

The 2017 New England Region Finalists, in alphabetical order.

Tamara Banjesevic, Soprano



Tamara Banjesevic was born in Belgrade, Serbia and graduated from the University of Music in Mannheim, Germany before continuing her studies with Prof. Edith Wiens at the ADOS program of The Juilliard School.

At only 22, she gave her opera debut as Anna Reich in "Die lustigen Weiber von Windsor" at Schloss Weikersheim and in 2012 she joined the ensemble at National Theater Mannheim, where she stayed until season 16/17 and performed roles such as Susanna Le nozze di Figaro, Giulia La Scala di Seta, Amenaide Tancredi, Ännchen Der Freischütz, Woglinde Das Rheingold, Adele Der Fledermaus, Nannetta Falstaff, Valter La Wally, Zaide Zaide, Ninetta The Love for Three Oranges.

Recently Tamara Banjesevic gave her American debut at Alice Tully Hall in New York with maestro William Christie, a concert with Wolfram Rieger in Germany and was a finalist at the International Meistersinger competition in Nurnberg, Germany.

Future engagements include the High Priestess in Aida at La Monnaie, in Brussels and a Flowermaiden at Opera Bastille in France.

In 2013 Ms Banjesevic gave her debut at the Baden-Baden Festival and the following year at the Aix en Provence Festival in France. In 2015 she returned to the Baden-Baden Festival for the production of "Der Rosenkavalier", with maestro Sir Simon Rattle, Brigitte Fassbaender and the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra. The same year she gave a highly praised performance as Susanna in The marriage of Figaro with Erwin Schrott as Figaro and a song recital at the Heidelberger Frühling Festival.

The young soprano gained her first concert experience while performing in Germany nationwide with maestro Helmuth Rilling and the SWR Orchestra Stuttgart.

While still a student, she was a frequent guest at the National Theater Mannheim where she performed as Barbarina in "Le nozze di Figaro" Sand/Dewman in "Hansel and Gretel" and Pamina in the Magic flute for children and was a winner of the first Prize at the International Singing Competition in Marmande, France and a finalist at the International Singing Competition in Toulouse, France.

Wee Kiat Chia, Countertenor



As a touring musician, countertenor Wee Kiat Chia has performed in events in Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Austria, Australia and United States.

His recent engagements and achievements including his participations in the *Song Continues* with Marilyn Horne, Dame Felicity Lott, and Margo Garrett at the Carnegie Hall, and at the *Fall Island Vocal Arts Seminar 2016*, where he was given the chance to work with mezzo-soprano Stephanie Blythe, composers Alan Smith and Tom Cipullo. In September 2016, Wee Kiat participated in the professional première of the Beth Morrison Projects' *Ouroboros Trilogy* in Boston, covering the roles of Xiao Qing (Green Snake) in all three operas.

Having studied voice with Nancy Yuen, Wee Kiat is currently pursuing his Doctor in Musical Arts (DMA) at Boston University School of Music under the tutelage of Dr. Lynn Eustis.

Andrés Moreno García



Mexican tenor Andrés Moreno García has been raved by critics as, "Exciting tenor with bright, full sound." His most recent performances include Alfredo in Verdi's La Traviata with IVAI, Tel-Aviv, Rodriguez in Massenet's Don Quichotte, Flute in Britten's

Midsummer Night's Dream both with Yale Opera and Rodolfo in Puccini's La Bohème with the Festival Musica e Musica in Mercatello sul Metauro, Italy.

After making his professional debut as Beppe in Leoncavallo's Pagliacci with Opera Connecticut, he returned the following season as Rinuccio in Puccini's Gianni Schicchi and received rave reviews. With Hartt Opera Theatre, Andrés appeared as Tamino in Mozart's The Magic Flute, Lippo in Kurt Weill's Street Scene, and Bill in Samuel Barber's Hand of Bridge. He also sang Dr. Gabriel in the world premiere of the one act opera Unleashed by Jerome Kurtenbach with Hartford Opera Theater.

Andrés has performed the tenor solos of many different concert works such as the Mozart Requiem, Handel's Messiah, Haydn's Paukenmesse and Missa in Angustiis. He's been awarded prizes in many distinguished competitions such as the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, Opera Index Vocal Competition, Giulio Gari Competition, Amici Competition and Opera San Miguel Competition.

