



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**The Solti Foundation U.S.
Announces
Karina Canellakis,
Assistant Conductor of Dallas Symphony Orchestra,
Recipient of 2016 *The Sir Georg Solti Conducting Award***

**Prestigious Award,
Among the Largest Currently Given to Young American Conductors,
Includes Professional Mentoring,
Introductions to Two Prestigious Performing Organizations in Chicago,
and a Grant of \$25,000**

Evanston, IL – Penny Van Horn, Board Chair of **The Solti Foundation U.S.** and **Elizabeth Buccheri**, Artistic and Awards Committee Chair, are pleased to announce the Foundation's seventh \$25,000 Grant, *The Sir Georg Solti Conducting Award* to **Karina Canellakis**, currently in her second season as Assistant Conductor of the Dallas Symphony.

Equally, if not more important than the grant monies which the recipient may use in various ways to further his/her career, whether it be further studies, purchases of scores, travel, etc., are the door-opening introductions within the industry and valuable access to mentors. The Foundation's Board of Directors comprises experts from all areas of the classical music industry.

"It gives us great pleasure to bestow Karina Canellakis, who we recognized just last season with a *Solti Foundation U.S. Career Assistance Award*, with this year's Solti Conducting Award," stated Mrs. Van Horn. "It is especially exciting to witness her continuing development in both orchestral and operatic fields. The Foundation extends the legacy of Sir Georg by ensuring that talented young American conductors get the opportunity to demonstrate their musicianship, leadership and full potential to the broadest possible audience."

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Internationally praised for both her technical and lyrical command of the music, New York born Karina Canellakis has received glowing critical endorsements of her performances since first making headlines in 2014 filling in last-minute for Jaap van Zweden with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra in Shostakovich's 8th symphony. She made her European conducting debut last June with the Chamber Orchestra of Europe at the Styriarte Festival in Graz, Austria, replacing the late Nikolaus Harnoncourt, and has been re-invited to Graz this coming June to conduct his orchestra, Concentus Musicus Wien, in four symphonies of a Beethoven Cycle. Currently in her second season as Assistant Conductor of the Dallas Symphony, she conducts more than 30 concerts per season with the orchestra, including innovative programs on the Remix Series, standard repertoire on the "DSO On the Go" series, Youth and Family concerts, and various other concerts geared towards specific audiences in the community.

Highlights of the 2016/17 season feature her European debuts with the Swedish Radio Orchestra, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Orchestre National de Lyon, Trondheim, Kristiansand and Malmo symphony orchestras, as well as North American debuts including the Toronto, Vancouver, Milwaukee, Florida and Jacksonville symphony orchestras, and the Louisiana Philharmonic. She will conduct opera projects including the world premiere of David Lang's new opera *The Loser* at the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM), Peter Maxwell Davies' new opera *The Hogboon* with the Luxembourg Philharmonic, and Verdi's *Requiem* at the Zurich Opera. In addition, she has been re-invited to conduct subscription programs with the Hong Kong Philharmonic, Dallas Symphony and North Carolina Symphony.

In summer 2016, she debuts with the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic, Detroit Symphony, Mostly Mozart Festival in New York leading the International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE), Festival della Valle d'Itria in Martina Franca, Italy, and the Grand Teton Music Festival.

A graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music (Bachelor's in violin) and of The Juilliard School, (Master's in orchestral conducting), among Ms. Canellakis' previous honors are a 2015 Solti Foundation U.S. Career Assistance Award, winner of the 2013 Taki Concordia Conducting Fellowship, and serving as a conducting fellow at the Boston Symphony's Tanglewood Music Center for the 2014 summer. In addition to Rattle and Zweden, her most prominent mentors are Alan Gilbert and Fabio Luisi. (Complete biography attached.)

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Artistic and Awards Committee Chair Elizabeth Buccheri said, “We on the Solti award selection committee have followed with interest the musical path of Karina Canellakis. We have personally observed her work in both rehearsal and concert, and find her to be the kind of talent we wish to support with continuing enthusiasm.”

About The Solti Foundation U.S.

Now in its twelfth year of assisting outstanding young U.S. conductors to further develop their talent and careers, The Solti Foundation U.S. is the foremost organization in the United States dedicated exclusively to helping young conductors.

Established in 2000 to honor the memory of Sir Georg Solti by lending significant support to career-ready young American musicians, in 2004, the Foundation concentrated the focus of its award program to exclusively assist talented young American conductors early in their professional careers (its original mission was of a more general arts nature). Since then, it has awarded over \$382,500 in grants to American conductors.

In the words of **Lady Valerie Solti**, "We are committed to realizing Solti's passion for excellence in music by extending assistance to further the early careers of those with exceptional talent."

The Foundation endeavors to seek out those musicians who have chosen to follow a path similar to that followed by Sir Georg himself. In keeping with the spirit of Sir Georg's active approach to his career, young conductors must apply to be considered for the awards.

While dedicated to identifying and assisting young conductors early on, the Foundation is also concerned with the long-term development of its award recipients, continuing to offer support and maintaining a constant interest in their growth and achievements.

The Foundation currently awards the following grants annually:

The Sir Georg Solti Conducting Award. Among the largest grants currently given to American conductors in the formative years of their careers, the prestigious \$25,000 grant is given annually to a single promising American conductor 38 years of age or younger. The Award, also known as *The Solti Fellow*, includes door-opening introductions, ongoing professional mentoring, and introductions to two of Chicago's most prestigious performing organizations: Lyric Opera of Chicago and Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Past recipients include Vladimir Kulenovic, Cristian Macelaru, James Feddeck, Case Scaglione, Eric Nielsen, and Anthony Barrese.

The Solti Foundation U.S. Career Assistance Award. The amount of the Career Assistance Awards varies.

Opera Residency Program. Introduced in the 2014-15 season, the program places former award recipients with a distinguished opera house for one-on-one mentoring and coaching of an opera during the company's professional season. Conductors cannot apply, but are instead selected by the Artistic and Awards Committee.

The Foundation is currently the only American Foundation to grant these kinds of awards each year to young American conductors. Citizens or permanent residents of the United States who are career-ready artists in the field of conducting are eligible to apply.

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Applicants for all Solti Foundation U.S. awards must be able to demonstrate that he/she is developing a career as a symphonic/operatic conductor. All applications from The Sir Georg Solti Conducting Award are considered for a Solti Foundation U.S. Career Assistance Award. Applications are reviewed by an awards committee comprised of a panel of professionals with broad musical and conducting experience. The Foundation reserves the right to withhold a grant in any given year if the Awards Committee does not find suitable applicants in one or more of the various award categories.

For further details on The Solti Foundation U.S., its past awardees, their biographical information, the Foundation's newsletter, as well as guidelines for the upcoming 2017 Awards, and a downloadable application form, please visit the Foundation's website at: www.soltifoundation.us.

Details regarding the 2016 U.S. Career Assistance Awards will be announced in the future.

Click [here](#) for Dropbox link to pdf of this release.

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