# National Council Auditions New England Region

January 27, 2019 Jordan Hall New England Conservatory of Music

#### 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 12 regions of the United States, Canada and Mexico. 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.

This year's **Grand Finals Concert** in New York will take place March 31, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. Tickets are available through the Met at (212) 362-6000 or <a href="https://www.metopera.org">www.metopera.org</a>.

# **Metropolitan Opera National Council**

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## **Regional Finals Judges**

**Sophie Joyce**, Director, Lindemann Young Artist Development Program, Metropolitan Opera **Dean Anthony**, Tenor, Director of Opera, Brevard Music Center, and Artistic and Producing Director, Asheville Lyric Opera

**John Keene,** Head of Music Staff and Chorus Master, Seattle Opera

# **Boston District Judges**

Mary Birnbaum, Theatre and Opera Director,
Associate Director of Opera Studies, The Juilliard School
Kevin Langan, Bass
Emily Pulley, Soprano

# **Connecticut District Judges**

**Melissa Wegner**, Executive Director, National Council Auditions, Metropolitan Opera **Sally Wolf**, Soprano

Tony Kostecki, General Director, Seagle Music Colony

# **Regional Finals Judges and Accompanist**



SOPHIE JOYCE is the Director of the Lindemann Young Artist Development Program, the Metropolitan Opera's elite program for leading young singers on the cusp of international opera careers. Ms. Joyce is also a member of the pre-selection panel worldwide for the prestigious Neue Stimmen International Singing Competition. Known for her ability to scout and nurture extraordinary talent, Ms. Joyce worked for 10 years, until 2016, at English National Opera (ENO), where she was Head of Casting and Director of the ENO Harewood Artist Program. She had earlier been Casting Administrator and Manager of the company's Young Singers Program, as well as Assistant Company Manager. From 2016-2018, Ms. Joyce worked as an opera consultant, advising young

artists at the Royal College of Music and establishing a new Vocal Department for Keynote Artist Management. Ms. Joyce began her career at IMG Artists in 2004, working with some of the highest profile singers in the world today.



**DEAN ANTHONY** is Director of Opera, Brevard Music Center, and Artistic and Producing Director, Asheville Lyric Opera. As a character tenor, Mr. Anthony was often referred to as "The Tumbling Tenor". He created over 90 roles and appeared with over 50 opera companies throughout North America and Europe. Mr. Anthony's masterclass series based on movement, acting, and stagecraft for singers has led him to Nashville Opera, Florentine Opera, Florida Grand Opera, Minnesota Opera, Virginia Opera, Shreveport Opera, Festival Lyrique de Belle Ile en Mer, SUNY Fredonia, University of Texas, Texas State University and University of Wisconsin Green Bay. Mr. Anthony can be heard on Naxos as Kaspar on the Grammy-nominated recording of *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, and seen as Danny Buchanan in Francesca Zambello's *Street Scene* on Image Entertainment.



**JOHN KEENE** is Head of Music Staff and Chorus Master at Seattle Opera, where he has also conducted the company premiere of *As One* and was Assistant Conductor for Wagner's *Der Ring des Nibelungen*. Previously he was Head of Music Staff and Chorus Master at Florida Grand Opera, where he worked with Plácido Domingo, Dmitri Hvorostovsky, Sherrill Milnes, Renata Scotto, and Bryn Terfel. An acclaimed vocal coach, recital accompanist, and conductor, Maestro Keene has been associated with San Francisco Opera, Opera Theatre of Saint Louis and New Orleans Opera, among many others. A student of the pioneer teacher of accompanying, Gwendolyn Koldofsky, he partnered baritone Thomas Hampson in her masterclasses.



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, where he will be playing harpsichord alongside members of the Saint Louis Symphony for OTSL's upcoming production of *The Coronation of Poppea*. 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 in Jordan Hall this Tuesday, January 29th, at 7:30 for an evening of chamber music with pianist Tanya Blaich, violinist Christine Lim and the Verona Quartet.

#### **Awards**

FIRST PLACE	\$6,000
Patrons of New England \$5,200	
Mrs. Edgar Tobin Award of \$800, from the Tobin Endo	wment
SECOND PLACE\$5, Sponsored by the patrons of New England	000
Sponsored by the patrons of New England	,000
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 Frans and Mita van Berkhout 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 \$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.

