January 28, 2018

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, sponsored by the Metropolitan Opera, is to find exceptionally talented opera singers and to assist them in their development, to discover new talent for the Metropolitan Opera, and to search for possible participants in the Young Artist Development Program of the Met.

This year’s **Grand Finals Concert** will take place April 29, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. Tickets are available through the Met at (212) 362-6000 or [www.metopera.org](http://www.metopera.org).
Metropolitan Opera National Council

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The 2018 New England Regional Auditions Finals is dedicated to the memory of Susan Eastman, long time opera lover, passionate supporter of young singers, and friend. (12/27/45 – 6/17/17)

Regional Finals Judges

George Shirley, Tenor, Emeritus Professor of Music at University of Michigan
Sandra Horst, Canadian Opera Company and Opera Theatre of Saint Louis
Joshua Winograde, Associate Artistic Administrator and Executive Director, National Council Auditions, Metropolitan Opera

Boston District Judges

Diane Zola, Director of Artistic Administration, Houston Grand Opera
Peter Kazaras, Director of Opera at UCLA
Paul Groves, Tenor

Connecticut District Judges

Bénédicte Jourdois, Juilliard School; Manhattan School of Music
Kevin J. Langan, Bass
Joshua Winograde
Regional Finals Judges

Joshua Winograde is the Associate Artistic Administrator of the Metropolitan Opera and Executive Director of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. Prior to the Met, he was Senior Director of Artistic Planning at Los Angeles Opera, and before that he created and oversaw the Opera Studio at Wolf Trap Opera in Washington DC. Mr. Winograde has served on many competition juries including the Richard Tucker Music Foundation Awards, the Metropolitan Opera National Council Grand Finals, the Innsbruck Alte Music Festival Cesti Competition, The Galina Vishnevskaya International Competition in Moscow, The International Singers Fair in Baku, Azerbaijan, and the Dallas Opera Guild Vocal Competition. Mr. Winograde earned his bachelor and master’s degrees from the Juilliard School and sang professionally with Houston Grand Opera and New York City Opera, among many others.

George Shirley, tenor, is a distinguished University Emeritus Professor of Voice at University of Michigan. He has won international acclaim for his performances in the world’s great opera houses, including the Metropolitan Opera, Royal Opera, Deutsche Oper, Téatro Colón, Netherlands Opera, L’Opéra de Monte Carlo, San Francisco Opera, Washington Opera, and Santa Fe Opera among others. Mr. Shirley has recorded for RCA, Columbia, Decca, Angel, Vanguard, CRI, and Philips and received a Grammy Award for his Ferrando role in the RCA recording of Mozart’s Così fan tutte. Mr. Shirley has served on three occasions as a master teacher in the National Association of Teachers of Singing Intern Program for Young NATS Teachers, and was also a member of the faculty of the Aspen Music Festival and School for ten years.

Sandra Horst is the Director of Musical Studies for the University of Toronto Opera Division, where her conducting credits include Donizetti’s L’elisir d’amore, Poulenc’s La voix Humaine and Les Mamelles de Tiresias among others. Ms. Horst is also Chorus Master of the Canadian Opera Company and Audition Consultant for Opera Theatre of St. Louis. Formerly the chorus master of Opera Theatre of St. Louis and Edmonton Opera, she has also worked with the Juilliard Opera Center, Chautauqua Institute School of Singing, Boston Lyric Opera, Opera Saskatchewan, Opera Ontario and the Banff Centre for the Arts. Ms. Horst has been heard as the host of CBC Radio’s “This is My Music”, and in recital on the CBC and WGBH Radio in New England.

Accompanist

Michael Baitzer, pianist, is currently Head of Music Staff at Washington National Opera, and is Principal Coach/Diction Coach for Central City Opera. A graduate of Drake University with degrees in 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 Theatre 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

ROBERT HONEYSUCKER ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD ..................................$3,000
Given In Memory (1/13/43 – 10/11/17)

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

Connecticut and Boston District winners who advance to the New England Finals receive
stipends of $500.  Thanks to a contribution in memory of Henry Wyman by his family and to the
generosity of all our patrons, finalists who do not place or are not given Encouragement awards
will each receive additional stipends of $1,000.

