

The Metropolitan Opera  
*National Council Auditions*  
NEW ENGLAND REGION

January 24, 2016

Jordan Hall  
New England Conservatory of Music

The Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions program began in Minneapolis/St. Paul in 1954. Over the years, these auditions have expanded to 13 regions of the United States and Canada. There are 42 districts within these regions, each providing an opportunity for talented singers to enter the auditions program at the local level. More than 1,500 singers audition every year. The auditions are administered by National Council members and volunteers in each region.

**MISSION STATEMENT:**

**The purpose of the National Council Auditions Program is:**

**To discover exceptional young talent and provide a venue for young opera singers across North America at all levels of development, to be heard by representatives of the Metropolitan Opera and to assist those with the greatest potential for operatic careers.**

Our thanks and appreciation to the **New England regional patrons**, whose generous support these past 58 years has made it possible to expand the program and awards, and to the staff of **Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory**, for their patient cooperation and good humor.

## **Metropolitan Opera National Council**

Mitchell L. Lathrop, President  
Camille LaBarre, National Auditions Chairman  
Gayletha Nichols, Executive Director  
Melissa Wegner, Associate Director  
Pauline Ho Bynum, New England Chairman  
John and Barbara VanScoyoc, New England Region Co-Directors  
Robin Valovich, Connecticut District Director

## **New England Regional Committee**

Cynthia Brown	Marcia and Peter Miller
Katie Drago	Virginia L. Murray
Susan and Robert Eastman	Roberta Neuman
Ralph Gioncardi	Jennifer Patterson
Ellen S. Golde	Elisabeth Phinney
Joseph and Margaret Heery	Monique Phinney
Margot Holtzman	Amy Spalletta
Liz Huttner-Loan	Kalina and Tom Vendetti
Jonathan and Deborah A. Kay	Sarah Vendetti
Ernest V. Klein	Leslie Warshaw
Betsy Miller	Elena Zaretsky

## **Regional Finals Judges**

**Willie Waters**, Conductor  
**James Robinson**, Artistic Director, Opera Theatre of St. Louis  
**Gayletha Nichols**, Executive Director, Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions

## **Boston District Judges**

**Jay Lesenger**, Opera Director, former General/Artistic Director of Chautauqua Opera  
**Susan Ashbaker**, General Director, Tri-Cities Opera  
**Richard Bernstein**, Bass, Metropolitan Opera Company

## **Connecticut District Judges**

**Deborah Birnbaum**, Vocal Clinician, Bel Canto Breath Technique teacher  
**Roger Malouf**, Music Director and Conductor, West Side Opera  
**Gayletha Nichols**, Executive Director, Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions

## Regional Finals Judges

**Willie Waters** is a regular guest of opera companies in North America, Europe and Africa, including notable appearances with the Australian Opera (*Aida*, *La Fanciulla del West*), Boston Lyric Opera (*Abduction from the Seraglio* and a gala concert), Deutsche Oper Berlin and Capetown, South Africa (*Porgy and Bess*), Chautauqua Opera (*The Daughter of the Regiment*), Cincinnati Opera (*Carmen*), Cologne (Germany) Opera, Dayton Opera (*Carmen*), Edmonton Opera (*Nabucco*), Fort Worth Opera (*Turandot*), and many others. Mr. Waters served as General and Artistic Director of the Connecticut Opera for twelve years and as Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the Florida Grand Opera for seven years.

**James Robinson** is the Artistic Director of the Opera Theatre of St. Louis, where he has directed world premieres of Peter Ash's *The Golden Ticket*, Terence Blanchard's *Champion*, and Ricky Ian Gordon's *Twenty-Seven* and the American premiere of Unsuk Chin's *Alice in Wonderland*, along with John Corigliano's *The Ghosts of Versailles*, John Adams' *The Death of Klinghoffer*, *Nixon in China*, and Tobias Picker's *Emmeline*. Other recent projects have included the world premiere of Picker's *Dolores Claiborne* for San Francisco Opera and the American premiere of Huang Ruo's *Dr. Sun Yat Sen* for Santa Fe Opera. On his current calendar: *L'elisir d'amore* for Lyric Opera of Kansas City, the world premiere of *Jack Perla* and Rajiv Joseph's *Shalimar the Clown* in St. Louis, and *Vanessa* in Santa Fe.

