education includes a bachelor’s degree in composition from Trinity University (Texas), a master’s from the New England Conservatory, and additional studies in Milan and in Darmstadt, Germany.

Past Solti Foundation Fellows include conductors Eric Melear (2006), Carlos César Rodríguez (2005), Thomas Rimes (2004), and Sara Jobin (special grant, 2006). Previous honorees include the baritone Quinn Kelsey and the soprano Stacey Tappan, both of whom were recognized in 2003 and have established major operatic careers.

ABOUT THE SOLTI FOUNDATION U.S.

The mission of the Solti Foundation U.S., established after the 1997 death of Sir Georg Solti, is to assist talented young American musicians at the start of their professional careers. It has made annual grants to awardees since 2003, and since 2004 has focused on helping exceptional young conductors. Its work is overseen by chairman Richard Gray and honorary chair Lady Valerie Solti. For more information, visit the Foundation’s Web site, soltifoundation.org.

Press contact:
Fiona Queen
(847) 448-8329
fqueen@musicinst.org