

The Metropolitan Opera
National Council Auditions
NEW ENGLAND REGION

January 29, 2017

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 12 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 59 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

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New England Regional Committee

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Regional Finals Judges

Michael Heaston, Executive Director, Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann
Young Artist Development Program
Evans Mirageas, Artistic Director of Cincinnati Opera
Laurie Rogers, Director of Young Artist Programs, Head of Music Staff at Opera Saratoga

Boston District Judges

Cori Ellison, Dramaturg, Glyndebourne Festival Opera
Roger Pines, Dramaturg, Lyric Opera of Chicago
Darren Woods, General Director, Fort Worth Opera

Connecticut District Judges

Ken Benson, Lecturer, vocal consultant, Columbia Artist Management
Emily Pulley, Soprano
Ted Taylor, conductor, pianist, teacher
(Mannes College of Music & Yale University Institute of Sacred Music)

Regional Finals Judges

Michael Heaston is currently the Executive Director for the Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artist Development Program. Former Director of the prestigious Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program and American Opera Initiative, as well as former Advisor to the Artistic Director at Washington National Opera at the Kennedy Center, Heaston was also the Associate Artistic Director of The Glimmerglass Festival for eleven years, where he oversaw the Young Artists Program. Heaston spent six seasons at the Dallas Opera, where he was Head of Music Staff and Assistant Conductor for over 25 productions, some of which included: *Salome*, *Porgy & Bess*, *Tristan und Isolde*, *Così fan tutte*, *The Lighthouse*, *Anna Bolena*, *Madama Butterfly*, and the critically-acclaimed world premiere of *Moby-Dick*.

Evans Mirageas is in his eleventh season as the Harry T. Wilks Artistic Director of Cincinnati Opera. Widely considered one of the most talented and respected artistic leaders in the classical music industry today, Mirageas brings to Cincinnati Opera a broad range of experience in both opera and symphonic music, as well as a long history of successful partnerships with many of the world's leading singers and conductors. Mirageas' varied career in classical music has included radio production with the nationally renowned WFMT radio station in Chicago, Artistic Administrator to Seiji Ozawa at the Boston Symphony, and Senior Vice President of Artists and Repertoire for the Decca Record Company. He is also Vice President for Artistic Planning and Operations for The Atlanta Symphony.

Laurie Rogers has over 25 years of experience in the opera business both artistically and administratively with a growing career as a conductor, most recently conducting *Dialogues of the Carmelites* for Texas State University, and a double bill of *Les Mamelles de Tirésias* and *Suor Angelica* for Land of Enchantment Opera in New Mexico. Rogers has served on the music staff of many US regional companies as assistant/cover conductor, rehearsal pianist and coach, backstage conductor, chorus master, and harpsichord continuo accompaniment. In 2011 she was named Director of Young Artists for Opera Saratoga and made her mainstage conducting debut with the company in 2012. Rogers has taught in Italian summer programs and summer production tours and offers Master classes for singers and coach-accompanists.

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, Baitzer 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, Baitzer 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	
PHILIP R. NICHOLS ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD.....	\$2,000

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

A Legacy Fund has been established to help fund ticket costs for student tickets as well as to designate a one time or annual Encouragement award for someone special. This year we wish to thank Muriel and Moe Finegold, Ernie Klein, Irene Nichols and Joanne Sattley for their support of the student ticket fund.

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.

2017 New England Regional Finalists

1. ERICA PETROCELLI, Soprano, age 24

New England Conservatory

Hometown: East Greenwich, RI

- "Ain't it a pretty night?" *Susannah*, Floyd
- "Donde lieta uscì," *La Bohème*, Puccini
- "Je dis que rien ne m'épouvante," *Carmen*, Bizet
- "Come scoglio," *Così fan tutte*, Mozart
- "Vivan los que rien," *La Vida Breve*, de Falla

2. ALEXANDER MCKISSICK, Tenor, age 24

The Juilliard School

Hometown: Madison, CT

- "Torna ai felici dì," *Le Villi*, Puccini
- "Ah! lève-toi, soleil!" *Roméo et Juliette*, Gounod
- "Tombe degl'avi miei," *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Donizetti
- "Here I stand," *The Rake's Progress*, Stravinsky
- "Kuda, kuda, vi udalilis," *Eugene Onegin*, Tchaikovsky

3. TAMARA BANJESEVIC, Soprano, age 29

Mannheim University of Music and Performing Arts

Hometown: Belgrade, Serbia

website: tamarabanjesevic.com

- "Regnava nel silenzio," *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Donizetti
- "Ah! non credea mirarti...," *La Sonnambula*, Bellini
- "Je suis encore tout étourdie," *Manon*, Massenet
- "Tiger! Wetze nur die Klauen," *Zaide*, Mozart
- Marfa's aria, *The Tsar's Bride*, Rimsky-Korsakov