# **2019 New England Regional Finalists**

## 1. COURTNEY ELVIRA, Mezzo-Soprano, age 28

Carnegie Mellon University

University of South Florida

Hometown: St. Petersburg, FL

"Smanie implacabili," Così fan tutte, Mozart

"Must the winter come so soon?" Vanessa, Barber

"Vois sous l'archet frémissant," Les Contes d'Hoffmann, Offenbach

"Faites-lui mes aveux," Faust, Gounod

Paula's Aria, Florencia en el Amazonas, Catán

## 2. ANDREW MOORE, Bass-Baritone, age 23

Rutgers University, Mason Gross School of the Arts

Hometown: Point Pleasant, NJ

Papageno's Suicide, Die Zauberflöte, Mozart

"Come, Master," The Rake's Progress, Stravinsky

"Quand la flamme de l'amour," La Jolie Fille de Perth, Bizet

"Si, tra i ceppi," Berenice, Handel

"Arise, ye subterranean winds," *The Tempest*, Purcell

## 3. GINA PERREGRINO, Mezzo-Soprano, age 27

Manhattan School of Music

Hometown: Wilmington, DE

"Wie du warst!," Der Rosenkavalier, Strauss

"Va! laisse couler mes larmes," Werther, Massenet

Lucy's Aria, Dinner at Eight, Bolcom

"Disprezzata Regina," L'Incoronazione di Poppea, Monteverdi

"En vain pour éviter," Carmen, Bizet

## 4. VARTAN GABRIELIAN, Bass-Baritone, age 25

Curtis Institute of Music

Royal Conservatory of Music

Hometown: Toronto, Ontario, Canada

"Vi ravviso, o luoghi ameni," La Sonnambula, Bellini

"Madamina, il catalogo è questo," Don Giovanni, Mozart

"Quand la flamme de l'amour," La Jolie Fille de Perth, Bizet

"Come, Master," *The Rake's Progress*, Stravinsky

"Vecchia zimarra," La Bohème, Puccini

## 5. AMANI COLE-FELDER, Soprano, age 24

New England Conservatory

Westminster Choir College

Hometown: Somerset, NJ

"Donde lieta uscì," La Bohème, Puccini

"Ach, ich fühl's," Die Zauberflöte, Mozart

"Chi il bel sogno di Doretta," La Rondine, Puccini

"The trees on the mountains," Susannah, Floyd

"Spietati, io vi giurai," Rodelinda, Handel

## 6. ANDRES CASCANTE, Baritone, age 25

Yale School of Music

Loyola University

Hometown: San José, Costa Rica

"Largo al factotum," Il Barbiere di Siviglia, Rossini

"Hai già vinta la causa," Le Nozze di Figaro, Mozart

"È sogno? o realtà," Falstaff, Verdi

Onegin's Arioso, Act 3, Eugene Onegin, Tchaikovsky

"O vin, dissipe la tristesse," *Hamlet,* Thomas

## 7. CATHERINE ST-ARNAUD, Soprano, age 29

Université de Montréal

Hometown: Montreal, Quebec, Canada

"Appena mi vedon," La Finta Giardiniera, Mozart

"Ich bin Euer Liebden sehr verbunden," Der Rosenkavalier, Strauss

"Je suis encore toute étourdie," Manon, Massenet

"Oh! Ne me quittez pas sur un adieu de fâcherie," Dialogues des Carmélites, Poulenc

