



The Metropolitan Opera

*National Council Auditions*

NEW ENGLAND REGION

JANUARY 26, 2020

JORDAN HALL

NEW ENGLAND CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

## *New England Regional Finals Awards*

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

Patrons of MONC, New England Region: \$5,200  
Mrs. Edgar Tobin Award: \$800, from the Tobin Endowment

### **SECOND PLACE: \$5,000**

Sponsored by the patrons of MONC, New England Region

### **THIRD PLACE: \$4,000**

Sponsored by the patrons of MONC, New England Region

### **SUSAN EASTMAN ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD: \$3,000**

### **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 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.

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 Robert Eastman, Irene Nichols, and Christopher and Tatiana Eklund 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 Semifinals 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 \$7,500 each, and singers who were National Semi-Finalists but did not advance to the National Finals will be given \$2,500 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.

This year's **Grand Finals Concert** will take place on **March 1, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.** at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York's Lincoln Center. Tickets are available through the Met at 212.362.6000 or on [www.MetOpera.org](http://www.MetOpera.org).

## *About the National Council Auditions*

The Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions program began in Minneapolis/St. Paul in 1954. Over the years, these auditions have expanded to twelve Regions of the United States and Canada. There are 40 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.

## *Metropolitan Opera National Council*

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Kalina and Tom Vendetti

Deborah and Jonathan Kay

Sarah Vendetti

Sean Kelly

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## *2020 Judges*

### REGIONAL FINALS

Paul Hopper, *Associate Artistic Administrator, Metropolitan Opera*

Stephen Wadsworth, *Director of the Artist Diploma in Opera Studies program, Juilliard School*

Sally Wolf, *Soprano; Faculty, Westminster Choir College; Faculty, Academy of Vocal Arts*

### BOSTON DISTRICT

Mikael Eliassen, *Leader of Curtis Institute's Mikael Eliassen Voice Program*

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Catherine Malfitano, *Soprano, Singer, Actor, Director, and Teacher*

## *Regional Finals Judges & Accompanist*



**PAUL  
HOPPER**

**PAUL HOPPER** has been Associate Artistic Administrator at the Metropolitan Opera since July 2018. Previously he was Assistant Artistic Director at Houston Grand Opera, where he managed special artistic initiatives, assisted in long-term artistic planning, and guided a variety of audiences in learning more about HGO and opera. As principal dramaturg for the company he worked closely with composers and librettists such as Jake Heggie, Carlisle Floyd, and Ricky Ian Gordon in the commissioning and development of new works. Mr. Hopper has also held positions at Santa Fe Opera and ADA Artist Management.



**STEPHEN  
WADSWORTH**

**STEPHEN WADSWORTH** is the James S. Marcus Faculty Fellow and director of the Artist Diploma in Opera Studies program at the Juilliard School. He is head of dramatic studies in the Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artist Development Program. He has directed opera at the Met, La Scala, Covent Garden, Vienna State Opera, Netherlands Opera, Edinburgh Festival, San Francisco Opera, and many others, as well as theatre. He wrote *A Quiet Place* with Leonard Bernstein. He recently translated and directed the first two Beaumarchais Figaro plays - *Le Barbier de Séville* and *Le Mariage de Figaro*. He was named Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French government, and is Creative Advisor for the Sundance Institute Theatre Program.



**SALLY  
WOLF**

Soprano **SALLY WOLF**'s career spans over 34 years. A Curtis Institute of Music alumna, she received a 1981 National Opera Institute Grant, placed first in the 1980 San Francisco Opera Auditions, and was a 1986 winner in the International Pavarotti Competition in Philadelphia. She was also awarded Seattle Opera's "Artist of The Year" in 1992. She has sung Norma, Mimì, Violetta, and Lucia with the Seattle Opera, Florida Grand Opera, and Opéra du Rhin in Strasbourg, among others. She has taken on the roles of Donna Anna with Frankfurt Opera, Donna Elvira with New York City Opera and Los Angeles Opera, and sung the Queen of the Night 192 times for some of the world's most prestigious opera houses. Currently on the voice faculties of Westminster Choir College and Academy of Vocal Arts, she also maintains a private voice studio.



**DAMIEN  
FRANCOEUR-KRZYZEK**

Accompanist **DAMIEN FRANCOEUR-KRZYZEK** 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. Francoeur-Krzyzek studied as a baritone in his native Denver, where he was a regional MONC finalist in 2004.

