

2022-23 SEASON

NEW ENGLAND

REGION COMPETITION

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2023

Jordan Hall

New England Conservatory



LAFFONT
COMPETITION

The Metropolitan Opera

THE METROPOLITAN OPERA ERIC AND DOMINIQUE LAFFONT COMPETITION

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National Semifinals

Monday, April 17, 2023

Eric and Dominique Laffont Grand Finals Concert

Sunday, April 23, 2023

For up-to-date auditions results, alumni news, and other general information, follow @metoperacompetition on Facebook and Instagram.

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.

2022-23 SEASON FACT SHEET

- The formerly named National Council Auditions was retitled in recognition of a generous gift by the Laffont family to now officially be the Metropolitan Opera Eric and Dominique Laffont Competition.
- The National Council was formed in 1952 with the Competition rounds beginning officially in 1954.
- Semifinalists will travel to New York on Friday, April 14, 2023.
- Semifinals will be held on Monday, April 17, 2023.
- The Grand Finals Concert will be held on Sunday, April 23, 2023.
- There are 4 rounds of the competition: District, Region, Semifinals, Finals
- There are 36 Districts and 11 Regions.
- District competitions take place throughout the continental United States, in addition to one District in Canada, one in Mexico and one District in Puerto Rico.
- This season, 1,250 singers applied for the Qualifying video round of the Met Competition
- Approximately 20-25 Region first place winners are brought to New York City as Semifinalists.
- Approximately 9-12 Semifinalists advance to the Grand Finals Concert.
- Approximately 4-6 Finalists are selected as Laffont Competition Winners.
- Semifinalists receive \$2,500, Finalists receive \$10,000 and Winners receive \$20,000.
- The Semifinals take place on the Met stage with piano and are closed to the general public.
- The Grand Finals Concert is a public, ticketed event at the Met, and singers are accompanied by the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra.
- Over 100 former Met Competition singers are on the Met's roster annually. Meeks GEORGIA

Today's Singers in Order of Performance



1. Allyson Bennett, soprano

Age: 25

Current City: Boston, MA

Hometown: Boston, MA

Education

New England Conservatory | Vocal Performance B.M. 2020 | M.M. 2022 | G.D. 2023

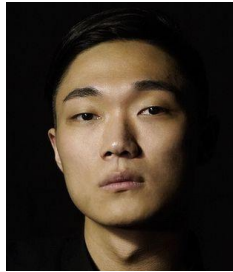
Audition Repertoire

1- Stridono lassù (Ballatalla) | PAGLIACCI | Leoncavallo

2- Porgi, amor | LE NOZZE DI FIGARO | Mozart

3- Song to the Moon | RUSALKA | Dvořák

4- After you hear me out | GLORY DENIED | Tom Cipullo



2. Nan Wang, bass-baritone

Age: 26

Current City: New York City, NY

Hometown: Handan, Hebei, China

Education

Manhattan School of Music | Master of Music | May/2022

Central Conservatory of Music, China | Bachelor of Music | June/2019

Audition Repertoire

1- I was never saner... Come, master | THE RAKE'S PROGRESS | Stravinsky

2- Aprite un po' quegl'occhi | LE NOZZE DI FIGARO | Mozart

3- Aleko's Cavatina (Vyes' tabor spit) | ALEKO | Rachmaninoff

4- Riez! Allez! | DON QUICHOTTE | Massenet



3. Eva Rae Martinez, soprano

Age: 21

Current City: New York City, NY

Hometown: Doylestown, PA

Education

Manhattan School of Music | BM | May 2023

Audition Repertoire

1- Non monsieur mon mari | LES MAMELLES DE TIRÉSIAS | Poulenc

2- Ah! non credea... Ah! non giunge | LA SONNAMBULA | Bellini

3- Ach, ich fühl's | DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE | Mozart

4- No word from Tom (Cabaletta) | THE RAKE'S PROGRESS | Stravinsky



4. Collin Shay, countertenor

Age: 29

Current City: London, UK

Hometown: Darien, CT

Education

McGill University | Bachelor of Music | 2014

Guildhall School of Music and Drama | Master of Performance | 2018

Audition Repertoire

1- Cielo! se tu il consenti | ORLANDO | Handel

2- I know a bank where the wild thyme blows | A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM | Britten