Andrés began his studies in 2009 in Escuela Superior de Música y Danza de Monterrey in Mexico. In 2012 he received a full scholarship to continue his studies at The Hartt School of Music where he graduated summa cum laude. Andrés is currently studying his Master's degree at Yale University as a part of the Yale Opera Program.

Sandra Hamaoui, Soprano



French-American soprano Sandra Hamaoui completed her Bachelor of Music degree at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, with prior attendance at the Juilliard School's Pre-College Program. Ms. Hamaoui is the recipient of numerous awards, including a major award from the Opera Index Vocal Competition, top prize from Career Bridges, first prize in the Mary Trueman Competition (Art Song Preservation Society of New York), first prize in the West Bay Opera League Competition, an encouragement award from the Giulio Gari Foundation, and was a finalist in the Serge & Olga Koussevitzky Competition. She is the recipient of The Schuyler Foundation Grant and the Henry & Maria Holt Scholarship. Next season, Ms. Hamaoui will join Florida Grand Opera to perform Amor in Orfeo ed Euridice, appear in recital alongside Thomas Muraco at [Opera America](#), and join Central City Opera as a Bonfils-Stanton Foundation Studio Artist. In the 2016-17 season, she made her debut as the title character in Gounod's Roméo et Juliette with the Canadian Vocal Arts Institute (CVAI). Prior, Ms. Hamaoui made her debut as Adina in L'elisir d'amore with the San Francisco Conservatory of Music; she was chosen to represent the Conservatory at the Kennedy Center with her successful Adina, and later reprised the role at CVAI. Her other notable engagements include Amore and Damigella in L'incornazione di Poppea, and Papagena in Die Zauberflöte.

Rafael Helbig-Kostka, Tenor



Rafael Helbig Kostka is a German-born tenor who grew up in the far Northern California town of Redding, where he began singing classical music as a boy soprano. He in his final year of his Graduate Diploma in Vocal Performance at the New England Conservatory in Boston, where he also received his Master's degree. While at NEC he has sung the roles of the Schoolmaster in Janáček's The Cunning Little Vixen, Rinuccio in Gianni Schicchi, Pylade in Iphigenie en Tauride, Ferrando in Così fan tutte, and Tamino in Die Zauberflöte. He is a returning Gerdine Young Artist with the Opera Theater of St Louis. In previous summers he has been a Featured Artist at Opera Theater Pittsburgh's Summeriest, where he sang the role of the Italian Tenor in Strauss' opera Capriccio and Basilio in The Marriage of Figaro. He is also an alumnus of the International Vocal Arts Institute and also the Lyric Opera Studio Weimar, where he just recently sang the role of Ferrando. He earned his Bachelor's in Music from California State University Stanislaus, during which time he worked with the Modesto based opera company the Townsend Opera Players and sang such roles as Le Remendado in Bizet's Carmen, and Giuseppe in Verdi's La Traviata. He currently lives in Boston, Massachusetts.

Yujin Kim, Soprano



Soprano Yujin Kim, winner of New York Lyric Opera competition in 2015, performed "Zerlina from Don Giovanni by Mozart and "Marie" from 'La fille du régiment by Donizetti in the Merola Young Artist Program of San Francisco Opera Center's 2014 production. She played the leading role as "Poppea" in Monteverdi's L'incoronazione di Poppea in a 2014 production by New England Conservatory Opera. Ms. Kim performed Miss Jessel from 'Turn of the screw' with New Opera Singapore in 2015, and made her Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall debut in July 2011. She sang the final round's concert of Francisco Viñas competition at Gran Teatre del Liceu, Barcelona, Spain in 2015 and grand prize winner of the 2008 Young-Ok Shin Competition in S. Korea.

She received her Graduate Diploma at New England Conservatory in 2014 and a Master's Degree in Voice at Manhattan School of Music in 2012.

Pawel Konik, Baritone



Recently awarded The Special Prize for best interpretation of Russian aria at Le Grand Prix de L'Opera in Bucharest.

During studies at The Karol Szymanowski Academy of Music he started working with the Baltic Opera in Gdansk, where he made his debut in January 2013 as Shvochniev in Shostakovitsh/Meyer "The Gamblers" for which he received a Jan Kiepura's Drama Music Award in the category of BEST SINGER'S DEBUT.

