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

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Regional Finals Judges

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

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Jay Lesenger, Opera Director, former General/Artistic Director of Chautauqua Opera
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Richard Bernstein, Bass, Metropolitan Opera Company

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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), Forth 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, Spoletto 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 10th anniversary of her death, an encouragement
award is given this year in memory of Lorraine Hunt Lieberson (1954-2006),

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,vï 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
- Czàrdás, *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
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

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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.
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To support the auditions, please contact Joseph and Margaret Heery, patron co-chairs, at 339.987.0073 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.
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 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 Stéphano in Roméo et Juliette.


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.