3- The boy takes from his satchel | WRITTEN ON SKIN | Benjamin

4- Ah! What a treat (The Drag Queen's Aria) | BOYS OF PARADISE | Vahan Salorian



5. Yeonjae Cho, soprano

Age: 28

Current City: Boston, MA

Hometown: Seoul, South Korea

Education

New England Conservatory | Graduate Diploma | 2022

Seoul National University | Master of Music | 2020

Seoul National University | Bachelor of Music | 2017

Audition Repertoire

1- I Am the Wife of Mao Tsetung | NIXON IN CHINA | Adams

2- Großmächtige Prinzessin (Zerbinetta's Aria) | ARIADNE AUF NAXOS | Strauss

3- Der Hölle Rache | DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE | Mozart

4- Je suis Titania | MIGNON | Thomas



6. Erik Grendahl, baritone

Age: 28

Current City: Little Neck, NY

Hometown: Boydton, VA

Education

The Juilliard School | Master of Music | 2022

James Madison University | Bachelor of Music 2016 | BS: Statistics | 2016

Audition Repertoire

1- Mein Sehnen, mein Wähnen (Pierrot's Tanzlied) | DIE TOTE STADT | Korngold

2- Comme une pâle fleur | HAMLET | Thomas

3- Captain Ahab, I must speak with you | MOBY DICK | Heggie

4- Batter my Heart | DOCTOR ATOMIC | Adams



7. Madeleine Lew, soprano

Age: 26

Current City: Los Angeles, CA

Hometown: Los Angeles, CA

Education

San Francisco Conservatory | Bachelor of Music | 2019

University of Southern California | Master of Music | 2022

Audition Repertoire

1- Ah, douce enfant | CENDRILLON | Massenet

2- Durch Zärtlichkeit und Schmeicheln | DIE ENTFÜHRUNG

AUSDEM SERAIL | Mozart

3- His name is Jan | BREAKING THE WAVES | Mazzoli

4- Ingrato Polinesso...neghittosi, or voi che fate | ARIODANTE | Handel



8. Korin Thomas-Smith, baritone

Age: 26

Current City: New Haven, CT

Hometown: Toronto, Canada

Education

University of Toronto | BM, Voice Performance 2018 | MM, Opera Performance | 2020

Yale University | Masters of Musical Arts, Opera | 2023

Audition Repertoire

1- Sibillar gli angui d'Aletto | RINALDO | Handel

2- Hai già vinta la causa! | LE NOZZE DI FIGARO | Mozart

3- Yeletsky's Aria | PIQUE DAME (THE QUEEN OF SPADES) | Tchaikovsky

4- There Was A Storm When I Was Young | FIRE SHUT UP IN MY BONES | Blanchard



9. Darya Narymanava, mezzo-soprano

Age: 23

Current City: Boston, MA

Hometown: Borisov, Belarus

Education

Russian State University of Performing Arts | BM in Voice Performance | 2021

Boston Conservatory at Berklee | MM in Voice Performance | 2023

Audition Repertoire

1- Must the winter come so soon | VANESSA | Barber

2- Va! laisse couler mes larmes | WERTHER | Massenet

3- Smanie implacabili | COSÌ FAN TUTTE | Mozart

4- Près des remparts de Séville (Seguidilla) | CARMEN | Bizet



10. Jonghyun Park, tenor

Age: 29

Current City: New York, NY

Hometown: Seoul, South Korea

Education

Seoul National University | BM | 2018

Yale University | MM 2021 | MMA | 2022

Audition Repertoire

1- Una furtiva lagrima | L'ELISIR D'AMORE | Donizetti

2- Dies Bildnis ist bezaubernd schön DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE Mozart

3- Il mio tesoro DON GIOVANNI Mozart

4- En fermant les yeux (Le Rêve) MANON Massenet



11. Kira Kaplan, soprano

Age: 29

Current City: Boston, MA

Hometown: Mechanicsburg, PA

Education

Boston University Opera Institute | Artist Diploma | 2023

Mannes School of Music | Master of Music | 2018

Furman University | Bachelor of Music | 2015

Audition Repertoire

1- O zittre nicht, mein liebe Sohn | DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE | Mozart