**Gayletha Nichols** joined the artistic staff of the Metropolitan Opera in the fall of 2000 as Executive Director of the National Council Auditions. She brought to the Met two decades of experience as a singer, teacher and career advisor. From 1992-2000, she was Director of Houston Opera Studio, the young artist development program at Houston Grand Opera, where she created and individualized the training both for singers and pianists. During the 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 seasons, she was director of both the Lindemann Young Artist Development Program and MONC. Ms. Nichols auditions hundreds of singers across North America every year. She is a frequent adjudicator in national and international competitions and consults for other young artist programs across the country.

## Accompanist

**Michael Baitzer**, pianist, is currently on the Music Staff at Washington National Opera, and is Principal Coach/Diction Coach for Central City Opera. A graduate of Drake University with degrees in both Piano and Vocal Performance, Michael continued studies with John Moriarty and Margo Garrett at New England Conservatory. He has been a member of the Houston Grand Opera studio, an apprentice with Minnesota Opera, and a participant in the Aspen Opera Theater Center and the Merola Opera Program at San Francisco Opera. He has also served on the Music Staffs for Wolf Trap Opera, Spoleto Festival USA, and the Aspen Music Festival. An avid recitalist, Michael has been heard with singers throughout the country under the auspices of The Marilyn Horne Foundation and Young Concert Artists.

## Awards

FIRST PLACE .....	\$6,000
Patrons of New England \$5,200	
Mrs. Edgar Tobin Award of \$800, from the Tobin Endowment	
SECOND PLACE .....	\$5,000
Sponsored by the patrons of New England	
THIRD PLACE .....	\$4,000
Sponsored by the patrons of New England	
ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD.....	\$2,000
An annual encouragement award has been established this year by Irene A. Nichols in memory of her brother, Philip R. Nichols, a lifelong opera lover.	
ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD.....	\$2,000
To commemorate the 10 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of her death, an encouragement award is given this year in memory of Lorraine Hunt Lieberon (1954-2006), New England Regional Winner in 1985.	

Thanks to a contribution in memory of Henry Wyman by his family and to the generosity of all our patrons, all nonplacing finalists will receive stipends of \$1,000. Additionally, Boston and Connecticut District level winners who advance to the New England Finals will receive stipends of \$500.

Winners of the district auditions advance to their region's finals, where they compete to win a trip to New York to participate in the National Semi-Finals on the stage of the Metropolitan Opera. Approximately ten Semi-Finalists are selected as National Finalists and compete the following Sunday in the Grand Finals Concert, accompanied by the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. The jury awards approximately five Grand Winners \$15,000 each. The concert is broadcast on the Metropolitan Opera Radio Network. The remaining National Finalists receive \$5,000 each, and singers who were National Semi-Finalists but did not advance to the National Finals will be given \$1,500 to further their studies.

Many of the world's foremost singers, among them Renée Fleming, Susan Graham, Thomas Hampson, Ben Heppner, Jessye Norman, Samuel Ramey, and Deborah Voigt have received awards from the National Council. Annually, approximately 100 former auditioners appear in Metropolitan Opera productions.

## 2016 New England Regional Finalists

### 1. **ANDY BERRY**, Bass, age 24

Yale School of Music

Yale University

Hometown: Cabin John, MD

- "Arise, ye subterranean winds," *The Tempest*, Purcell
- "Wie schön ist doch die Musik," *Die schweigsame Frau*, Strauss
- "Si la rigueur et la vengeance," *La Juive*, Halévy
- "I'm a lonely man, Susannah," *Susannah*, Floyd
- "O Isis und Osiris," *Die Zauberflöte*, Mozart

### 2. **ERICA PETROCELLI**, Soprano, age 23

New England Conservatory

Hometown: Providence, RI

- "E Susanna non vien... Dove sono," *Le nozze di Figaro*, Mozart
- "I want magic!" *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Previn
- "Ah, je ris de me voir," *Faust*, Gounod
- "Depuis le jour," *Louise*, Charpentier
- "Donde lieta uscì," *La Bohème*, Puccini