*Please join him, Dina Vainshtein, and five of NEC's most outstanding string players for an evening of Shostakovich, Rachmaninoff, and Lyapunov in Jordan Hall this Tuesday, January 28th, at 7:30 p.m. The concert is free; NEC is asking people to reserve tickets through [www.NECmusic.edu](http://www.NECmusic.edu).*

# *2020 New England Regional Finals Concert*

## *— Finalists, in Order of Appearance —*

1. LEAH BRZYSKI, Soprano, Age 26
2. TARYN HOLBACK, Mezzo-Soprano, Age 29
3. ALEXANDER MCKISSICK, Tenor, Age 28
4. MARIE ENGLE, Mezzo-Soprano, Age 26
5. WHITNEY MORRISON, Soprano, Age 30
6. ZARAY RODRIGUEZ, Mezzo-Soprano, Age 29

## *— Intermission —*

7. CAROLINE CORRALES, Soprano, Age 27
8. GINA PERREGRINO, Mezzo-Soprano, Age 28
9. XIAOMENG ZHANG, Baritone, Age 29
10. CLOE SANANTONIO, Mezzo-Soprano, Age 28
11. CATHERINE SWINDLE, Soprano, Age 28
12. ANA MORA, Mezzo-Soprano, Age 27

## *— Judges' Deliberations —*

There will be a short break to allow the judges to discuss the performances and render their decisions.

## *— Presentation of Awards —*

John VanScoyoc (Emcee) and Pauline Ho Bynum

*We thank you for your continued support of the New England Region  
of the Metropolitan Opera's National Council Auditions*

## New England Regional Finalists

### 1. LEAH BRZYSKI



Soprano, Age 26

Michigan State University ▪ Yale University ▪ Hometown: Rochester Hills, Michigan

"O luce di quest'anima" from *Linda di Chamounix* by Donizetti

"Ah! douce enfant" from *Cendrillon* by Massenet

"Presentation of the Rose" from *Der Rosenkavalier* by R. Strauss

"Chant du Rossignol" from *Le Rossignol* by Stravinsky

Leah Brzyski has performed with the symphonies of Detroit and Lansing; Opera Grand Rapids; and Orchestra New England. A Young Artist Award winner of the 2017 Harold Haugh Light Opera Competition and the Rosenthal Award in the 2019 Opera Index Competition, she has performed in Yale Opera Theater's production of *Die Zauberflöte*, among others, and as soloist for New Haven Symphony Orchestra's *Messiah*. Other recent engagements include residencies with Central City Opera and Utah Festival Opera.

### 2. TARYN HOLBACK



Mezzo-Soprano, Age 29

Manhattan School of Music ▪ Mannes College of Music ▪ Hometown: Baltimore, Maryland

"Da, chas nastal!" from *The Maid of Orleans* by Tchaikovsky

"O mio Fernando" from *La favorita* by Donizetti

"Amour! viens aider ma faiblesse" from *Samson et Dalila* by Saint-Saëns

"Stella del marinar" from *La gioconda* by Ponchielli

Mezzo-soprano Taryn Holback is a Professional Studies Diploma candidate at the Mannes College of Music, where she received both the President's Award and the Dean's Merit Scholarship. She was seen frequently in Mannes Opera productions, including *Eugene Onegin*, *The Rake's Progress*, and *Little Women*. She has also covered the Old Baroness in *Vanessa*. In addition to the mainstage productions, Ms. Holback sang in many opera scenes concerts at Mannes, including Adalgisa in *Norma* and Charlotte in *Werther*.

### 3. ALEXANDER MCKISSICK



Tenor, Age 28

The Juilliard School ▪ Hometown: Madison, Connecticut

"Addio, fiorito asil" from *Madama Butterfly* by Puccini

"Torna ai felici dì" from *Le villi* by Puccini

"Dein ist mein ganzes Herz" from *Das Land des Lächelns* by Lehár

"Kuda, Kuda" from *Eugene Onegin* by Tchaikovsky

Alexander McKissick is a graduate of the Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program at Washington National Opera, where he performed the leading role in Puccini's *Silent Night* and was featured in productions of *Candide*, *Otello*, *The Magic Flute*, and *Faust*. Past performance credits include: *La traviata* (Aspen Music Festival) and roles in *Die Zauberflöte* and *Les Mamelles de Tirésias*, among others (Juilliard). He is a 2018 Sullivan Foundation Career Grant Winner, 2017 Sara Tucker Study Grant Winner, and a Toulmin Scholar.

