

2023–24 SEASON

UTAH

DISTRICT COMPETITION

NOVEMBER 4, 2023



LAFFONT
COMPETITION

The Metropolitan Opera



The 2023 Laffont Grand Finalists

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NATIONAL ADVISOR

National Semifinals

Monday, March 11, 2024

Eric and Dominique Laffont Grand Finals Concert

Sunday, March 17, 2024

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 starts in the competition, including Renée Fleming, Susan Graham, Stephanie Blythe, Eric Owens, Lawrence Brownlee, Lisette 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 that we receive from valued friends like you.

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

LEADERSHIP FOR THE 2023-24 SEASON

Regional Chairpersons

David O'Connor
CENTRAL

Tom Cannon Jr.
EASTERN

Theodore Fellenbaum
Barbara Wiltsie
GREAT LAKES

Melissa Gordon
GULF COAST

Susan and Tim Young
MIDWEST

Pauline Ho Bynum
John and Barbara VanScoyoc
NEW ENGLAND

Brian Arbanas
Stewart Law
NORTHWEST

Karen Bruggenthies
Chris Mohr
ROCKY MOUNTAIN

Randall Romig
SOUTHEAST

Connie Fullmer
Jimmy Longoria
UPPER MIDWEST

Marianne Grant
Molly Siefert
WESTERN

Reginald Allen
Marquita Lister
Timothy Nelson
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Swantje Knye-Levin
Joan Travis
FLORIDA

Alexis Lundy
Jason Meeks
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Diana Livingston Friedley
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David Starkey
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KENTUCKY

Karen Gottlieb
Laurel Howat
Susan Malinowski
LOS ANGELES

Ragnar Conde
Joan Mitchell
MEXICO

Theodore Fellenbaum
Barbara Wiltsie
MICHIGAN

Connie Fullmer
Jimmy Longoria
MINNESOTA

Adrienne Dickson
Laura Franz
NEBRASKA

Rebeccka Coe
Joanne Mantis
NEW ORLEANS

Tom Cannon Jr.
NEW YORK

Pauline Chinnis
Steven LaCosse
NORTH CAROLINA

Anne Christopherson
Justin Montigne
NORTH DAKOTA-MANITOBA

Marianne Cornetti
PITTSBURGH

Ada Sofia Esteves
PUERTO RICO

Brenda Hayward
Kathryn Thickstun
Karen Valentino
SAN DIEGO

Michele Patzakis
SAN FRANCISCO

Bettie and Van Edwards
SOUTH CAROLINA

Maggie Holtman
Louise Salmon
Liza Streett
ST. LOUIS

Jocelynne McCall
Jan Simpson
TENNESSEE

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Tim and Susan Young
TULSA

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Karen and Chris Mohr
COLORADO-WYOMING

Sondra Kelly
Robin Valovich
CONNECTICUT

UTAH DISTRICT COMPETITION

NOVEMBER 4, 2023

11:00AM-4:00PM

LIBBY GARDNER CONCERT HALL

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

Julie McBeth and Gunter & Carol Radinger, Co-Directors

Dr. Carol Anderson, Official Pianist

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Beth Foley
Paula Fowler
Carolyn Klassen
Tom Klassen
Nancy Laursen
Henriette Mohebbi
Kevin Nakatani
Anne Neeley
Helen Peters

VOLUNTEERS

Pete Floor
David Lach
Marcus Lee
Jeremiah Tyson

Each singer will begin with an aria of their choice; the judges may then request additional arias from the list of selections prepared by that singer. **Applause is encouraged.**

Please turn off or silence devices with audible alarms or ringers (including cell phones) while in the auditorium and only enter or exit the auditorium between singers.

Audience Choice Award - Complete and return the ballot you received with your program to the marked boxes by the end of today's competition (please do so within 10 minutes of the completion of the final singer). A monetary award will be given to the singer who receives the most votes.

Audience members are invited to join the competitors for light refreshments in Thompson Chamber Music Hall while the judges deliberate. The announcement of winner(s) and the presentation of awards will take place in the reception space directly following the completion of the judges' deliberations.