### 3. **BENJAMIN DICKERSON**, Baritone, age 23

Manhattan School of Music

Hometown: Milton, VT

- "Hai già vinta la causa," *Le nozze di Figaro*, Mozart
- "Pierrot's Tanzlied," *Die Tote Stadt*, Korngold
- "Sibilar gli angui d'Aletto," *Rinaldo*, Handel
- "O vin, dissipe la tristesse," *Hamlet*, Thomas
- Valmont's aria, *Dangerous Liaisons*, Susa

### 4. **EVANNA CHIEW**, Mezzo-Soprano, age 24

Yale University

University of British Columbia

Hometown: Vancouver, BC

- "Que fais-tu, blanche tourterelle?," *Roméo et Juliette*, Gounod
- "Parto, parto," *La Clemenza di Tito*, Mozart
- "Nacqui all'affanno – Non più mesta," *La Cenerentola*, Rossini
- "Vois sous l'archet" (Violin aria), *Les contes d'Hoffmann*, Offenbach
- "Things change, Jo," *Little Women*, Adamo

**5. JOHN DAVID NEVERGALL, Tenor, age 29**

The Ohio State University

Valparaiso University

Hometown: Columbus, Ohio

- "Pourquoi me réveiller," *Werther*, Massenet
- "Addio, fiorito asil," *Madama Butterfly*, Puccini
- "Kuda, kuda, vi udalilis," *Eugene Onegin*, Tchaikovsky
- "Ah, la paterna mano," *Macbeth*, Verdi
- "La donna è mobile," *Rigoletto*, Verdi

**6. CHUAN JIN, Baritone, age 28**

Mannes College

Central Conservatory of Music

Hometown: Shan Dong, China

- "Kennst du das Land," *Little Women*, Adamo
- "Lieben, Hassan, Hoffen, Zagen," *Ariadne auf Naxos*, Strauss
- "Largo al factotum," *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, Rossini
- "Avant de quitter ces lieux," *Faust*, Gounod
- "Se vuol ballare," *Le nozze di Figaro*, Mozart

**7. ANTONIA TAMER, Soprano, age 27**

San Francisco Conservatory of Music

Miami University

Hometown: Boston, MA

- The Jewel Song, *Faust*, Gounod
- Embroidery aria, *Peter Grimes*, Britten
- "Tu che di gel sei cinta," *Turandot*, Puccini
- Czàrdàs, *Die Fledermaus*, Strauss
- "Il est doux, il est bon," *Hérodiade*, Massenet

**8. JAKUB JÓZEF ORLIŃSKI, Countertenor, age 25**

The Juilliard School

The Fryderyk Chopin University of Music in Warsaw

Hometown: Warsaw, Poland

- "A dispetto d'un volto ingrato," *Tamerlano*, Handel
- "Agitato da fiere tempeste," *Riccardo Primo*, Handel
- "Stille amare, gia vi sento," *Tolomeo*, Handel
- "Ah, si da te dipende," *Antigona*, Traetta
- "I know a bank where the wild thyme blows," *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Britten

**\*INTERMISSION\***

**9. DAVID TINERVIA, Baritone, age 27**

McGill University

Hometown: Longmeadow, MA

- "Look! Through the port..." *Billy Budd*, Britten
- "Vision fugitive," *Hérodiade*, Massenet
- "Hai già vinta la causa," *Le nozze di Figaro*, Mozart
- "O du mein holder Abendstern," *Tannhäuser*, Wagner
- "Bella siccome un angelo," *Don Pasquale*, Donizetti

**10. JESSICA JOHNSON BROCK, Mezzo-Soprano, age 26**

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

University of Alabama at Birmingham

Hometown: Florence, AL

- "Sgombra è la sacra selva..." *Norma*, Bellini
- "Va, laisse couler mes larmes," *Werther*, Massenet
- "Il padre adorato," *Idomeneo*, Mozart
- "Sein wir wieder gut," *Ariadne auf Naxos*, Strauss
- Samira's aria, *The Ghosts of Versailles*, Corigliano