## New England Regional Finalists

### 4. MARIE ENGLE



Mezzo-Soprano, Age 26

Northwestern University ▪ The Juilliard School ▪ Hometown: Wauseon, Ohio

"Am I in your light?" from *Doctor Atomic* by Adams

"Se Romeo t'uccise un figlio" from *I Capuleti e i Montecchi* by Bellini

"Que fais-tu, blanche tourterelle" from *Roméo et Juliette* by Gounod

"Parto, parto" from *La clemenza di Tito* by Mozart

Marie Engle is an active recitalist, chamber musician, and emerging opera singer. After two years singing in Vienna, Austria, she made her debut with the Juilliard Opera as Ramiro in Mozart's *La finta giardiniera*. She spent two summers at the Chautauqua Institution where she performed in *Carmen* and *I Capuleti e i Montecchi*. She has won awards from Opera Ebony, the Gerda Lissner, and Grand Stage Song Competitions and premiered on WQXR's *Midday Masterpieces*. Marie will join Opera Delaware as a Young Artist for their 2020 Festival.

### 5. WHITNEY MORRISON



Soprano, Age 30

Oakwood University ▪ Eastman School of Music ▪ Hometown: Chicago, Illinois

"Vissi d'arte" from *Tosca* by Puccini

"Depuis le jour" from *Louise* by Charpentier

"Give me my robe" from *Antony and Cleopatra* by Barber

"Non mi dir" from *Don Giovanni* by Mozart

Whitney Morrison's performance credits include Rochester Institute of Technology's "MLK Expressions" and *Don Giovanni* with Chicago's Floating Opera Company. She has won the National Classical Singer University Competition and Luminarts Classical Music Competition, among others. She made her Lyric Opera of Chicago debut in *Rigoletto* and has also sung in their *Die Walküre*, *Idomeneo*, and *Elektra* productions. Future engagements include *The Seven Deaths of Maria Callas* at the Bavarian State Opera.

### 6. ZARAY RODRIGUEZ



Mezzo-Soprano, Age 29

University of Miami ▪ Boston University Opera Institute ▪ Hometown: Miami, Florida

"L'amour est un oiseau rebelle" from *Carmen* by Bizet

"Hence, hence, Iris, hence away!" from *Semele* by Händel

"Wie du warst! Wie du bist!" from *Der Rosenkavalier* by R. Strauss

"Sgombra è la sacra selva... Deh! proteggimi" from *Norma* by Bellini

In 2020 Zaray Rodriguez will be a Geridine Artist with Opera Theatre of Saint Louis. She has performed in *Trouble in Tahiti* at Aspen Music Festival; *Frida* with Florida Grand Opera; and *Sumeida's Song* as a Studio Artist with Opera Maine. With Parkway Concert Orchestra she sang the title role of *Carmen* and with Boston University Opera Institute, Cherubino in *Le nozze di Figaro*. She can be heard in recordings on the Naxos and Albany labels, and on the Grammy-nominated *Ein deutsches Requiem* with the Professional Choral Institute of Seraphic Fire.

## New England Regional Finalists

### 7. CAROLINE CORRALES



Soprano, Age 27

Webster University ▪ Boston University ▪ Hometown: Saint Louis, Missouri

"Mamicko màn tezkou hlavu... Kde to jsem?" from *Jenufa* by Janáček

"Non mi dir" from *Don Giovanni* by Mozart

"Amour, ranime mon courage" from *Roméo et Juliette* by Gounod

"No word from Tom... I go to him" from *The Rake's Progress* by Stravinsky

Boston-based, Ms. Corrales is a master's student at Boston University, where she will be singing Anne Trulove in *The Rake's Progress*. She has also performed in their productions of *Later the Same Evening*, *The Cunning Little Vixen*, and *Dolores Claiborne*. In 2019 she sang Königin der Nacht with Lyric Opera Studio Weimar. Other stage credits include roles in *A Shell of a Troll*, *Cendrillon*, and *Der Schauspieldirektor*. She sang in the Boston Pops Symphony 2018 Holiday Tour with Keith Lockhart. She is a New York Lyric Opera Competition prizewinner.