Graduated from Yale University School of Music Opera Program in December 2016th where he worked with Doris Yarick-Cross and Richard Cross.

His operatic repertoire includes performances of title roles in Le nozze di Figaro by Mozart and Don Quichotte by Massenet, Bottom in Britten's A midsummer night's dream and Betto in Puccini's Gianni Schicchi at the Yale Opera, Leporello in Mozart's Don Giovanni at the Warsaw Chamber Opera and the Silesian Opera, Nikitich Pristav in Mussorgsky's Boris Godunov, Henri Perrin in Madame Curie by Elżbieta Sikora at the Baltic Opera, Zbigniew in Moniuszko's Hounded Manor.

In concerts Paweł Konik has performed Haendel's Messiah, Mozart's Coronation Mass and Great Mass in C minor with the Silesian Philharmonic, Mozart's Requiem with Orchestra AUKSO, Stravinsky's Renard with the New Music Orchestra, Strumenti della Passione by Jarek Kordaczuk with Arte die Suonatori at the festival Musica Poetica.

He is a Winner of The Third Prize at the Gerda Lissner Foundation IVC 2016 in New York, Grant Winner at the Licia Albanese-Puccini Foundation IVC 2016 and Giulio Gari Foundation IVC 2016. In November 2012 he was awarded the Second Prize at the 10-th Polish Artistic Song Competition in Warsaw. In 2011 he won the First Prize at the 13th Imrich Godin International Vocal Competition IUVENTUS CANTI in Vrable, Slovakia. In academic year 2011/2012 he received Scholarship of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage in Poland.

Paweł was honored to work and perform with Rune Bergmann, Grzegorz Biegas, Linda Brovsky, Andrzej Chyra, Christine Goerke, Ted Huffman, Michał Klauza, Alexander Liebreich, Wojciech Michniewski, Wiesław Ochman, Ewa Podleś, Claudia Solti, Ewa Strusińska, Romuald Tesarowicz, Marek Toporowski, Domenique Trottein, Marek Weiss and Janusz Wiśniewski.

He was a member of the Young Artists Programme – OPERA ACADEMY in the Teatr Wielki – Polish National Opera in Warsaw.

Paweł Konik received artistic scholarship from the Major of Cieszyn and Zygmunt Zaleski Stichting.

Daniel Noyola, Bass baritone



Bass-baritone **Daniel Noyola** is currently a fourth year resident artist at Academy of Vocal Arts (A.V.A.) in Philadelphia. The San Luis Potosí, Mexico native studied voice with baritone Arturo Nieto at the Conservatorio Nacional de Música in Mexico City. He now studies with Bill Schuman at A.V.A.

Among his competition honors, Noyola lists First prize at Artist series concerts of Sarasota 2016; Third place at Meistersinger competition 2016 in Graz, Austria; Encouragement award at the MONCA New England Regional finals 2015; Emerging artist award with Opera Index 2015; Second prize at the Mario Lanza's 2014 competition; the Revelación juvenil Award of the XXXI Carlo Morelli contest at the Palacio de Bellas Artes, Mexico City 2013; the Herman Marcus Memorial Award and Audience favorite prize at the Concurso Nacional de Canto de la Opera de San Miguel in 2014; the "Amigos del Conservatorio Nacional de Música A.C." (Pepita Serrano) scholarship in 2011. *Beneficiary of the program "Creadores escénicos 2016" by Fondo Nacional para la Cultura y las Artes (FONCA) Mexico.

Among his performance credits he includes several Mozart roles: Title role from Don Giovanni (at A.V.A.) on November 2015; Figaro from *Le nozze di Figaro* in Cortona, Italy on July 2015; Don Alfonso in *Così fan tutte* (at A.V.A.); Colás in *Bastien und Bastienne*; Papageno in *Die Zauberflöte* and Leporello also in *Don Giovanni*.

He has also been heard at Tri-Cities Opera in Binghamton, N.Y. as Mustafà from Rossini's *L'italiana in Algeri*. Other credits: Schaunard in Puccini's *La bohème*; Monsieur de Brétigny in Massenet's *Manon*. Among his concert credits he lists both the Mozart and Fauré Requiem.