**11. ERIK VAN HEYNINGEN, Bass-Baritone, age 22**

Boston University

Hometown: Poway, California

- "Se vuol ballare," *Le nozze di Figaro*, Mozart
- "Comment peut-on penser du bien," *Don Quichotte*, Massenet
- Aleko's cavatina, *Aleko*, Rachmaninoff
- "Sorgete... Duce di tanti eroi," *Maometto II*, Rossini
- "Al lampo dell'armi," *Giulio Cesare*, Handel

**12. GYUYEON SHIM, Soprano, age 27**

New England Conservatory

Manhattan School of Music

Hometown: Seoul, South Korea

- "Ah! Douce enfant..." *Cendrillon*, Massenet
- "Da tempeste il legno infranto," *Giulio Cesare*, Handel
- "Quel guardo, il cavaliere..." *Don Pasquale*, Donizetti
- "Glitter and be gay," *Candide*, Bernstein
- "Großmächtige Prinzessin..." *Ariadne auf Naxos*, Strauss



**13. SIMON DYER, Bass, age 25**

The Boston Conservatory

Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance

Hometown: London, England

- "La vendetta," *Le nozze di Figaro*, Mozart
- "O Isis und Osiris," *Die Zauberflöte*, Mozart
- "Arise, ye subterranean winds," *The Tempest*, Purcell
- Bottom's Dream, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Britten
- "Il lacerato spirito," *Simon Boccanegra*, Verdi

**14. JACQUELYN STUCKER, Soprano, age 26**

New England Conservatory

Bard College Conservatory

Hometown: Irmo, South Carolina

- "Ach, ich fühl's," *Die Zauberflöte*, Mozart
- "Non, monsieur mon mari," *Les Mamelles de Tirésias*, Poulenc
- "No word from Tom... I go to him," *The Rake's Progress*, Stravinsky
- "Je veux vivre," *Roméo et Juliette*, Gounod
- "E Susanna non vien... Dove sono," *Le nozze di Figaro*, Mozart

**15. ZHIGUANG HONG, Baritone, age 27**

Yale School of Music

Mannes College New School of Music

Hometown: Beijing, China

- "Hai già vinta la causa," *Le nozze di Figaro*, Mozart
- "È sogno o realtà," *Falstaff*, Verdi
- Aleko's cavatina, *Aleko*, Rachmaninoff
- "Ah per sempre," *Il Puritani*, Bellini
- Toreador Song, *Carmen*, Bizet

This year's **Grand Finals Concert** will take place March 13, 2016 at 3:00 p.m.  
Tickets are available through the Met at (212) 362-6000 or [www.metopera.org](http://www.metopera.org).

Hammond Residential Real Estate, as part of its Performing Arts Series, will sponsor a concert featuring singers selected from those performing this afternoon. The pianist-host will be John Moriarty. This free concert will take place during the fall of 2016. Further details TBA.

For reservations, please e-mail [performingartsseries@hammondre.com](mailto:performingartsseries@hammondre.com).

## **BENEFACTORS**

Susan A. Babson Opera Fund for  
Emerging Artists  
Erin and Ken Baumgartner  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard W. Benka  
Linda C. Black  
Pauline Ho Bynum  
Saul B. and Naomi R. Cohen  
Robert and Susan Eastman  
Christopher and Tatiana S.  
Eklund  
Roger and Ellen Golde  
Hammond Residential  
Real Estate  
Cerise Lim Jacobs, for Charles  
John Y. C. Jao  
Jonathan and Deborah Kay  
Ernest V. Klein  
Pamela S. Kunkemueller  
Irene A. Nichols  
Joanne Zervas Sattley  
Herbert and Elizabeth Wells  
Peter Wender  
In Memory of  
Mr. Henry Wyman  
The Yudowitz Family

## **SPONSORS**

Ted Allen  
F.M. Cushman and S.A. Wallis  
Davis Square Architects, Inc.  
JoAnne Walton Dickinson  
Stanley G. Elfbaum  
Muriel and Moe Finegold  
Anne Forsyth  
Robert and Helen Guttentag  
Joseph and Margaret L. Heery  
Marcia and Peter Miller  
Steven Kanes and Nancy Moore  
Leslie and William Patton  
John Schemmer  
Robert V. Sillars  
and Mildred G. Worthington  
Frans and Mita T. van Berkhout  
John and Barbara Van Scoyoc  
Michael and Janet Winocour  
Deborah M. and James L.  
Woodward  
Janet and Ron Zwanziger