### 8. GINA PERREGRINO



Mezzo-Soprano, Age 28

Manhattan School of Music ▪ Hometown: Wilmington, Delaware

"Ces lettres, ah! je les relis sans cesse" from *Werther* by Massenet

"Seguidilla" from *Carmen* by Bizet

"Disprezzeta regina" from *L'incoronazione di Poppea* by Monteverdi

"Wie du warst! Wie du bist!" from *Der Rosenkavalier* by R. Strauss

Ms. Perregrino made her company debut with the Santa Fe Opera as Paquette in *Candide*, returning in 2019 to sing the role of Pastuchyna in Janáček's *Jenufa*. In 2017, Gina made her company debut with Central City Opera singing the title role in *Carmen*. She has sung with Minnesota Opera, Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, Lyric Opera of Guatemala, Boston Lyric Opera, Opera Delaware, Opera Philadelphia, Dallas Opera, and The Atlanta Opera, and performed as a soloist with the Cincinnati Symphony and the Phoenix Symphony Orchestra.

### 9. XIAOMENG ZHANG



Baritone, Age 29

Juilliard School ▪ Manhattan School of Music ▪ Hometown: Wenzhou, China

"Bella siccome un angelo" from *Don Pasquale* by Donizetti

"E fra quest'ansie" from *Pagliacci* by Leoncavallo

"Vy mne pisali" from *Eugene Onegin* by Tchaikovsky

"Mab, la reine des mensonges" from *Roméo et Juliette* by Gounod

Xiaomeng Zhang has sung in Aspen Music Festival's *Le nozze di Figaro* and in *Don Giovanni* at Juilliard Opera. He will soon be heard in Opera Columbus' *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* and *Don Giovanni* for Opera Naples. He will be joining the Opera Studio at Opernhaus Zürich. Past performances include *L'Elisir d'Amore*, *Kát'a Kabanová*, and *L'Enfant et les sortilèges*. A Merola Opera Program alum, he has received awards from Opera Index, Licia Albanese-Puccini, and Giulio Gari and Gerda Lissner International Vocal Competition.



## New England Regional Finalists

### 10. CLOE SANANTONIO



Mezzo-Soprano, Age 28

Mannes College of Music ▪ Hometown: Locust Valley, New York

"Pensa alla patria" from *L'italiana in Algeri* by Rossini

"Va! laisse couler mes larmes" from *Werther* by Massenet

"You shiver" from *JFK* by Little

"Smanie implacabili" from *Così fan tutte* by Mozart

Cloe SanAntonio is currently pursuing a Professional Studies Diploma at Mannes College of Music, where she has been heard on stage as Dorabella in *Così fan tutte*, as Mother Goose in *The Rake's Progress*, and in concert with the Mannes Orchestra in Ravel's *Shéhérazade* as a winner of the 2018 Concerto Competition. She was most recently heard as Musette in Leoncavallo's rarely presented *La bohème* as part of the Festival d'Art Vocal in Montréal, and is a grant recipient from the Gerda Lissner Foundation.

### 11. CATHERINE SWINDLE



Soprano, Age 28

Texas Tech University ▪ Manhattan School of Music ▪ Hometown: Lubbock, Texas

"Song to the Moon" from *Rusalka* by Dvorak

"Come scoglio" from *Così fan tutte* by Mozart

"I am not my own" from *Lysistrata* by Adamo

"Einsam in trüben Tagen" from *Lohengrin* by Wagner

Catherine Swindle is a graduate of Manhattan School of Music with a Master's in Classical Voice. In 2019, she was a Studio Artist with Sarasota Opera, performing in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* and covering the lead in Wolf-Ferrari's *Il segreto di Susanna*. Some New York City highlights include performing *Il tramonto* with the American String Quartet and participating in artist Lee Mingwei's *Sonic Blossom* installation at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Previous credits include *Die Zauberflöte*, *Macbeth*, *Così fan tutte*, *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, *The Little Sweep*, and *Iolanthe*.

