

2021–22 SEASON

# NEW ENGLAND

REGION COMPETITION

SUNDAY, JANUARY 30, 2022

NEW ENGLAND CONSERVATORY, JORDAN HALL



LAFFONT  
COMPETITION

The Metropolitan Opera



PHOTO: FAY FOX / MET OPERA

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**National Semifinals**  
Sunday, April 24, 2022

**The Eric and Dominique  
Laffont Grand Finals  
Concert**  
Sunday, May 1, 2022

For up to date auditions results, alumni news, and other general information, follow [@metoperacompetition](#) on Facebook and Instagram.

## THE METROPOLITAN OPERA ERIC AND DOMINIQUE LAFFONT COMPETITION

The Met's Laffont Competition—previously known as the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions—is designed to discover promising young opera singers and assist in the development of their careers, and is sponsored by hundreds of donors and volunteers from across the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Some of today's greatest singers got their start in the competition, including Renée Fleming, Susan Graham, Stephanie Blythe, Eric Owens, Lawrence Brownlee, Lissette Oropesa, Nadine Sierra, Jamie Barton, Michael Fabiano, Ryan Speedo Green, and Anthony Roth Costanzo.

The competition is grateful to its donors for prizes at the national level and to the Tobin Endowment for the Mrs. Edgar Tobin Award, given to each first-place region winner.

Support for this program is generously provided by the Charles H. Dyson Endowment Fund at the Metropolitan Opera.

## SUPPORT OPERA'S FUTURE STARS

When you make a gift to support the Laffont Competition, you make a statement about your commitment to the future of opera and to helping expand our work of identifying opera's brightest rising stars. This unique initiative is possible thanks to the generous support we receive from valued friends like you.

Please text LAFFONT to 44321 or visit [metopera.org/competitionsupport](https://metopera.org/competitionsupport) and make a gift to support the Laffont Competition today. Your contribution will make a truly meaningful difference.

## 2022 New England Region Finalists



Allyson Bennett  
BOSTON DISTRICT WINNER



Ava Dodd  
BOSTON DISTRICT WINNER



Joanne Evans  
BOSTON DISTRICT WINNER



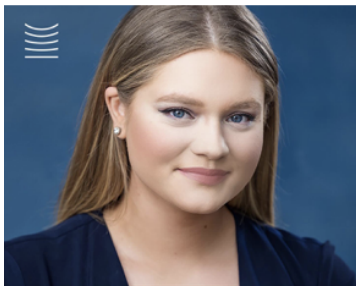
Zane Hill  
BOSTON DISTRICT WINNER



Jonas Jud  
CONNECTICUT DISTRICT WINNER



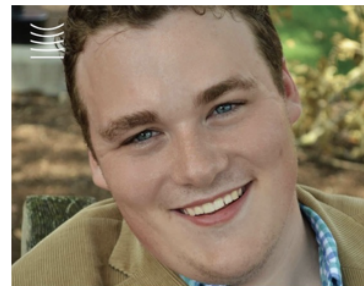
Seiyong Kim  
CONNECTICUT DISTRICT WINNER



Magdalena Kuźma  
CONNECTICUT DISTRICT WINNER



Chelsea Laggan  
BOSTON DISTRICT WINNER



Philippe L'Esperance  
BOSTON DISTRICT WINNER



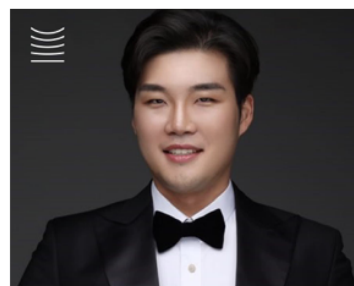
Kyle Miller  
CONNECTICUT DISTRICT WINNER