Erica Petrocelli, Soprano



Praised for her "unusual but alluring timbre" (*BachTrack*) and "robust singing," Soprano Erica Petrocelli is quickly establishing herself as a notable singer of lyric repertoire.

Erica kicked off the 2016-2017 season singing *Salud* in *La vida breve* in New England Conservatory's world-famous Jordan Hall, with Mo. Douglas Kinney Frost. In February, she will perform in NEC's production of Massenet's *Cendrillon* as the title role. In April, she returns with Odyssey Opera to sing First Maiden in a Jordan Hall concert performance of Zemlinsky's *Der Zwerg*. Erica is also joining Opera Theatre of St. Louis' Gerdine Young Artist program, where she will be covering Fräulein Brüstner/Leni/ Offstage Voice in Glass' *The Trial*, as well as making her company debut in Ricky Ian Gordon's *Grapes of Wrath*.

The 2015-2016 season marked an exciting time for Erica as she made her professional debut singing the role of Onoria in *Ezio* with Odyssey Opera, under the baton of Mo. Gil Rose. She also returned to Boston Midsummer Opera to sing Caterina and cover Suzel in Mascagni's *L'amico Fritz*. In February, Erica was the recipient of the Lorraine Hunt Lieberson Encouragement Award at the Metropolitan Opera National Council Finals in the New England region. She "sent blazing shafts of tone to the [theater's] furthest reaches with great ease," (*Boston Musical Intelligencer*) in the title role of Janacek's *Cunning Little Vixen* at New England Conservatory, also under Mo. Gil Rose.

In 2014-2015, Erica sang in the chorus of Poulenc's *Dialogues of the Carmelites* with Mo. Stephen Lord, and also performed scenes from *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and *The Cunning Little Vixen*, all with New England Conservatory. She also covered Martha in Flotow's *Martha* with Boston Midsummer Opera.

A resident of Danvers, MA, Erica is currently pursuing an Artist Diploma in Opera at New England Conservatory, and is a student of tenor Bradley Williams. She also received her Master's and Bachelor's degrees at NEC in Vocal Performance. An avid lover of languages, Erica can speak Mandarin and Japanese, in addition to the standard operatic linguistic repertoire. She also enjoys spending her free time cooking vegan food and painting.

Myriam Leblanc, Soprano



Myriam Leblanc obtained a Master's degree in choir direction from the Université de Sherbrooke, and is also a graduate of McGill University. She was a First Prize winner and People's Choice Award winner at the Orchestre symphonique de Trois-Rivières Competition, and was a Jeune Ambassadrice Lyrique in 2014 (winning the Quebec-Bavaria Award). Last season, she sang the title role in *Roméo et Juliette* (Jeunesses Musicales Canada), and was a soloist in several Atelier Lyrique de l'Opéra de Montréal concerts. In November 2016, she also wins the public prize at the Center Stage of the Canadian Opera Company. Projects in 2016/17: Opéra de Montréal debut as The High Priestess in *Aida*, Micaëla in *Carmen* (Orchestre symphonique de Longueuil), Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni* (Saskatoon Opera).

Alex McKissick, Tenor



Alexander McKissick, tenor, attends the Juilliard School, where he received his Bachelor's of Music Degree and will receive his Master's Degree in May. While at Juilliard, he performed the roles of Monostatos in *Die Zauberflöte*, Le Journaliste in *Les mamelles de Tirésias*, Ein Soldat in *Der Kaiser von Atlantis*, and Brack Weaver in Kurt Weill's *Down in the Valley*. Mr. McKissick recently sang the role of Ramon in *La Navarraise* at the Bard SummerScape festival, and the 4th Jewish Holy Man in a concert version of Strauss' *Salome* with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Last summer, he attended the Georg Solti Accademia di Bel Canto in Castiglione della Pescaia, Italy, where he worked in masterclasses with Maestro Richard Bonyngé, Angela Gheorghiu, and Carmen Giannattasio. He has won awards from the Opera Index Competition and the Licia Albanese-Puccini Vocal Competition. This summer, Mr. McKissick performs the role of Val in Ricky Ian Gordon's *The Grapes of Wrath* at Opera Theatre of St. Louis and Alfredo Germont in *La traviata* at the Aspen Music Festival. Alexander is a Toulmin Scholar.