REPERTOIRE | NOVEMBER 4, 2023

IN PERFORMANCE ORDER

CASSIE WEINTZ, SOPRANO, 24

HIGHLAND, UT

Chacun le sait	LA FILLE DU RÉGIMENT	Donizetti
Deh vieni, non tardar	LE NOZZE DI FIGARO	Mozart
Tornami a vagheggiar	ALCINA	Handel
Steal me, sweet thief	THE OLD MAID AND THE THIEF	Menotti

KADE BENNETT, BARITONE, 22

MAPLETON, UT

Mein Sehnen, mein Wähnen (Pierrot's Tanzlied)	DIE TOTE STADT	Korngold
Ah! per sempre...Bel sogno beato	I PURITANI	Bellini
Rivolgete a lui lo sguardo	COSÌ FAN TUTTE	Mozart
Votre toast (The Toréador Song)	CARMEN	Bizet

ANNA LOW, SOPRANO, 23

OREM, UT

Oh! quante volte	I CAPULETI E I MONTECCHI	Bellini
The trees on the mountains	SUSANNAH	Floyd
Ah! Je veux vivre (Juliette's Waltz)	ROMÉO ET JULIETTE	Gounod
Una donna a quindici anni	COSÌ FAN TUTTE	Mozart

RYAN JOHNSON, TENOR, 29

MULESHOE, TX

È la solita storia del pastore	L'ARLESIANA	Cilea
Che gelida manina	LA BOHÈME	Puccini
En fermant les yeux (Le Rêve)	MANON	Massenet
Tarquinius does not wait	THE RAPE OF LUCRETIA	Britten

JASMINE RODRIGUEZ, SOPRANO, 27

SANTA FE SPRINGS, CA

La Maja y el Ruiseñor	GOYESCAS	Granados
Quando m'en vo' (Musetta's Waltz)	LA BOHÈME	Puccini
Padre, germani, addio!	IDOMENEO	Mozart
Je dis que rien ne m'épouvante	CARMEN	Bizet

NICOLE DAYTON, MEZZO-SOPRANO, 25

DUBLIN, CA

L'angue offeso mai riposa	GIULIO CESARE	Handel
Que fais-tu, blanche tourterelle?	ROMÉO ET JULIETTE	Gounod
Smanie implacabili	COSÌ FAN TUTTE	Mozart
Must the winter come so soon?	VANESSA	Barber

KATHERINE COX, SOPRANO, 22

PLEASANT GROVE, UT

Pleurez! Pleurez, mes yeux!	LE CID	Massenet
Mi tradì quell'alma ingrata	DON GIOVANNI	Mozart
Donde lieta uscì	LA BOHÈME	Puccini
Ain't it a pretty night?	SUSANNAH	Floyd

LAYTON LOUCKS, BARITONE, 27	MORGAN, UT	
Come, master (Nick Shadow's Aria)	THE RAKE'S PROGRESS	Stravinsky
Di provenza il mar, il suol	LA TRAVIATA	Verdi
O du mein holder Abendstern	TANNHÄUSER	Wagner
Avant de quitter ces lieux	FAUST	Gounod
LINNEA MINER MOTT, SOPRANO, 26	PLEASANT GROVE, UT	
Chi il bel sogno di Doretta	LA RONDINE	Puccini
Les oiseaux dans la charmille (Doll Song)	LES CONTES D'HOFFMANN	Offenbach
Laurie's Song	THE TENDER LAND	Copland
Quando m'en vo' (Musetta's Waltz)	LA BOHÈME	Puccini
KEANU AIONO-NETZLER, TENOR, 28	SALT LAKE CITY, UT	
E lucevan le stelle	TOSCA	Puccini
Svanir le voci!... Meco all'altar di Venere... Me protegge	NORMA	Bellini
Come un bel dì di Maggio	ANDREA CHÉNIER	Giordano
Allmächt'ger Vater	RIENZI	Wagner
CARRIE MOSCOE, SOPRANO, 28	LEXINGTON, KY	
Kommt ein schlanker Bursch gegangen	DER FREISCHÜTZ	Weber
Chacun le sait	LA FILLE DU RÉGIMENT	Donizetti
Oh! quante volte	I CAPULETI E I MONTECCHI	Bellini
The Silver Aria	THE BALLAD OF BABY DOE	Moore
LUCAS ZUEHL, BASS-BARITONE, 22	NEW BERLIN, WI	
Soggetto al mio volere	SERSE	Handel
Song of the Varangian Guest	SADKO	Rimsky-Korsakov
Si la rigueur	LA JUIVE	Halévy
In diesen heil'gen Hallen	DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE	Mozart
MARIA VASILEVSKAYA, SOPRANO, 28	NOVOSIBIRSK, RUSSIA	
Piangerò la sorte mia	GIULIO CESARE	Handel
Ah! Je veux vivre (Juliette's Waltz)	ROMÉO ET JULIETTE	Gounod
Quando m'en vo' (Musetta's Waltz)	LA BOHÈME	Puccini
Iolanta's Aria	IOLANTA	Tchaikovsky