A Legacy Fund has been established to designate a one time or annual Encouragement award for
someone special and to help fund student tickets. This year we wish to thank Eileen Chang,
Muriel and Moe Finegold, Leslie and William Patton, Irene Nichols, and Joanne Sattley for their
generous support of this fund.

Winners of the district auditions advance to their region’s finals, where they compete to advance
to 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.
2018 New England Regional Finalists

1. **CELESTE GODIN**, Soprano, age 28
New England Conservatory
Hometown: Boston, MA
website: www.celestegodin.com
- “Mon coeur ne peut changer,” *Mireille*, Gounod
- Embroidery aria, *Peter Grimes*, Britten
- Song to the Moon, *Rusalka*, Dvořák
- “Ach, ich fühls,” *Die Zauberflöte*, Mozart
- “Don Ottavio…Or sai chi l’onore,” *Don Giovanni*, Mozart

2. **MATTHEW COSSACK**, Baritone, age 25
Yale School of Music
Mannes College
Hometown: Brooklyn, NY
- “Hai già vinta la causa,” *Le nozze di Figaro*, Mozart
- “Sois immobile,” *Guillaume Tell*, Rossini
- “Lieben, Hassen, Hoffen, Zagen,” *Ariadne auf Naxos*, Strauss
- “O du mein holder Abendstern,” *Tannhäuser*, Wagner
- Joe’s Confession aria, *Dead Man Walking*, Heggie

3. **ZARAY RODRIGUEZ**, Mezzo-Soprano, age 27
Boston University Opera Institute
University of Miami
Hometown: Miami, FL
- “Elle est là! près de lui,” *Mignon*, Thomas
- “Awake, Saturnia!…Iris, hence away,” *Semele*, Handel
- “Smanie implacabili,” *Così fan tutte*, Mozart
- Florencia’s Act II aria, *Florencia en el Amazonas*, Catán
- “Va, laisse couler mes larmes,” *Werther*, Massenet
4. EPHIGENIA KASTANAS, Soprano, age 30
Manhattan School of Music
The Hartt School, University of Hartford
Hometown: Tyngsborough, MA
*website:* www.ephigeniavocalist.com
- “Ach ich liebte,” *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*, Mozart
- Emily’s Goodbye aria, *Our Town*, Rorem
- The Jewel Song, *Faust*, Gounod
- “Bel raggio lusinghier,” *Semiramide*, Rossini
- “Signore, ascolta!” *Turandot*, Puccini

5. ANDREW PAULSON, Baritone, age 28
Florida State University
Westminster Choir College
Hometown: Great Falls, VA
*website:* www.andrewpaulsonbaritone.com
- “Pierrot’s Tanzlied,” *Die Tote Stadt*, Korngold
- Le Directeur’s aria, *Les Mamelles de Tirésias*, Poulenc
- “Largo al factotum,” *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, Rossini
- “Sibilar gli angui d’Aletto,” *Rinaldo*, Handel
- Car aria, *An American Tragedy*, Picker

6. YI WANG, Soprano, age 29
Manhattan School of Music
Central Conservatory of Music
Hometown: Beijing, China
- “Quel guardo, il cavaliere…,” *Don Pasquale*, Donizetti
- “Comme autrefois dans la nuit,” *Les Pêcheurs de Perles*, Bizet
- “Sul fil d’un soffio etesio,” *Falstaff*, Verdi
- “Ich bin Euer Liebden sehr verbunden,” *Der Rosenkavalier*, Strauss
- “No word from Tom… I go to him,” *The Rake’s Progress*, Stravinsky
INTERMISSION

7. BROOKE DIRCKS, Soprano, age 25
New England Conservatory
Hometown: Bel Air, MD
website: www.brookedircks.com
- “Einsam in träuben Tagen,” Lohengrin, Wagner
- “Morrai, si; l’empia tua testa,” Rodelinda, Handel
- “O, malheureuse Iphigénie,” Iphigénie en Tauride, Gluck
- “La mamma morta,” Andrea Chénier, Giordano
- “I’m full of happiness,” Albert Herring, Britten

8. DANIEL NOYOLA, Bass-Baritone, age 25
Academy of Vocal Arts
Conservatorio Nacional de Música
Hometown: San Luis Potosí, México
- “Madamina, il catalogo è questo,” Don Giovanni, Mozart
- “Deh! ti ferma ti placa,” Semiramide, Rossini
- “La Calunnia è un venticello,” Il barbiere di Siviglia, Rossini
- “Riez, allez, riez du pauvre idéologue,” Don Quichotte, Massenet
- “Di due figli vivea,” Il trovatore, Verdi