4. DANIEL NOYOLA, Bass-Baritone, age 24

Academy of Vocal Arts

Conservatorio Nacional de Música de México

Hometown: San Luis Potosi, México

- "Quand la flamme de l'amour," *La Jolie Fille de Perth*, Bizet
- "Non più andrai," *Le nozze di Figaro*, Mozart
- Vi ravviso, o luoghi ameni...," *La Sonnambula*, Bellini
- "La calunnia è un venticello," *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, Rossini
- "Come dal ciel precipita," *Macbeth*, Verdi

5. YUJIN KIM, Soprano, age 29

New England Conservatory

Manhattan School of Music

Hometown: Deajeon, South Korea

- "S'altro che lacrime," *La Clemenza di Tito*, Mozart
- "O, luce di quest'anima," *Linda di Chamounix*, Donizetti
- "Je veux vivre," *Roméo et Juliette*, Gounod
- Presentation of the Rose, *Der Rosenkavalier*, Strauss
- "Eccomi in lieta vesta...Oh quante volte ti chiedo," *I Capuleti e i Montecchi*, Bellini

6. PAWEL KONIK, Baritone, age 29

Yale School of Music

The Karol Szymanowski Academy of Music

Hometown: Cieszyn, Poland

website: pawelkonik.com

- "Riez, allez, riez," *Don Quichotte*, Massenet
- "Hai già vinta la causa," *Le nozze di Figaro*, Mozart
- Aleko's cavatina, *Aleko*, Rachmaninoff
- "O du mein holder Abendstern," *Tannhäuser*, Wagner
- Bottom's Dream, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Britten

7. CATHERINE ST-ARNAUD, Soprano, age 27

Université de Montréal

Hometown: Rawdon, Québec (Canada)

website: catherinestarnaud.com

- "Je marche...Obéissons quand leur voix appelle," *Manon*, Massenet
- "Tornami a vagheggiar," *Alcina*, Handel
- "Deh vieni, non tardar," *Le nozze di Figaro*, Mozart
- "Steal me, sweet thief," *The Old Maid and the Thief*, Menotti
- "Eccomi in lieta vesta...Oh quante volte ti chiedo," *I Capuleti e i Montecchi*, Bellini

8. RAFAEL HELBIG-KOSTKA, Tenor, age 26

New England Conservatory of Music

Hometown: Redding, CA

website: rafaelhelbigkostka.com

- "New York Lights," *A View from the Bridge*, Bolcom
- "Se all'impero," *La Clemenza di Tito*, Mozart
- "Dies Bildnis ist bezaubernd schön," *Die Zauberflöte*, Mozart
- "Divinité des grandes âmes," *Iphigénie en Tauride*, Gluck
- "Una furtiva lagrima," *L'elisir d'amore*, Donizetti

INTERMISSION

9. ANGELA VALLONE, Soprano, age 24

The Juilliard School

Hometown: Haworth, NJ

website: angelavallone.com

- “Deh vieni, non tardar,” *Le nozze di Figaro*, Mozart
- “L’année en vain chasse l’année!” *L’Enfant Prodigue*, Debussy
- “O mio babbino caro,” *Gianni Schicchi*, Puccini
- Emily’s Goodbye aria, *Our Town*, Rorem
- “Prendi, per me sei libero,” *L’elisir d’amore*, Donizetti

10. ANDRÉS MORENO GARCIA, Tenor, age 23

Yale School of Music

The Hartt School of Music

Hometown: Monterrey, Nuevo León, México

- “Kuda, kuda, vi udalilis,” *Eugene Onegin*, Tchaikovsky
- “Salut! demeure chaste et pure,” *Faust*, Gounod
- “È la solita storia del pastore,” *L’arlesiana*, Cilea
- “De’ miei bollenti spiriti,” *La Traviata*, Verdi
- “Dies Bildnis ist bezaubernd schön,” *Die Zauberflöte*, Mozart

11. SANDRA HAMAOU, Soprano, age 24

San Francisco Conservatory of Music

Hometown: New York, NY

website: sandrahamaoui.com

- “Eccomi in lieta vesta...Oh quante volte ti chiedo,” *I Capuleti e i Montecchi*, Bellini
- “Je marche...Obéissons quand leur voix appelle,” *Manon*, Massenet
- “Caro nome,” *Rigoletto*, Verdi
- “Ach, ich fühl’s,” *Die Zauberflöte*, Mozart
- Emily’s Goodbye aria, *Our Town*, Rorem

12. WEE KIAT CHIA, Countertenor, age 29

Boston University School of Music

Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts

Hometown: Johor Bahru, Johor, Malaysia

website: weekiatchia.com

- “Aure, deh, per pietà spirate,” *Giulio Cesare*, Handel
- “Vivi, tiranno,” *Rodelinda*, Handel
- “Chacun à son goût,” *Die Fledermaus*, Strauss
- “I know a bank where the wild thyme blows,” *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, Britten
- “Dawn, still darkness,” *Flight*, Dove

13. GABRIELLA REYES, Soprano, age 24

Boston University Opera Institute

Boston Conservatory

Hometown: Meriden, CT

- “Il est doux, il est bon,” *Hérodiade*, Massenet
- “Tanto amore segreto...Tu, che di gel sei cinta,” *Turandot*, Puccini
- Song to the Moon, *Rusalka*, Dvořák
- Florencia’s Act II aria, *Florencia en el Amazonas*, Catán
- “Dove Sono,” *Le nozze di Figaro*, Mozart