Jarrett Porter  
CONNECTICUT DISTRICT WINNER



Cloe SanAntonio  
BOSTON DISTRICT WINNER



Hyungjin Son  
BOSTON DISTRICT WINNER

REPERTOIRE | JANUARY 30, 2022  
IN PERFORMANCE ORDER

CLOE SANANTONIO, MEZZO-SOPRANO, 31

LOCUST VALLEY, NY

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Amici, in ogni evento... Pensa alla patria	L'ITALIANA IN ALGERI	Rossini
L'amour est un oiseau rebelle	CARMEN	Bizet
Werther! Qui m'aurait dit...Ces lettres	WERTHER	Massenet
You shiver	JFK	David T. Little

KYLE MILLER, BARITONE, 24

SAN FRANCISCO, CA

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Mein Sehnen, mein Wähnen	DIE TOTE STADT	Korngold
Rivolgete a lui lo sguardo	COSÌ FAN TUTTE	Mozart
Bella siccome un angelo	DON PASQUALE	Donizetti
When the air sings of summer	THE OLD MAID AND THE THIEF	Menotti

AVA DODD, SOPRANO, 23

DUBLIN, IRELAND

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Obéissons quand leur voix appelle	MANON	Massenet
Deh vieni, non tardar	LE NOZZE DI FIGARO	Mozart
Quel guardo il cavaliere...So anch'io la virtù magica	DON PASQUALE	Donizetti
Ah! Je ris de me voir	FAUST	Gounod

SEIYOUNG KIM, TENOR, 28

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

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Si, ritrovarla io giuro	LA CENERENTOLA	Rossini
Languir per una bella	L'ITALIANA IN ALGERI	Rossini
Ich baue ganz auf deine Stärke	DIE ENTFÜHRUNG AUS DEM SERAIL	Mozart
Que les destins prospères	LE COMTE ORY	Rossini

ZANE HILL, BARITONE, 28

HOUSTON, TX

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Look! Through the port comes the moonshine astray!	BILLY BUDD	Britten
J'ai perdu ta photo	SILENT NIGHT	Kevin Puts
Silvio's Aria	PAGLIACCI	Leoncavallo
Mein Sehnen, mein Wähnen	DIE TOTE STADT	Korngold

JOANNE EVANS, MEZZO-SOPRANO, 29

NEW YORK, NY

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Non, non...vous n'avez jamais, je gage	LES HUGUENOTS	Meyerbeer
Olga's Aria	EUGENE ONEGIN	Tchaikovsky
Am I in your Light?	DOCTOR ATOMIC	John Adams
Empio, diro, tu sei	GIULIO CESARE	Handel

**JONAS JUD, BASS, 25****ST. GALLEN, SWITZERLAND**

Il lacerato spirito	SIMON BOCCANEGRA	Verdi
Song of the Viking Guest	SADKO	Rimsky-Korsakov
Vecchia zimarra, senti	LA BOHÈME	Puccini
Quand apparaissent les étoiles	DON QUICHOTTE	Massenet

**ALLYSON BENNETT, SOPRANO, 24****BOSTON, MA**

Ah quando all'ara ... Ah! dal ciel	MARIA STUARDA	Donizetti
Spietati, io vi giurai	RODELINDA	Handel
Pleurez! pleurez, mes yeux!	LE CID	Massenet
Měsíčku na nebi hlubokém	RUSALKA	Dvořák

**PHILIPPE L'ESPERANCE, TENOR, 28****GRAFTON, MA**

Asile héréditaire...Amis, amis! (Cut Version)	GUILLAUME TELL	Rossini
Se di lauri il crine adorno	MITRIDATE	Mozart
Ah! mes amis, quel jour de fête!...Pour mon âme	LA FILLE DU RÉGIMENT	Donizetti
Di rigori armato il seno	DER ROSENKAVALIER	R. Strauss

**CHELSEA LAGGAN, MEZZO-SOPRANO, 29****PHILADELPHIA, PA**

Deh, per questo istante solo	LA CLEMENZA DI TITO	Mozart
Sein wir wieder gut	ARIADNE AUF NAXOS	R. Strauss
Give him this orchid	THE RAPE OF LUCRETIA	Britten
Werther! Qui m'aurait dit...Ces lettres	WERTHER	Massenet

