

Robert L.B. Tobin Director-Designer Prize 2024-2025

OPERA America

Intent to Apply

The Robert L.B. Tobin Director-Designer Prize

The Robert L.B. Tobin Director-Designer Prize is a biennial program offered as part of OPERA America's continuing effort to foster emerging opera artists. The program is intended to bring new talent to the forefront and connect directors and designers early in their opera careers with those who are in a position to advance their work. Designer- or director-driven teams must select a work that deeply resonates with the team from an OPERA America-approved list of operatic works. Original submissions will translate the team's meaningful response into a unique concept and design for the selected work. Four teams will be invited to turn speculative ideas into a full design presentation.

Each team must comprise a minimum of one stage director and a minimum of two creative designers. Each team must identify a team representative who will serve as the project's fiscal agent and as OPERA America's primary contact.

Definition of a Team Representative

Each application must indicate a team representative who will serve as the project's fiscal agent and as OPERA America's primary contact.

First Name of Team Representative*

Character Limit: 50

Last Name of Team Representative*

Character Limit: 50

Team Representative Position*

Please select the Team Representative's role from the dropdown menu below.

Choices

Director
Designer

Prior panelists recommend that you start by listening to the music before reading the libretto to find the piece that resonates with you. You should feel and develop an emotional response. You have to feel deeply and fully, then translate that into the design.

Reference scores are available upon request. Please contact Noelle Deutsch at NDeutsch@operaamerica.org if you would like to access these for research.

Work Selection*

Please choose one of the following operas.

Choices

Breaking the Waves (Mazzoli/Vavrek)
 Die Fledermaus (Strauss/Haffner and Genée)
 Der Rosenkavalier (Strauss/von Hofmannsthal)
 Idomeneo (Mozart/Varesco)
 Missing (Clements/Current)
 La hija de Rappaccini (Catán/Tovar)
 La traviata (Verdi/Piave)
 Samson and Delilah (Saint-Saëns/Lemaire)
 The Sound of Music (Rodgers/Hammerstein)
 X: The Life and Times of Malcolm X (A. Davis/T. Davis)

The Creative Team

Definition of Team

Each team must comprise a minimum of one stage director and a minimum of two creative designers. Each team must identify a team representative who will serve as the project's fiscal agent and as OPERA America's primary contact.

For each member of the team, you need to provide the requested information.

Team Representative - The member of the team who will serve as the project's fiscal agent and as OPERA America's primary contact. (May be either the director or a designer.)

Team Members - The Team Representative plus two Team Members is the minimum on an eligible team.

Additional Team Members - The team may include additional designers and other creative artists.

TEAM REPRESENTATIVE (REQUIRED TEAM MEMBER)

First Name of Team Representative*

Character Limit: 50

Last Name of Team Representative*

Character Limit: 50

Team Representative Position*

Choices

Designer
Director

Team Representative Citizenship Status*

Indicate if the Team Representative has United States citizenship, permanent residence, or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status.

Choices

Yes
No

Team Representative Email*

Character Limit: 254

SECOND TEAM MEMBER (REQUIRED TEAM MEMBER)

First Name of Second Team Member*

Character Limit: 50

Last Name of Second Team Member*

Character Limit: 50

Second Team Member Position*

Choices

Director
Set Designer
Costume Designer
Lighting Designer
Projection/Media Designer
Other

Other

If you selected other, please indicate the type of designer who will serve as the Second Team Member.

Character Limit: 150

Second Team Member Citizenship Status*

Indicate if this Team Member has United States citizenship, permanent residence, or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status.

Choices

Yes
No

Second Team Member Email*

Character Limit: 254

THIRD TEAM MEMBER (REQUIRED TEAM MEMBER)**First Name of Third Additional Team Member***

Character Limit: 50

Last Name of Third Team Member*

Character Limit: 50

Third Team Member Position***Choices**

Director

Set Designer

Costume Designer

Lighting Designer

Projection/Media Designer

Other

Other

If you selected other, please indicate the type of designer who will serve as the Third Team Member.

Character Limit: 100

Third Team Member Citizenship Status*

Indicate if this Team Member has United States citizenship, permanent residence, or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status.

Choices

Yes

No

Third Team Member Email*

Character Limit: 254

ADDITIONAL TEAM MEMBERS (OPTIONAL)

Please provide the requested information below for any additional team members. Additional members are allowed, but not required.

First Name of Additional Team Member #1

Character Limit: 50

Last Name of Additional Team Member #1

Character Limit: 50

Additional Team Member #1 Position

Choices

Set Designer
Costume Designer
Lighting Designer
Projection/Media Designer
Choreographer
Other

Other

If you selected other, please indicate the profession of this artist.

Character Limit: 100

Additional Team Member #1 Citizenship Status

Indicate if this Team Member has United States citizenship, permanent residence, or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status.

Choices

Yes
No

Additional Team Member #1 Email Address

Character Limit: 254

First Name of Additional Team Member #2

Character Limit: 50

Last Name of Additional Team Member #2

Character Limit: 50

Additional Team Member #2 Position

Choices

Set Designer
Costume Designer
Lighting Designer
Projection/Media Designer
Choreographer
Other

Other

If you selected other, please indicate the profession of this artist.

Character Limit: 100

Additional Team Member #2 Citizenship Status

Indicate if this Team Member has United States citizenship, permanent residence, or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status.

Choices

Yes

No

Additional Team Member #2 Email Address

Character Limit: 254

First Name of Additional Team Member #3

Character Limit: 50

Last Name of Additional Team Member #3

Character Limit: 50

Additional Team Member #3 Position

Choices

Set Designer

Costume Designer

Lighting Designer

Projection/Media Designer

Choreographer

Other

Other

If you selected other, please indicate the profession of this artist.

Character Limit: 100

Additional Team Member #3 Citizenship Status

Indicate if this Team Member has United States citizenship, permanent residence, or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status.

Choices

Yes

No

Additional Team Member #3 Email Address

Character Limit: 254

More Team Members

If there are additional people on your team, please provide their name and the position here.

Character Limit: 250

Project Information

Production Concept*

Please provide a brief description of the production concept for the selected work.

The full application will ask for a complete production concept, including an explanation of the staging approach; ideas and initial research for scenery, props, costumes, and personnel to be involved (chorus, extras, etc.); and suggestions for adaptations and/or editing, if relevant.

Character Limit: 1000

Certification*

We attest that the information contained in this application is accurate and complete, to the best of our knowledge.

Choices

Yes