14. CARLTON MOE, Tenor, age 28

Manhattan School of Music

Portland State University

Hometown: Portland, OR

website: carlmoetenor.com

- “De’ miei bollenti spiriti,” *La Traviata*, Verdi
- “Che gelida manina,” *La Bohème*, Puccini
- “Ah! lève-toi, soleil!” *Roméo et Juliette*, Gounod
- “Dein ist mein ganzes Herz,” *Das Land des Lächelns*, Lehár
- “Questa o quella,” *Rigoletto*, Verdi

15. MYRIAM LEBLANC, Soprano, age 28

Université de Sherbrooke

McGill University

Hometown: Montréal, Québec (Canada)

website: myriamleblanc.net

- “Regnava nel silenzio,” *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Donizetti
- “Je veux vivre,” *Roméo et Juliette*, Gounod
- “Ach, ich fühl’s,” *Die Zauberflöte*, Mozart
- “Je marche...Obéissons quand leur voix appelle,” *Manon*, Massenet
- “Caro nome,” *Rigoletto*, Verdi

16. XIAOMENG ZHANG, Baritone, age 26

The Juilliard School

The Manhattan School of Music

Hometown: Wenzhou, Zhejiang (China)

- “Bella siccome un angelo,” *Don Pasquale*, Donizetti
- “Ah! per sempre,” *I Puritani*, Bellini
- “Mab, la reine des mensonges,” *Roméo et Juliette*, Gounod
- “O du mein holder Abendstern,” *Tannhäuser*, Wagner
- The Minskman’s aria, *Flight*, Dove

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List as of January 23, 2017

To support the auditions, please contact Joseph and Margaret Heery,
patron co-chairs, at 339-987-0773 or 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.

This year's **Grand Finals Concert** will take place March 19, 2017 at 3:00 p.m.
Tickets are available through the Met at (212) 362-6000 or 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 2017. Further details TBA.

Where some of our winners are singing in 2017:

Allegra deVita (2015) sings Isaura in *Tancredi* with Opera Philadelphia, Olga in *Eugene Onegin* with Syracuse Opera, and Arsamenes in *Xerxes* in Glimmerglass Festival.

Baritone **David Pershall** (2011) will perform Marcello in *La Bohème* at Salzburger Landestheater, Count Almaviva in *Le nozze di Figaro* at Boston Lyric Opera, and Lescaut in *Manon* at San Francisco Opera.

Upcoming roles for soprano **Corinne Winters** (2010) include Fiordiligi in *Così fan tutte*, *Violetta in La Traviata* with Seattle Opera, San Diego Opera and Royal Opera House Covent Garden, and Katya in *Katya Kavanova* with Seattle Opera.

Soprano **Nadine Sierra** (2009) joins Opéra National de Paris as both Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte* and Gilda in *Rigoletto*, joins the Metropolitan Opera, as Ilia in *Idomeneo*, followed by Lucia in *Lucia di Lammermoor* at Teatro la Fenice in Venice.

Baritone **Edward Parks** (2008) sings Figaro in *Il barbiere di Siviglia* at the Met, sings Escamillo in *Carmen* at Nashville Opera, Marcello for Minnesota Opera's *La Bohème* and creates the title role in the world premiere of *The [R]evolution of Steve Jobs* at The Santa Fe Opera.

Tenor **Michael Fabiano** (2007) returns to the Met as Rodolfo in *La Bohème* and Alfredo in *La Traviata* and will host the Metropolitan National Council Grand Finals on March 19th.

Soprano **Sarah Jakubiak** (2007) sings Tatiana in *Eugene Onegin* in Frankfurt and Eva in *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* in Munich, as well as Marietta in *Die Tote Stadt* in Hamburg.

Bass-baritone **Christian Van Horn** (2003) sings Colline in *La Bohème* at the Met, Escamillo in *Carmen* with Lyric Opera of Chicago, Oroveso in *Norma* with Dallas Opera, Raimondo in *Lucia di Lammermoor* and Melisso in *Alcina* with Santa Fe Opera.

Bass **Morris Robinson** (2001) returns to the Met to sing Sarastro in *The Magic Flute* and the King in *Aïda* and sings Osmin in *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* with Los Angeles Opera.

Baritone **Keith Phares** (1998) will perform as Elder Tull in the premiere of *Riders of the Purple Sage* at Arizona Opera, and as Belcore in *L'elisir d'amore* at Boston Midsummer Opera.

On the Met roster this season: Nadine Sierra (2009), Zach Borichevsky (2008), Edward Parks (2008), Michael Fabiano (2007), Alex Richardson (2005), Wendy Bryn Harmer (2004), Corey Bix (2003), Christian Van Horn (2003), David Crawford (2002), Morris Robinson (2001), Sandra Piques Eddy (2000), MaryAnn 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.