## **DONORS**

Rosemary & John Ashby  
Paul and Catherine Beatty  
Cynthia A. Brown  
Dr. and Mrs. H. Franklin Bunn  
Victoria Cowling Chu  
Brian and Barbara Clifton  
Robert Cory and Joseph Sousa  
Bernard and Carolyn Dimambro  
Sheila Emerson  
Donald Forté  
Linda J. Heffner  
Elsa and Tony Hill  
Tom and Amy Kwei  
Michael MacDonald  
Jane R. Martin  
Donald and Roberta Neuman  
Daniel and Barbara Palant  
Monique Phinney  
William and Helen Pounds  
Diane and Alan Proctor  
Mitchell and Adrienne Rabkin  
Charles E. Raymond  
Edward Richardson  
Jim and Sandy Righter  
Lucy and Richard Robb  
Stefan and Ginny Schatzki  
Bob and Patricia Schram  
Frederick and Ruth Stavis  
Andrew Szentgyorgyi  
Evelyn Tate  
Jack Turner and Tee Taggart  
Betsy van Dorn  
Kalina and Tom Vendetti  
Stephen and Kathleen Young

## **SUPPORTERS**

Brenda Altschul  
Doris Toby Axelrod and  
Larry Marks  
Ann Beha and Rob Radloff  
Donald and Beverly Burgess  
Carol and Frank Caro  
Gene D. Dahmen  
Sharon Daniels and Dan  
Sullivan  
Lisa Heisterkamp Davis  
Mary H. Degarma  
Tom Gallitano and Margaret  
Talmers  
Norma R. Levine Goldberg

Gretchen and John Graef  
Chris Hall  
Mary Hamilton  
Dr. Ulle V. Holt  
Margot and Ira Holtzman  
Illumination Opera  
Judith and Stephen Kaplan  
Mrs. Lucy Kelly  
Milling Kinard  
JoHanna Kurth  
Jon and Amy Leibowitz  
Fred and Jean Leventhal  
Susan Liberman and David  
Rogovin  
Pauline MacDonald  
Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Marroni  
Susan E. Maycock  
Sylvia and Ralph Memolo  
Betsy Miller  
Kathleen Mislan  
Drew Mittelman and  
Maureen Adduci  
Virginia L. Murray  
Nancy Nicosia and  
William P. Docken  
Janice and Bob Peterson  
Elisabeth A. Phinney  
Stuart Rubinow and  
Lucy Roosevelt  
Marieeve Rugo  
David and Janna Smith  
Robert Tasillo  
Mr. and Mrs. Roger M. Thomas  
David A. Treffs  
Rosamond Vaule  
Susan Waisbren  
Leslie Warshaw  
Elena Zaretsky  
Gerald Zuriff and  
Elizabeth van Ranst

**FRIENDS**

Paul F. Abraham  
Ellen L. Bassuk  
Laura Bensley  
Sarah B. Blume  
Richard T. Born  
Boston Conservatory Voice  
Department  
Christine Brant  
M. Louise Briggs  
Richard Owen Britton  
Dr. and Mrs. Rami and  
Joni Burstein  
Ingrid Christiansen  
Jennifer Coplon and  
Robert Frank  
Robert L. Cunningham  
Adele Cukor and  
Charlotte Wolfe  
Douglas and Carole Davidson  
Arthur Deloca  
Catharine-Mary Donovan  
M. Carole Drago  
Katherine Drago  
Carol Houlihan Flynn  
Steven and Donna Friedman  
Ralph Gioncardi

Anne Glickman  
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph E. Green  
Carol Griffin  
Anne and Allan Hartman  
Arlene Hecht  
Reingard Heller  
Julia Herskowitz  
Sidney J. Hurwitz  
Ileana Z. Jones  
Richard Kagan  
Miltiades A. Karamechedis  
Jack Keefe  
David Kerman and  
Jura Strimaitis  
Bill and Carol Kirtz  
George Klauber  
Fred and Evelynne Kramer  
Terry Lee  
Ken Lynch and Emily Talcott  
Nancy S. Lynn  
Luis R. Luis  
Kilmer and Annina McCully  
Arnold P. Messing  
Lindsay Miller and Peter Ambler  
Arthur Milliken  
Donna and Alec Morgan  
Peggy Ann R. Morrison  
Jennifer and Michael Patterson