2- Caro nome | RIGOLETTO | Verdi

3- Ô beau pays de la Touraine | LES HUGUENOTS | Meyerbeer

4- Emily's Aria (Take me back) | OUR TOWN | Rorem



12. Hyungjin Son, baritone

Age: 29

Current City: Boston, MA

Hometown: Seoul, South Korea

Education

Seoul National University | Bachelor | 2017

Boston University Opera Institute | Graduate Certificate | 2022

New England Conservatory | Master | 2024

Audition Repertoire

1- È sogno? o realtà | FALSTAFF | Verdi

2- Vision fugitive | HÉRODIADE | Massenet

3- E fra queste ansie | PAGLIACCI | Leoncavallo

4- Nemico della patria | ANDREA CHÉNIER | Giordano

2023 New England Laffont Competition Judges



For 25 years, **Ken Benson** headed his own Division as Vice-President at Columbia Artists Management, Inc.. There, he developed and built the careers of some of the leading singers and stage directors of the time. He frequently acts as lecturer, interviewer and writer on the subject of opera. A long time regular panelist and host of the Metropolitan Opera broadcasts, he has also interviewed opera icons such as Stephanie Blythe and Jonas Kaufmann, and given lectures on Wagner's Ring Cycle on the stage of the Met. He is currently also on the faculty of The Juilliard School of Music, as career consultant to the Vocal Masters students.



Born in Montreal and trained at McGill and Boston Universities, soprano **Dominique LaBelle** enjoys sharing her technical and musical insights with young singers, and is Professor of Voice at the Schulich School of Music at McGill University. She has also taught master classes at The Classical Singers Convention in Boston, Harvard University, San Francisco Conservatory, Smith College, Vassar College, and the University of Massachusetts. In May of 2018, she was awarded the Schulich School of Music's Outstanding Teacher Award, and in the fall of the same year, the prestigious Ruby Award by Opera Canada.



Thomas Lausmann was appointed Director of Music Administration at the Metropolitan Opera at the beginning of the 2019/20 season. He was previously Head of Music at the Vienna State Opera since 2013 and was an assistant conductor/coach with the company for the preceding three seasons. During his time in Vienna, Thomas was also a regular pianist with the Vienna Philharmonic playing piano, celeste, harpsichord and organ in concerts at home and on tour.

Today's Official Pianist



Douglas Sumi is a frequent collaborator with many of today's artists and opera theaters. Having been engaged by Los Angeles Opera, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, and Wolf Trap Opera, among many other theaters, he has collaborated with legendary artists such as Renée Fleming, Plácido Domingo, Itzhak Perlman, Carol Vaness, and many of today's new opera stars like Angel Blue, Ailyn Pérez, and Janai Brugger. Currently, he is on faculty at Boston University's School of Music, teaching courses in song literature, lyric diction, and opera for pianists.

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

Supported annually by bequest of Irene Nichols

Connecticut and Boston District winners who advance to the New England Finals receive stipends of \$500. Finalists who do not place or are not given encouragement awards will each receive additional stipends of \$1,000.

2022-2023 District Judges

Boston District

Cori Ellison, dramaturg; faculty, Juilliard School's Marcus Vocal Arts Institute

Laurie Rogers, director, Young Artist Program and head of music staff, Opera Saratoga; music director of opera, Peabody Institute

Thomas Muraco, collaborative pianist and coach

Connecticut District

Mary Dunleavy, soprano, voice faculty, Manhattan School of Music

Matthew Horner, executive vice president and global director, Vocal Division of IMG Artists

Kevin J. Langan, bass

New England Region Committee

Pauline Ho Bynum, Chair; John and Barbara VanScoyoc, co-directors; Robert Eastman and Paul Hart Miller, Boston District co-directors;

Robin Valovich, Connecticut District director, Sondra Kelly, assistant director

Committee: Cynthia Brown, Priscilla Deck, Ralph Gioncardi, Ellen Golde, Richard Haney-Jardine, Linda Heffner, Margot Holtzman, Deborah and Jonathan Kay, Sean Kelly, Sean Lair, Betsy Miller, Marcia and Peter Miller, Roberta Neuman, Mimi O'Connor, Monique Phinney, Kalna and Tom Vendetti, Sarah Vendetti, Leslie Warshaw, Elena Zaretsky

Acknowledgments

Special thanks to the staff of New England Conservatory's Jordan Hall and to all our patrons, whose generous support these past 65 years has made it possible to expand the program and awards.

Contact us: To be added to our mailing list, write to moncne@gmail.com. For more information, contact Pauline Ho Bynum, phobynum@comcast.net.

To buy tickets for the Eric and Dominique Laffont Grand Finals Concert at the Metropolitan Opera House on Sunday, April 23, 2023, at 3 p.m., go to metopera.org.

2022-2023 New England Patrons

The New England Region Committee wishes to recognize the generosity of the following supporters who made philanthropic gifts of any amount between Jan. 1, 2022 and Jan. 23, 2023.

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