

The Metropolitan Opera  
*National Council Auditions*  
NEW ENGLAND REGION

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**

Mitchell L. Lathrop, President  
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Robin Valovich, Connecticut District Director

## **New England Regional Committee**

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Lindsay Conrad	Marcia and Peter Miller
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Margot Holtzman	Sarah Vendetti
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Sean Lair	

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, T  atro Col  n, Netherlands Opera, L'Op  ra 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 *Cos   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](http://www.celestegodin.com)

- “Mon coeur ne peut changer,” *Mireille*, Gounod
- Embroidery aria, *Peter Grimes*, Britten
- Song to the Moon, *Rusalka*, Dvořák
- “Ach, ich fühl’s,” *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](http://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](http://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](http://www.brookedircks.com)

- "Einsam in trüben 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 uscì," *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](http://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 morirò,” *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

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](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) 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. Kunkemueller  
Irene A. Nichols  
Leslie and William Patton  
Joanne Sattley  
Carol and Elliot Surkin  
John and Barbara VanScoyoc

## GOLD

Brian Clifton  
Sharon Daniels  
Anne Forsyth  
Robert Guttentag  
Joseph and Margaret Heery  
Eloise Hodges  
Peter and Marcia Miller  
Donald and Roberta Neuman  
Andrew Szentgyorgyi  
Mita and Frans Van Berkhoust  
Kalina and Thomas Vendetti  
Janet and Ron Zwanziger  
Anonymous

## SILVER

Ted Allen  
Brenda Altschul  
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  
Donald Forté  
Gretchen and John Graef  
Linda Heffner  
Lisa Heisterkamp Davis  
Ulle Holt  
Fred Kelly  
Milling Kinard  
Ralph Memolo  
Betsy Miller  
Jennifer and Michael Patterson  
Elisabeth Phinney  
William Pounds  
Alan Proctor  
Adrienne and Mitchell Rabkin  
Charles Raymond  
Frank L. Reis, Jr.  
Miguel Rodriguez  
Marieve Rugo  
Stefan Schatzki  
David and Janna Smith  
Evelyn Tate  
Anne Watson Born  
Barnet and Sandra Weinstein  
James Woodward  
Eliot Wright  
Elena Zaretsky

## BRONZE

Monique Billingsley  
Katharine C. Boden  
Carol and Frank Caro  
Debbie Cohen  
Carole Davidson and  
Annina McCully  
Kathleen Van Demark  
Catharine Mary Donovan  
Katherine Drago Luellen  
Susan Garland  
Sarah Garraty  
Ralph Gioncardi  
Jennifer Green  
Mary Hamilton  
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Margot and Ira Holtzman  
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Alice Jacobs  
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Judith Kaplan  
Jo Hanna Kurth  
Jon Leibowitz  
Fred Leventhal  
Christina Lingham  
Ernest Loewenstein  
Ken Lynch  
Suzanne McNulty  
Donna and Alec Morgan  
Arthur N. Milliken  
Roslin Moore  
Peggy Ann Morrison  
Virginia L. Murray  
Pamela Pacelli  
Judy Palmer  
Richard Perkins  
Florence Preisler  
Jim and Sandy Righter  
Hanna Sittler  
Robert and Corinne Sze  
Linnea D. Taylor  
Mr. & Mrs. Roger M. Thomas  
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:

**At the Met this season:** John Irvin (2012), David Pershall (2011), Nadine Sierra (2009), Edward Parks (2008), Michael Fabiano (2007), Alex Richardson (2005), Wendy Bryn Harmer (2004), Christian Van Horn (2003), David Crawford (2002), Sandra Piques Eddy (2000), Mary Ann McCormick (1990).

Soprano **Katrina Galka** (2014) Rosina, Cunegunde, Woglinde (*Das Rheingold*): Arizona Opera; Gilda (*Rigoletto*): Opera Maine.

Mezzo-soprano **Annie Rosen** (2012) Siébel (*Faust*): Chicago Lyric; *Ariodante* (title role): Opera Omaha; Stéphanie (*Roméo et Juliette*): Wolf Trap.

Baritone **Edward Parks** (2008) Valentin (*Faust*): Chicago Lyric and Opera Maine; Escamillo (*Carmen*): Atlanta Opera.

Soprano **Wendy Bryn Harmer** (2004) Leonora (*Fidelio*): Boston Baroque.

Bass-baritone **Christian Van Horn** (2003) Méphistophélès (*Faust*): Chicago Lyric; the Emperor (*Stravinsky's Le Rossignol*): Canadian Opera Company.

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.

Bass **Morris Robinson** (2001) Il Commendatore (*Don Giovanni*): Dallas; Sparafucile (*Rigoletto*): Los Angeles.

Mezzo **Sandra Piques Eddy** (2000) Dido (*Dido and Aeneas*): Florentine Opera; Meg Page (*Falstaff*): Opera Colorado; Orfeo (*Orfeo ed Eurdyce*): Portland Opera.

Soprano **Kelly Kaduce** (1999) Polly Peachum (*The Threepenny Opera*): Boston Lyric Opera; title role in *Tosca*: Michigan Opera Theatre; title role in *Thaïs*: Minnesota; Cio-Cio-San (*Madama Butterfly*): Santa Fe Opera Theater.

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).**