Carlton Moe, Tenor



Heralded by the New York Times as an "ardent tenor," Carlton Moe's opera credits include *Lakmé* (Gerald), *I Capuletti e I Montecchi* (Tebaldo), *The Mother of Us All* (John Adams), Ernest Bloch's *Macbeth* (Malcolm), with the Manhattan School of Music Opera Studio, *Roméo et Juliette* (Tybalt) with the Aspen Music Festival and Savannah Voice Festival, and *Albert Herring* (Albert) with the Napa Music Festival. Mr. Moe has also covered leading roles with the Martina Arroyo Foundation Prelude to Performance Program, Venture Opera, and Opera in Williamsburg.

He debuted at Carnegie Hall at the age of 25 with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra as the "Brother" in Kurt Weill's *The Seven Deadly Sins* and has performed as soloist in major works such as Verdi's Requiem, Beethoven's 9th Symphony, Mozart's Requiem, and Handel's *Messiah* with such orchestras as the Oregon Symphony, Portland Chamber Orchestra, Walla Walla Symphony, and the Charlottesville Symphony Society.

For his portrayal of Chevalier de la Force in Portland State University Opera's production of *Dialogues des Carmélites*, Mr. Moe "made a lasting impression that drew an additional helping of bravos at the end of the performance" (oregonmusicnews.com). Carlton also sang the role of Sparky in the premiere recording of Kenneth Froelich's opera *Valentine* with Heretic Opera. He completed his Bachelor of Music in voice at Portland State University and his Master of Music in classical voice at The Manhattan School of Music where he attended on a full scholarship.

Gabriella Reyes, Soprano



Nicaraguan American Soprano Gabriella Reyes de Ramírez is an Emerging Artist at the Opera Institute at Boston University. Reyes recently made her debut with the Opera Institute singing the role of Soprano in Philip Glass' innovative *Hydrogen Jukebox*. A graduate of The Boston Conservatory, Ms. Reyes has performed lead soprano roles including Countess Almaviva in *Le nozze di Figaro*, and Minskwoman in Jonathan Dove's *Flight*. Other operatic performances include Greek Woman and Priestess in Gluck's *Iphigénie en Tauride*. In the summer of 2016, Reyes debuted in Opera Hub's production of Monsthalvatge's *El Gato con Botas* as La Princesa. In addition Ms. Reyes was selected by the Houston Grand Opera to participate in the Young Artist Vocal Academy where she worked with the top professionals in the operatic field. Her upcoming performances include the title role in Tobias Picker's *Emmeline* and returns to perform the role of Countess in *Le nozze di Figaro* with the Boston Opera Institute. Recently, Ms. Reyes was selected as a winner in the Boston District in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions.

Catherine St-Arnaud



Prize-winner in the voice category of prestigious competition Prix d'Europe, soprano Catherine St-Arnaud is one of Canada's most promising young lyrical artists. She recently sang a brilliant Susanna in the Université de Montréal Opera Atelier's production of Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro*. She also sang Princess Laoula (*L'Étoile*, Chabrier) and Thérèse (*Les mamelles de Tirésias*, Poulenc) with the same ensemble, roles for which she received the George Ferguson Scholarship two years in a row. She was awarded the 2015 Abbé Charles-Émile Gadbois Prize unanimously in recognition of her outstanding interpretation of French repertoire.

Ms. St-Arnaud has performed many other roles at Université de Montréal, Université de Sherbrooke, and the Halifax Summer Opera Festival, including Cupid (*Orpheus in the Underworld*, Offenbach), Nella (*Gianni Schicchi*, Puccini), Suor Infirmiera (*Suor Angelica*, Puccini), Aloès (*L'Étoile*), and the title role in Massenet's *Cendrillon*. Last summer, she attended the Canadian Vocal Arts Institute, where she had the opportunity to work with world renowned teachers and coaches. In 2014, she also worked with eminent specialists of the French melody repertoire.

Catherine St-Arnaud completed her Master's Degree and a 3rd cycle diploma in Voice Performance at Université de Montréal. The 2016-2017 season includes soloists concerts with Clavecin en Concert, Studio de Musique Ancienne de Montréal, and some recitals in the Montreal region. She has also been selected to participate to the galas of Jeunes Ambassadeurs Lyriques, in November.