"Sul fil d'un soffio etesio," Falstaff, Verdi

#### INTERMISSION

#### 8. ABIGAIL DOCK, Mezzo-Soprano, age 26

**Boston Conservatory** 

Rice University

Hometown: Medford, OR

"Cor ingrato," Rinaldo, Handel

"Cruda sorte!," L'Italiana in Algeri, Rossini

Olga's Aria, Eugene Onegin, Tchaikovsky

Lyubasha's Song, *The Tsar's Bride*, Rimsky-Korsakov

"I bought this suitcase," Flight, Dove

#### 9. GEOFFROY SALVAS, Baritone, age 30

Conservatoire de Musique de Montréal

Hometown: Montreal, Quebec, Canada

"Ballade de la reine Mab," Roméo et Juliette, Gounod

"Mein Sehnen, mein Wähnen," Die Tote Stadt, Korngold

"Rivolgete a lui lo sguardo," Così fan tutte, Mozart

"Lieben, Hassen, Hoffen, Zagen," Ariadne auf Naxos, Strauss

"Avant de quitter ces lieux," Faust, Gounod

#### 10. JILLIAN BONNER, Mezzo-Soprano, age 29

University of Manitoba

Dalhousie University

Hometown: Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada

"Dopo notte," *Ariodante*, Handel

"Parto, parto," *La Clemenza di Tito*, Mozart

"Que fais-tu, blanche tourterelle?" Roméo et Juliette, Gounod

"Must the winter come so soon?" Vanessa, Barber

"Wie du warst!", Der Rosenkavalier, Strauss

#### 11. ZIZHAO WANG, Bass-Baritone, age 24

New England Conservatory

Hometown: Qingdao, China

"Madamina, il catalogo è questo," Don Giovanni, Mozart

"Sibilar gli angui d'Aletto," Rinaldo, Handel

"La del ciel nell'arcano profondo," *La Cenerentola*, Rossini

"Quand la flamme de l'amour," La Jolie Fille de Perth, Bizet

"Schweig, schweig," Der Freischütz, Weber

## 12. CHRISTINE LYONS, Soprano, age 29

Peabody Institute

Carnegie Mellon University

Hometown: Atlanta, GA

"Ain't it a pretty night?" Susannah, Floyd

"Romanza di Medora," Il Corsaro, Verdi

"Donde lieta uscì," La Bohème, Puccini

The Jewel Song, Faust, Gounod

"Dove sono," Le Nozze di Figaro, Mozart

#### 13. ALEXANDRA URQUIOLA, Mezzo-Soprano, age 25

Yale University

Northwestern University

Hometown: Bergenfield, NJ

"Gelido in ogni vena," Farnace, Vivaldi

Paula's Aria, Florencia en el Amazonas, Catán

Polina's Aria, Queen of Spades, Tchaikovsky

"Cruda sorte!," L'Italiana in Algeri, Rossini

"There is a Garden," Trouble in Tahiti, Bernstein

#### 14. NICOLETTE MAVROLEAN, Soprano, age 26

Juilliard

Hometown: Freehold, NJ

"Caro nome," Rigoletto, Verdi

"Oh! quante volte," I Capuleti e i Montecchi, Bellini

"Depuis le jour," Louise, Charpentier

"Ach, ich fühl's," Die Zauberflöte, Mozart

"Non, Monsieur mon mari," Les Mamelles de Tirésias, Poulenc

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

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

**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 2019.

Our thanks to the **New England regional patrons**, whose generous support these past 61 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.

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List as of January 17, 2019

## What's ahead for some New England Region MONC winners in 2019

At the Met this season: Gabriella Reyes (2017), Leah Hawkins (2015), Sydney Mancasola (2013), Nadine Sierra (2009), Michael Fabiano (2007), Stephanie Chigas (2005), Alex Richardson (2005), Ross Benoliel (2004), Wendy Bryn Harmer (2004), Christian Van Horn (2003), David Crawford (2002), Morris Robinson (2001), Sandra Piques Eddy (2000), Jill Grove (1993), Mary Ann McCormick (1990), Denyce Graves (1988)

Soprano Erica Petrocelli (2018): Annina (Traviata), LA Opera

Bass-baritone **Daniel Novola** (2018): Masetto, Houston

Soprano Sandra Hamaoui (2017): Gretel, Zurich

Soprano <u>Gabriella Reyes</u> (2017): 2019 Lincoln Center Emerging Artist; in concert with fellow Met Lindemann Young Artists and talk by Sophie Joyce, Rockport Music, Feb. 3, 2pm talk, 3pm concert

Soprano Angela Vallone (2017): Jitka (Dalibor), Susanna (Figaro), Frankfurt

Tenor Andrés Moreno García (2017): Gastone (*Traviata*), Lopez (*Betrothal in a Monastery*), Borsa (*Rigoletto*), Malcolm (*Macbeth*), Berlin Staatsoper

Countertenor <u>Jakub Józef Orliński</u> (2016): Rinaldo (title role), Unulfo (*Rodelinda*) in Frankfurt; Orimeno (*Erismena*), Luxembourg; Narciso (*Agrippina*), Champs-Elysées; Eustazio (*Rinaldo*), Glyndebourne

Mezzo-soprano Allegra De Vita (2015): Siébel, Washington; the Page (Salome), Charleston

Countertenor <u>Christopher Lowrey</u> (2014): Marte (Lergrenzi's *La Divisione del Mondo*), four venues in France; Athamus (*Semele*), Champs-Élysées and six UK and US venues; Ruggiero (Steffani's *Orlando Generoso*), Boston BEMF; Giulio Cesare (title role), Bucharest and Champs-Élysées; Agrippina (*Ottone*), Bucharest; Farnace (Vivaldi; title role), Pinchgut Opera, Sydney