**HYUNGJIN SON, BARITONE, 28****SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA**

Si può	PAGLIACCI	Leoncavallo
È sogno? o realtà	FALSTAFF	Verdi
Pa's Aria	PROVING UP	Missy Mazzoli
Vision fugitive	HÉRODIADÉ	Massenet

**MAGDALENA KUŽMA, SOPRANO, 25****NEW YORK, NY**

Ha! Dzieciątko nam umiera	HALKA	Moniuszko
Presentation of the Rose	DER ROSENKAVALIER	R. Strauss
Adieu, notre petite table	MANON	Massenet
Deh vieni, non tardar	LE NOZZE DI FIGARO	Mozart

**JARRETT PORTER, BARITONE, 28****NEW YORK, NY**

Sibillar gli angui d'Aletto	RINALDO	Handel
Within this frail crucible of light	THE RAPE OF LUCRETIA	Britten
Hai già vinta la causa	LE NOZZE DI FIGARO	Mozart
Blick ich umher	TANNHÄUSER	Wagner

## **New England Region Awards**

### **FIRST PLACE: \$6,000**

Patrons of New England: \$5,200

Mrs. Edgar Tobin Award: \$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: \$3,000**

Connecticut and Boston District winners who advance to the New England Finals receive stipends of \$500. Thanks to a contribution in memory of Henry and Marguerite Wyman by their 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.

**In November 2020, we lost one of our fervent supporters, Irene Nichols**, an Emeritus Professor of Psychology in Education at Northeastern University. She started attending the auditions in 1985 and heard many of our finalists who went on to major careers. In 2016, at her suggestion, we established a Legacy Fund for donors to designate an annual or one-time encouragement award for someone special and also to fund student tickets. In 2016, the first Philip R. Nichols Encouragement award was granted. Recently we were informed by Irene's estate of a very generous endowment to support this award annually -- guaranteeing that Irene Nichols' support of singers will be her lasting legacy.

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Special thanks to the staff of **New England Conservatory's Jordan Hall** and to all our patrons, whose generous support these past 64 years has made it possible to expand the program and awards.

The **Saul B. and Naomi R. Cohen Foundation** will sponsor a **free recital** by several regional finalists at Temple Emanuel, Newton, on Sunday afternoon, Feb. 27 at 3 p.m. The program will also be livestreamed. For more information, visit [templemanuel.com](http://templemanuel.com).

**Contact us:** We look forward to hearing from you. To be added to our mailing list, please write to [moncne@gmail.com](mailto:moncne@gmail.com). For more information, contact Pauline Ho Bynum, [phobynum@comcast.net](mailto:phobynum@comcast.net).



Our 2022 Met Opera Laffont Competition New England Finals is dedicated in loving memory to John Moriarty (Sept. 30, 1930 to January 5, 2022).



Revered mentor, conductor, pianist, stage director, vocal coach, educator.  
Official accompanist of the Met auditions in Boston for more than 50 years.

Below, Maestro Moriarty coaching Sandra Piques Eddy in a recording session in 2015  
and with New England Region judges Dean Anthony and John Keene in Boston, 2019.



## 2021-2022 Judges

### Regional Finals

**Susan Ashbaker**, Associate Professor, Director of Westminster Opera Theatre  
for Westminster Choir College at Rider University