Angela Vallone, Soprano



Hailed by *The New York Times* for her "extraordinary virtuosity and elegance" and declared a "clear showstopper" by *Boston Classical Review*, American soprano Angela Vallone is currently pursuing her master's degree at the Juilliard School under the tutelage of Edith Wiens.

At Juilliard, to which she was awarded a full scholarship, Vallone has appeared as the eponymous heroine in Cavalli's *La Calisto*; as Susanna in *Le nozze di Figaro*; as Pepik in *The Cunning Little Vixen*; as a Spirit in Massenet's *Cendrillon*; and as the 1st Greek Woman in Gluck's *Iphigénie en Aulide*, co-produced by the Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artist Development Program and the Juilliard School—a performance that prompted *Opera News* to single out her "supple, bell-like soprano" as "a particular delight." In 2015, she was a concert soloist with the Nürnberger Symphoniker, as well as the soloist for Oliver Knussen's *Requiem: Songs for Sue* with Juilliard's AXIOM New Music Ensemble, conducted by Jeffrey Milarsky. She also performed the role of Servilia in *La*

clemenza di Tito at the Tchaikovsky Concert Hall in Moscow, conducted by Stefano Montanari. This season at Juilliard she will perform the role of Nerone in Handel's *Agrippina*.

In addition to her appearances on the opera stage, Ms. Vallone has performed in benefit concerts for the Leslie Simon Breast Care Center (Englewood, NJ). She also organized Songs for Sandy, a charitable event in which she performed alongside Juilliard faculty. As a Gluck Community Service Fellow at Juilliard, she has brought music to numerous hospitals and nursing homes.

Ms. Vallone has participated in master classes led by Marilyn Horne (The Song Continues at Carnegie Hall), Brigitte Fassbaender, Stephen King, Felicity Lott, Patricia Racette, Dawn Upshaw, Elly Ameling, Robert Holl, Helmut Deutsch, Roger Vignoles, Julius Drake, Ann Murray, Rudolf Jansen, and many others. She attended the Franz-Schubert-Institut in Baden bei Wien in 2013; was a Tanglewood Music Center Fellow in 2014; and attended the Internationale Meistersinger Akademie in 2015. This past summer, she participated in the Mozart Residency at the Aix-en-Provence Festival.

Ms. Vallone has received a number of scholarships, including the Lorber Memorial Scholarship; the R. Maurice Boyd Scholarship for Vocal Studies; the Anna Case Mackay Scholarship; the Samantha Rose Reverand Scholarship; the Juilliard Alumni Scholarship; the Chairman's Grant; the Viola Peters Scholarship Fund; the Salvatore Chiantia Scholarship; the Bertha Levin Scholarship; and the P.J. Hoyland Memorial Scholarship, among others.

Following the conclusion of her studies at Juilliard, Ms. Vallone will be performing the role of Susanna in *Le nozze di Figaro* in Santiago, Chile, after which she will join the ensemble of Oper Frankfurt.

Xiaomeng Zhang, Baritone



Baritone Xiaomeng Zhang is a Graduate Diploma student from Wenzhou, China, studying at Juilliard with Marlena Malas. Past performances include Minskman in *Flight*, Giove in *La Calisto*, Presto in *Les mamelles de Tirésias* with the Juilliard School Opera, soloist in Beethoven's *Symphony No.9* under Maestro Maurice Peress, soloist in *Yellow River Cantata* with New Jersey Festival Orchestra, Mozart's *Requiem* and Dvořák's *Te Deum* with New York City Master Chorale, Father in *Hänsel und Gretel*, Rodomonte in *Orlando Paladino*, Macduff in *Macbeth* by Ernest Bloch with Manhattan School of Music Opera Theatre, the title role in *Don Giovanni* in the Roma at Narnia Festival, and Schaunard in *La Bohème* at the Chautauqua Music Festival. Licinio in *Aureliano in Palmira* and Fernando in *Fidelio* with the Caramoor Summer Music Festival. Upcoming roles include Kuligin in *Katya Kabanova* and Tancredi in *Il Combattimento di Tancredi e Clorinda* at Carnegie Hall. Mr.Zhang Recently received encouragement from The Licia Albanese-Puccini Foundation International Competition and from the Metropolitan Opera National Council in Philadelphia. Mr. Zhang received his bachelor's degree at Shanghai Conservatory of Music and his master's degree from Manhattan School of Music.