BREAK FOR LUNCH – COMPETITION TO RESUME AT 2:00PM

SAVANNAH PARSONS, SOPRANO, 24		BAKERSFIELD, CA
Quando m'en vo' (Musetta's Waltz)	LA BOHÈME	Puccini
Me voilà seule... Comme autrefois	LES PÊCHEURS DE PERLES	Bizet
Porgi, amor	LE NOZZE DI FIGARO	Mozart
Je dis que rien ne m'épouvante	CARMEN	Bizet
ZEKY NADJI, BARITONE, 29		INTERLOCHEN, MI
Ah! per sempre...Bel sogno beato	I PURITANI	Bellini
O du mein holder Abendstern	TANNHÄUSER	Wagner
J'ai perdu ta photo	SILENT NIGHT	Kevin Puts
Warm as the autumn light	THE BALLAD OF BABY DOE	Moore
ELLIE NIVER, SOPRANO, 23		SALEM, OR
Come scoglio	COSÌ FAN TUTTE	Mozart
Donde lieta uscì	LA BOHÈME	Puccini
Il est doux, il est bon	HÉRODIADÉ	Massenet
Porgi, amor	LE NOZZE DI FIGARO	Mozart
FRANK RUIZ, TENOR, 25		PROVO, UT
Che gelida manina	LA BOHÈME	Puccini
Ah, lève-toi, soleil!	ROMÉO ET JULIETTE	Gounod
Dies Bildnis ist bezaubernd schön	DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE	Mozart
Lonely House	STREET SCENE	Weill
JENNY ANDRUS, SOPRANO, 27		LINDON, UT
Ah! Je veux vivre (Juliette's Waltz)	ROMÉO ET JULIETTE	Gounod
Mein Herr Marquis	DIE FLEDERMAUS	Strauss
Caro nome	RIGOLETTO	Verdi
Batti, batti o bel Masetto	DON GIOVANNI	Mozart
CHRISTOPHER LAU, BASS-BARITONE, 24		GLEN HEAD, NY
Je t'implore	HAMLET	Thomas
O Isis und Osiris	DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE	Mozart
Sorge infausta una procella	ORLANDO	Handel
Ombre di mia prosapia	LA GIOCONDA	Ponchielli
MADELYNN HUNTER, SOPRANO, 28		MIDWAY, UT
How beautiful it is	THE TURN OF THE SCREW	Britten
O smania o furie... D'Oreste D'Ajace	IDOMENEO	Mozart
Tu che di gel sei cinta	TURANDOT	Puccini
Dich, teure Halle	TANNHÄUSER	Wagner

CONNOR LEE, BARITONE, 28		ST. GEORGE, UT
Fernande, have you brought me here?	AFTER LIFE	Tom Cipullo
Mein Sehnen, mein Wähnen (Pierrot's Tanzlied)	DIE TOTE STADT	Korngold
Questo amor, vergogna mia	EDGAR	Puccini
Lieben, Hassen, Hoffen, Zagen	ARIADNE AUF NAXOS	Strauss
COURTNEY GRIGGS, SOPRANO, 28		WALLA WALLA, WA
Dich, teure Halle	TANNHÄUSER	Wagner
Chi il bel sogno di Doretta	LA RONDINE	Puccini
Embroidery Aria	PETER GRIMES	Britten
Or sai chi l'onore	DON GIOVANNI	Mozart
SARAH SCOFIELD, MEZZO-SOPRANO, 25		WEST LAFAYETTE, IN
We had one room in Lambeth Marsh	ELIZABETH CREE	Kevin Puts
Smanie implacabili	COSÌ FAN TUTTE	Mozart
Nobles seigneurs, salut!	LES HUGUENOTS	Meyerbeer
Svegliatevi nel core	GIULIO CESARE	Handel
KATELYN COX, SOPRANO, 22		PROVO, UT
Embroidery Aria	PETER GRIMES	Britten
Klänge der Heimat (Csárdás)	DIE FLEDERMAUS	Strauss II
Il est doux, il est bon	HÉRODIADE	Massenet
Come scoglio	COSÌ FAN TUTTE	Mozart
JOSHUA THOMAS, BASS-BARITONE, 24		HOUSTON, TX
Come dal ciel precipita	MACBETH	Verdi
Schweig! Schweig! damit dich niemand warnt	DER FREISCHÜTZ	Weber
Le veau d'or	FAUST	Gounod
Hello my son	BLUE	Jeanine Tesori
AARON JENKINS, TENOR, 29		NEW YORK, NY
Una furtiva lagrima	L'ELISIR D'AMORE	Donizetti
Dies Bildnis ist bezaubernd schön	DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE	Mozart
Pourquoi me réveiller	WERTHER	Massenet
Lonely House	STREET SCENE	Weill

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JUDGES



Gayletha Nichols

Director
Santa Fe Opera
Apprentice Program
for Singers

Gayletha Nichols is a leading advocate for young opera singers. She brings to the business decades of experience as a singer, teacher, and career advisor. As Director of the Apprentice Program for Singers at Santa Fe Opera, Ms. Nichols auditions, engages, and mentors young artists. During the academic year she is a frequent guest at music schools and conservatories in the United States.