9. ERICA PETROCELLI, Soprano, age 25
New England Conservatory
Hometown: East Greenwich, RI
- “Ain’t it a pretty night?” Susannah, Floyd
- “Dove Sono,” Le nozze di Figaro, Mozart
- The Jewel Song, Faust, Gounod
- “Donde lieta usci,” La Bohème, Puccini
- Lia’s aria, L’Enfant Prodigue, Debussy
10. **ABIGAIL DOCK**, Mezzo-Soprano, age 25
Boston Conservatory
Hometown: Medford, Oregon
*website: www.abigaildock.com*
- “Cor ingrato,” *Rinaldo*, Handel
- “Nella fatal di Rimini,” *Lucrezia Borgia*, Donizetti
- Olga’s Aria, *Eugene Onegin*, Tchaikovsky
- Lyubasha’s song, *The Tsar’s Bride*, Rimsky-Korsakov
- “I bought this suitcase,” *Flight*, Dove

11. **XIAOMENG ZHANG**, Baritone, age 27
The Juilliard School
Manhattan School of Music
Hometown: Wenzhou City, China
- “Per me giunto... Io morrò,” *Don Carlo*, Verdi
- Onegin’s aria, *Eugene Onegin*, Tchaikovsky
- “Mab, la reine des mensonges,” *Roméo et Juliette*, Gounod
- “O du mein holder Abendstern,” *Tannhäuser*, Wagner
- “Hai già vinta la causa,” *Le nozze di Figaro*, Mozart

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To support and learn more about the MONC/New England Auditions, please check our website, [www.neaudition.org](http://www.neaudition.org) or contact patrons co-chairs, Joseph and Margaret Heery, at 339-987-0773 or bake1981@aol.com.

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

**SILVER** ($100-$249 plus ticket order) are acknowledged in the program.

**GOLD** ($250-$499 plus ticket order) receive the above and are invited to attend the Boston District auditions and luncheon.

**PLATINUM** ($500+ plus ticket order) receive the above and are invited to join all committee social events with judges and/or singers in 2018.

Our thanks and appreciation to the **New England regional patrons**, whose generous support these past 60 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.
PLATINUM
Susan A. Babson Opera Fund for Emerging Artists
Erin and Ken Baumgartner
Dick and Carla Wyman Benka
Linda C. Black
Pauline Ho Bynum
Eileen Chang
Saul B. and Naomi R. Cohen
Robert Eastman
Christopher and Tatiana Eklund
Stanley G. Elfbaum, Ph.D
Ellen and Roger Golde
Cerise Lim Jacobs, for Charles
John Y. C. Jao
Jonathan and Deborah A. Kay
Ernie V. and Sue Klein
Pamela S. Kunkemueler
Irene A. Nichols
Leslie and William Patton
Joanne Sattley
Carol and Elliot Surkin
John and Barbara VanScoyoc

SILVER
Ted Allen
Brenda Alpschul
Rosemary and John Ashby
Cynthia Brown
Christine Bradt
Elizabeth Bunn
David J. Chavolla
In Memory of Joseph Chiaramonte
Frederica Cushman
Gene Dahman
Mary Degarmo
William Docken
Sheila S. Emerson and William Keach
Maurice Finegold
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Judy Palmer
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Elizabeth and Samuel Thorne
Robert Volante
Leslie Warshaw
Linda Weiner

List as of January 9, 2018
Where some of our MONC/New England Region winners will be in 2018:


Tenor **Arturo Chacón-Cruz** (2003) Alfredo (*La traviata*): Bolshoi Theatre; Gabriele Adorno (*Simon Boccanegra*): Hungarian State Opera; Ruggiero (*La Rondine*): Genoa; the Duke (*Rigoletto*): Los Angeles and Naples; Nemorino (*L’elisir d’amore*): Naples.


Baritone **Keith Phares** (1998) Ford (*Falstaff*): Opera Omaha; Gaspar (*Rita*), Chicago Opera Theater; Roderick Usher (Hammill’s *Usher House*) and Hiram Otis (Getty’s *The Canterville Ghost*): Los Angeles Opera; Count Almaviva (*Figaro*): Opera Maine.

**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).**