### 12. ANA MORA



Mezzo-Soprano, Age 27

Pontificia Universidad Javeriana ▪ NE Conservatory of Music ▪ Hometown: Caracas, Venezuela

"Parto, parto" from *La clemenza di Tito* by Mozart

"Sein wir wieder gut" from *Ariadne auf Naxos* by R. Strauss

"Crude furie degl'orridi abissi" from *Serse* by Händel

"This Journey" from *Dead Man Walking* by Heggie

Venezuelan mezzo-soprano Ana Mora is pursuing a Graduate Diploma in Opera Studies and has been awarded the Senior John Moriarty Presidential Scholarship by the New England Conservatory. She has performed in Argento's *Postcard from Morocco*, *La damnation de Faust*, *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Salome*, *Otello*, and in John Musto's *Later the Same Evening*. Upcoming performances include Idamante in *Idomeneo* by Mozart and Madame Flora in *The Medium* by Gian Carlo Menotti. Miss Mora will be a Sante Fe Opera 2020 Apprentice Singer.

## Our Patrons

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*(List as of January 17, 2020)*

*You, our patrons, fund our singer awards. Thank you!*

To support and learn more about the MONC NE Auditions, please check our website, [www.NEaudition.org](http://www.NEaudition.org), or contact our patrons co-chairs, Joseph and Margaret Heery, at 339-987-0773 or [bake1981@aol.com](mailto: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) 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 2020.

Our thanks to the **MONC New England Region's patrons**, whose generous support these past 62 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.

# Upcoming Engagements for our Past MONC Winners

## ON THE MET ROSTER FOR THE 2019-2020 SEASON:

Sidney Mancasola (2013), Nadine Sierra (2009), Sara Heaton (2008), Michael Fabiano (2007), Stephanie Chigas (2005), Alex Richardson (2005), Ross Benoliel (2004), Christian van Horn (2003), Wendy Bryn Harmer (2004), Corey Bix (2003), David Crawford (2002), Morris Robinson (2001), Mary Ann McCormick (1990), and Denyce Graves (1988)

## APPEARING WITH BOSTON LYRIC OPERA IN 2020:

Sandra Piques Eddy (2000): Adalgisa in *Norma* (March)

Jacquelyn Stucker (2017): Cleopatra in *Giulio Cesare* (May)

## NEWS ABOUT OTHER RECENT MONC NE PAST WINNERS AND FINALISTS:

Erica Petrocelli (2018): Musetta, *La bohème*; First Lady, *Magic Flute* with LA Opera; Micaela, *Carmen* with Opera Theatre of St. Louis (June 2020)

Gabriella Reyes (2017): Musetta in *La bohème* at Santa Fe Opera; First Lady in *Magic Flute*; Liù in *Turandot* at Met; *7 Deaths of Maria Callas*, Bayerische Staatsoper in Munich and Greek National Opera, Athens (April–July 2020)

Jakub Jozef Orlinski (2016): Cyrus in *Belshazzar* in Zurich; Tolomeo in *Tolomeo* in Karlsruhe; Arsamene in *Serse* at Théâtre des Champs-Élysées; Armindo in *Partenope* at San Francisco Opera (June 2020)

Allegra De Vita (2015): Albine in *Thaïs* at Maryland Lyric Opera; Rinaldo in *Rinaldo* at Glimmerglass Music Festival; Maddalena in *Rigoletto* at Tulsa Opera

Leah Hawkins (2015): Masha in *Queen of Spades*, Strawberry Woman in *Porgy and Bess* at Met; *7 Deaths of Maria Callas*, Bayerische Staatsoper, Munich and Greek National Theatre in Athens (April–July 2020)

Katrina Galka (2014): Controller in *Flight* at Minnesota Opera; Zerbinetta in *Ariadne auf Naxos*, Arizona Opera

Chrystal Williams (2013): Maketaten in *Akhmaten* at Met; Stewardess in *Flight* at Minnesota Opera; Rebecca Parker in *Charlie Parker's Yardbird* at Seattle Opera

Christopher Lowrey (2013): Wigmore Hall recitals, London; Corselli in *Ulisse*, Teatro Real in Madrid; Bertarido in *Rodelinda*, Gottingen; Guildenstern in *Hamlet*, Concertgebouw, Amsterdam

Annie Rosen (2012): Adalgisa in *Norma*, Calgary Opera; Wellgunde in *Der Ring des Nibelungen*, Lyric Opera of Chicago

Michelle Johnson (2011): Aleko in *Zemfira*, Chicago Opera Theatre; Aida in *Aida*, Opera Tampa

*For the latest updates on all past MONC NE winners, please visit [www.NEaudition.org](http://www.NEaudition.org).*



## *MONC Mission Statement*

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.