Keiko Nakagawa and Sam Pilato  
Richard and Mildred Perkins  
Alix Pollack  
Robin A. Repucci  
Neva M. Reiner  
Doris Rosen  
Rhoda E. Schneider  
Reda Sesnovich  
Robert Sherwood and  
Kathleen Emrich  
Jane O. Siegel  
Hanna Sittler  
Corinne and Robert Sze  
Daniel and Janet Tassel  
Linnea D. Taylor  
Dan and Michlyne Thal  
Sarah Y. Vendetti  
Robert C. Volante  
Zhanna Volynskaya and  
Harvey Levy  
Lee Warren  
Linda and Harvey Weiner  
Richard and Susan Winickoff  
Barbara A. Winston  
Katherine and Howard Yezerski  
Cynthia M. Zawalich  
  
List as of January 15, 2016

To support the auditions, please contact Joseph and Margaret Heery,  
patron co-chairs, at 339.987.0073 or [bake1981@aol.com](mailto:bake1981@aol.com).

**Friends** (\$50-\$99 plus ticket order) are acknowledged in the program.

**Supporters** (\$100-\$149 plus ticket order) are acknowledged in the program.

**Donors** (\$150-\$249 plus ticket order) receive preferred seating.

**Sponsors** (\$250 - \$499 plus ticket order) receive the above and  
may attend the Boston District auditions.

**Benefactors** (\$500 plus ticket order) receive the above and are invited to attend  
the Boston District audition luncheons.

**Where some of our winners are singing in 2016:**

Countertenor **Christopher Lowrey** (2014) sings Oberon at Yale and in Valencia, and Handel's Joachim (*Susannah*) at the Göttingen Festival and Didymus (*Theodora*) at Pinchgut Opera.

Upcoming roles for soprano **Michelle Johnson** (2011) include *Aida* in Sarasota and Leonora in *Il trovatore* with Hawaii Opera Theatre.

Baritone **David Pershall** (2011), who recently made his Met debut as Rossini's Figaro, returns as Schaunard and as Lord Cecil in *Maria Stuarda*. Then it's Albert in *Werther* at the Royal Opera House of Muscat and Lescaut in *Manon Lescaut* at the Wiener Staatsoper.

After recent debuts as Gilda at the Met and La Scala, soprano **Nadine Sierra** (2009) is Amor in *Orfeo* with Staatsoper Berlin, Amina in *La sonnambula* in Verona, Micaëla in San Francisco, and Tytania in Valencia.

Tenor **Michael Fabiano** (2007), who began the year as Lensky at London's Royal Opera, is the Duke of Mantua in Zurich and the Opéra National de Paris, Don Carlos in San Francisco, and Jacopo Foscari in Madrid.

Soprano **Wendy Bryn Harmer** (2004) makes role debuts as Ariadne with Palm Beach Opera and Senta with Seattle Opera.

Bass-baritone **Christian Van Horn** (2003) is Colline at the Met, Frère Laurent in *Roméo et Juliette* in Chicago, Escamillo in Toronto, and Il Prefetto in *Linda di Chamounix* in Rome.

Bass **Morris Robinson** (2001) returns to Dallas Opera as Joe in *Show Boat*. Next fall he debuts at La Scala as Porgy.

Mezzo-soprano **Sandra Piques Eddy** (2000) returns to Boston Lyric Opera in her role debut as Charlotte in *Werther*, and to Atlanta as Stéphanie in *Roméo et Juliette*.

**On the Met roster this season:** David Pershall (2011), Nadine Sierra (2009), Edward Parks (2008), Zach Borichevsky (2008), Alex Richardson (2005), Christian Van Horn (2003), David Crawford (2002), Morris Robinson (2001), Sandra Piques Eddy (2000), Harold Meers (2000), Lester Lynch (1994), Mary Ann McCormick (1990).

**For more information on today's singers as well as information on all our winners from past years, please visit our website [www.neaudition.org](http://www.neaudition.org).**