Soprano Heather Philips (2014): Micaela, Naples, FL

Soprano Sydney Mancasola (2013): Frasquita, Pamina at the Met; Roksana (King Roger), Susanna, Frankfurt

Mezzo-soprano Annie Rosen (2012): Brother (*The Scarlet Ibis*), Chicago Opera Theater; Adalgisa (*Norma*), Utah; Pénélope (Fauré: title role), Kansas City; Suzuki, Central City

Soprano Andrea Carroll (2012): Norina and Adina, Wiener Staatsoper; Leïla, Houston

Tenor John Irvin (2012): the Duke, Kentucky; title role, La Damnation de Faust, Nice; Pilade (Ermione), San Carlo

Soprano Michelle Johnson (2011): Aida, Opera Idaho

Soprano Emily Dorn (2011): Lady Harriet (Martha), Gretel, Luisa Miller, Detmold, Germany; Michaëla, Seattle

Bass-baritone Zachary Nelson (2011): Marcello, Chicago Lyric, Santa Fe; Almaviva, Arizona

Mezzo-soprano <u>Jennifer Feinstein</u> (2010): Giovanna Seymour (*Anna Bolena*), the Owl (*The Cunning Little Vixen*), Third Maid (*Elektra*), Sara (*Roberto Devereux*), Third Lady, Karlsruhe (continued)

#### What's Ahead (continued from page 11)

Soprano Corinne Winters (2010): Rachel (La Juive), Belgium's Opera Vlaanderen; Leïla, Santa Fe

Soprano <u>Nadine Sierra</u> (2009): Gilda: the Met and Berlin Staatsoper; Nanetta, Berlin; Manon, Bordeaux; Donna Anna, Orange

Baritone <u>Christopher Magiera</u> (2008): Jim Crowley (Perla's *An American Dream*), Chicago Lyric; Captain Gardiner (*Moby-Dick*), Chicago Opera Theater

Baritone **Edward Parks** (2008): Escamillo, Ozawa Festival in Japan

Tenor <u>Michael Fabiano</u> (2007): Rodolfo, Chicago Lyric; Werther, Sydney; Faust, Royal Opera; the Duke, Staatsoper Berlin; Carlo VII (*Giovanna d'Arco*), Madrid

Soprano Sara Jakubiak (2007): Marietta (Die tote Stadt), Komische Oper Berlin; Eva (Meistersinger), Munich

Mezzo-soprano <u>Claudia Huckle</u> (2004): Flosshilde (*Rheingold*), Madrid; Omniscient Mussel (*Die Äegyptische Helena*), La Scala

Soprano Leslie Ann Bradley (2004): Countess Maritza (title role), Pacific Opera Victoria

Soprano Wendy Bryn Harmer (2004): Freia, Ortlinde, Third Norn, Met's "Ring" cycle

Bass <u>Christian Van Horn</u> (2003): Oroveso (*Norma*), Escamillo, Munich; Narbal (*Les Troyens*), Paris Opera; Publio (*Clemenza*) at the Met; Zoroastro (*Orlando*), San Francisco

Tenor <u>Arturo Chacón-Cruz</u> (2003): Alfredo, Muscat; the Duke, Hamburg; Hoffmann, Naples; Rafael Ruiz (Penella's *El gato montés*), Los Angeles; Rodolfo (*Luisa Miller*), Barcelona

Tenor <u>Corey Bix</u> (2003): Lohengrin, Albuquerque: Judge Danforth (*The Crucible*), Santa Barbara; the Captain (*Wozzeck*) and the Governor/Vanderdendur (*Candide*), Des Moines

Bass-baritone **David Crawford** (2002): Raymond (Lucia), Knoxville

Bass Morris Robinson (2001): Sarastro at the Met; Porgy, Vienna Volksoper and Cincinnati

Baritone **Lee Poulis** (2001): Eugene Onegin, Santa Barbara

Mezzo-soprano Sandra Piques Eddy (2000): Rosina, Auckland

Tenor Harold Meers (2000): Boris (Kát'a Kabanová), Leeds

Bass Steven Humes (1999): Kaspar (Die Freischütz), Theater an der Wien, Aix-en-Provence, and Théâtre de Caen

Soprano Kara Shay Thomson (1997): Turandot, Sarasota; Salome, Dayton

Mezzo-soprano Mary Ann McCormick (1990): Second Lady at the Met, Marcellina (Figaro), St. Louis

Mezzo-soprano <u>Victoria Livengood</u> (1985): Filippyevna (*Eugene Onegin*), Washington and Opera Carolina, Eunice Hubbell (*Streetcar*), Buenos Aires

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