**Ted Taylor**, pianist, vocal coach, Mannes School of Music

**Brady Walsh**, associate director, Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition

### Boston District, virtual round

**Scott Guzielek**, arts administrator

**Karen Slack**, soprano, arts administrator

**Victoria Livengood**, mezzo-soprano, voice teacher

### Boston District, live round

**Deborah Birnbaum**, voice teacher

**Emily Pulley**, soprano

**Howard Watkins**, pianist and coach

### Connecticut District, virtual

**Ken Benson**, artist manager and president, Ken Benson Artists

**Laura Brooks Rice**, voice teacher, Cafritz Young Artist Program;  
Director, Sewanee Operafest

**Darren K. Woods**, artistic director, Seagle Festival

## New England Region Committee

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Monique Phinney

Kalina and Tom Vendetti

Sarah Vendetti

Leslie Warshaw

Elena Zaretsky



## Regional Finals Judges and Official Pianist



**BRADY WALSH** is Associate Director of the Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition. He is also owner and Artistic Director of Carpe Diem Theater, an innovative summer program for aspiring young performers in grades K-12. Mr. Walsh judges for the Met throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico, presents master classes, and hears young artists in screening auditions both at the Met and at various summer festivals across the country. After successfully pivoting to virtual auditions for the Met Competition's 2020-2021 season, Mr. Walsh was brought on as a producer for the 2021 Queen Sonja International Music Competition, as well as for the University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music's Corbett Competition. In 2019, he was named a special guest for the finals of the inaugural Nicola Martinucci International Vocal Competition in Lucca, Italy, and was a technician at the 2020 NATS National Conference in New York, where he co-presented with Melissa Wegner their workshop "The Self-Assured Singer," also seen at SUNY Potsdam.



**SUSAN SHIPLETT ASHBAKER**, Associate Professor/Director of Westminster Opera Theatre for Westminster Choir College at Rider University and Director for the CoOPERative Program at Westminster, brings over 35 years of experience in the performing arts. Ms. Ashbaker is active in the opera/vocal world as an independent artistic advisor/consultant, master class presenter, lecturer and opera/vocal coach. She is in demand as a master class presenter, having taught recently at Boston Conservatory, University of Miami, Binghamton University and Ithaca College, among others. Ms. Ashbaker was affiliated with Tri-Cities Opera for five years; four as General and Artistic Director, and one as Artistic Director. Additionally, Ms. Ashbaker served Opera Company of Philadelphia (OCP) for 16 years, the last 11 as director of artistic and music administration. She is a frequent judge for the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and former participant on the MET Opera Quiz.



**TED TAYLOR**. Equally at home in the pit conducting a repertoire of over 55 operas and musicals, on the stage accompanying some of the world's pre-eminent vocalists or appearing in the country's top cabaret venues, Ted Taylor enjoys a varied international career. As pianist he has appeared on four continents with such luminaries as Kathleen Battle, Sylvia McNair and Ben Heppner. Maestro Taylor has served on the conducting staffs of the Metropolitan Opera and Lyric Opera of Chicago and has led performances for many American opera companies, including Cincinnati Opera, Atlanta Opera, Wolf Trap Opera, and New York City Opera, where he debuted conducting *La Traviata*. A seasoned MONC judge, for four consecutive years he coached and played the Met National Council Semifinals and Grand Finals concerts of what is now the Laffont Competition. Maestro Taylor is currently in his fifteenth year on the faculty of Yale University and his twenty-fourth at Mannes School of Music in New York City, where he coaches and teaches.



**DAMIEN KRZYZEK, pianist**, holds faculty positions at the New England Conservatory and the Boston Conservatory. As a member of NEC's collaborative piano department, he educates young pianists in the art of playing operatic literature and coaching singers. Since 2008 he has served on the music staff at Opera Theatre of Saint Louis. Before devoting himself to collaborative piano, Mr. Krzyzek studied as a baritone in his native Denver, where he was a regional MONC finalist in 2004. An artist member of Music for Food, **he will be performing an evening of piano trios** with violinist Natalie Lin Douglas and cellist Jamie Clark at the Theodore Parker Unitarian Universalist Church in West Roxbury at 7:30pm on March 5th. All proceeds from the concert will benefit the Roslindale Food Pantry.

# METROPOLITAN OPERA LAFFONT COMPETITION

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\* In memoriam