



GRANT PARK MUSIC FESTIVAL

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THE GRANT PARK MUSIC FESTIVAL EXPANDS “PROJECT INCLUSION,” THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR YOUNG MUSICIANS OF DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS

*New “Project Inclusion Vocal Fellows” program to complement
the “Project Inclusion String Fellows” initiative,
now in its fifth year at the Grant Park Music Festival*

CHICAGO (March 16, 2017) — The Grant Park Music Festival expands its successful *Project Inclusion* professional development program, which guides young musicians from diverse backgrounds, traditionally underrepresented in the symphonic and choral field, towards careers in music. New this year, the Festival will launch the *Project Inclusion Vocal Fellowship* program to complement the *Project Inclusion String Fellowship* initiative.

A partnership with the Chicago Sinfonietta, the goal of *Project Inclusion* is to help establish a professional development pipeline aimed at building diversity in American orchestras. This season’s *Project Inclusion String Fellows*, now in its fifth year, will be announced in April.

Project Inclusion is one of the many programs of *Festival Connect*, the Grant Park Music Festival’s comprehensive initiative aimed to increase music education and engagement opportunities for audiences of all ages.

The inaugural class of *Project Inclusion Vocal Fellows* include **Tiana Sorenson** (soprano), **Elena Snow** (alto), **Jared Esguerra** (tenor) and **Dorian McCall** (bass). The four musicians will spend the month of June working with Festival Chorus Director Christopher Bell, rehearsing and performing with the Grant Park Orchestra and Chorus. Throughout the month, they will be mentored by members of the Grant Park Chorus, as well as guest artists performing with the Festival.

“This is a wonderful addition to the training and performance programs that the Grant Park Music Festival already offers,” said Christopher Bell. “This class of fellows will work with both the Grant Park Chorus and our pre-professional *Apprentice Chorale* on massive pieces like Vaughan Williams’ *Sea Symphony* and Roberto Sierra’s *Missa Latina*. They’ll hone their skills in front of an audience of 10,000 in Millennium Park, as well as before smaller groups in a neighborhood park setting.”

Tiana Sorenson (soprano), a native of Racine, Wisconsin, recently graduated from the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee (UWM) with a Bachelor’s of Fine Arts in Voice Performance. She has been seen in Milwaukee Opera Theatre’s *Zie Magic Flute* and *1776*, and University of Wisconsin--Parkside’s *Gloria* by Poulenc. Previous performances include UWM’s *Dido and Aeneas*, *Suor Angelica*, and *Die Zauberflöte*. In 2016, Tiana placed third in the Advanced College division of the Wisconsin National Association of Teachers of Singing Competition. Tiana has also been a featured soloist with UWM’s community orchestra and Fond du Lac Symphonic Band.

Chicago native **Elena Snow** (alto) is a recent graduate of the New England Conservatory in Boston. She received her Bachelor's degree from DePaul University and has performed as a member of the Chicago Symphony Chorus, Chicago Opera Theatre, Boston Lyric Opera Chorus, and as an Apprentice Artist for Sarasota Opera and Caramoor Opera. Elena has been the recipient of several awards in the past years, including placing in both the 2013 and 2015 Bel Canto Competitions, and in the finals of the 2016 Handel Aria Competition.

Jared Esguerra (tenor) is a former member of the Grant Park Music Festival's *Apprentice Chorus* and has been a supplemental member of the Grant Park Chorus since 2013. He earned his Bachelor's degree at DePaul University and has sung in the Lyric Opera Chorus. In January, he was the guest tenor soloist in Beethoven Symphony No. 9 with the Chicago Sinfonietta.

Dorian McCall (bass) comes to the Festival from Oklahoma where he is completing a Master's degree in Operatic Performance from the University of Oklahoma. A native of Texas, he recently took first place in the Graduate Men's Division of the Greater Houston National Association of Teachers of Singing Competition, and third place in the professional division at the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music's Vocal Competition. Dorian has performed with the NAPA Music Festival's Young Artists Program and the Cimarron Opera Theatre.

For more than 80 years, the Grant Park Music Festival has been Chicago's summer musical sensation, demonstrating that classical music, performed by a world-class orchestra and chorus can have a transformative impact on the city. Showcased in the city's most spectacular setting, the Festival continues to be the summer gathering place for all of Chicago. The Jay Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park is the official home of the Grant Park Music Festival, with free seats available for every concert. This year's season runs from June 14 to August 19, 2017.

For information about the Grant Park Music Festival and *Festival Connect*, **visit gpmf.org** or call **312.742.7647**. For additional information, visit the Grant Park Music Festival Facebook page or follow the Festival on Twitter [@gpmf](https://twitter.com/gpmf).

The Grant Park Music Festival gratefully acknowledges the generous support from its 2017 sponsors: BMO Harris Bank, Season Sponsor; Fairmont Chicago Millennium Park, Official Hotel; AbelsonTaylor, Presenting Sponsor of American Accents; and ComEd, Concert Sponsor; with additional support from the Paul M. Angell Family Foundation, Walter E. Heller Foundation and Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation. *Project Inclusion* is supported by the Colleen and Lloyd Fry and the Lloyd A. Fry Foundation.

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