From 2000 to 2018, she was the Executive Director of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, a program designed to discover promising young opera singers and assist in the development of their careers. Prior to that, she served as the Director of Houston Opera Studio, the young artist development program at Houston Grand Opera, where she oversaw the individualized training both for singers and pianists.

Ms. Nichols auditions hundreds of singers across North America every year and, in her travels, addresses colleges and music festivals on developing the next generation of opera singers. She is a frequent adjudicator in national and international competitions and consults for other young artist programs across the country.



Melissa Wegner

Executive Director
Metropolitan Opera
Lindemann Young Artist
Development Program and
Laffont Competition

Melissa Wegner is the Executive Director of the Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artist Development Program and the Laffont Competition. She is responsible for identifying, awarding, and developing the world's most promising operatic talent. A member of the Met's Artistic staff since 2011, she hears artists in stage and screening auditions at the Met and is additionally responsible for casting the Met's New Opera Commissions workshops.

In addition to the District, Regional, and National rounds of the Laffont Competition, Ms. Wegner has adjudicated international competitions including, the Belvedere Competition (South Africa, Russia, Latvia, Germany), Opera's Golden Voice (Georgia), the Nicola Martinucci Competition (Italy). US Competitions include the Ades Vocal Competition, the SAI Vocal Competition, the McCammon Voice Competition, and NATSAA Competition.

A faculty member of Ravinia's Steans Music Institute, Ms. Wegner has also been visiting faculty for Bard College's Graduate Vocal Arts Program and is a frequent guest speaker at academic institutions, professional companies, and digital media outlets.

Recognized for her leadership in the industry, Ms. Wegner was an official ambassador for OPERA America's 50th Anniversary in 2020, was one of the 2019 Musical America Top 30 Professionals of the Year, and was a 2019 recipient of the Maria Callas Prize of New York from Melos International.

Ms. Wegner is a member of Families of FANA WNY, which supports the orphanage in Colombia from which she was adopted. She remains active with her three alma maters, having served as a Trustee of the Foundation Board of SUNY Potsdam, an Advisory Board Member of the Bard College Conservatory of Music, and is on the Artistic Advisory Council at The Manhattan School of Music. She is on the team of advisors for Turn The Spotlight, a mentoring organization for women, BIPOC, and other equity-seeking groups. Her greatest achievement is raising a joyful daughter alongside her wife in New York City.



Darren K. Woods

Artistic Director
Seagle Festival

Darren K. Woods is currently the Artistic Director of the Seagle Festival, one of the country's oldest and most prestigious singer training programs, and also of the American Center for New Works Development. Mr. Woods has been with Seagle in some leadership capacity since 1996. He specializes in training singers in the skills they need to create successful careers. The Seagle artists can be found on the stages of the Metropolitan Opera, New York City Opera, Santa Fe Opera, the Glimmerglass Festival, and in virtually every opera house and concert hall in America. Seagle singers can also be found in Berlin, Munich, Milan, Frankfurt, Brussels, and many other cities around the world.

Mr. Woods was formerly the General Director of Fort Worth Opera (2001-2017), a company that was transformed by restructured festival format and a devotion to new American opera. Considered a leading expert in 21st century opera composition, Mr. Woods was hailed by Opera News in 2012 as one of the "25 influencers in the world of opera". In addition to mainstage opera productions, Fort Worth Opera launched a contemporary chamber opera series in 2008 called Opera Unbound and, in 2013, Mr. Woods further advanced the company's commitment to new work by starting Frontiers, a composer / librettist competition to identify new operas still in development.

Mr. Woods is a frequent judge of vocal competitions including the Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition, the Tucker Awards, the Dallas Opera Competition and many others. He had a career as a character tenor for twenty years and performed in some of the most prestigious theaters in the world including, Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, New York City Opera, Santa Fe Opera, Teatro Verdi in Trieste, Italy, Opera Madrid in Spain and at the Glimmerglass Festival.

OFFICIAL PIANIST



Dr. Carol Anderson

Official Pianist

Carol Anderson is in her 21st season as principal coach for Utah Symphony | Utah Opera, while spending her summers on the music staff of The Santa Fe Opera. She is regularly engaged as official accompanist for the Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition, for the Utah District (since 2006), the Southeast Region in Atlanta, the Florida District, and the Arizona District. Dr. Anderson offers the immensely popular "Prelude Talks" before every Utah Opera performance, and is a cohost of USUO's Ghostlight podcast, with Grand Teton Music Festival's Jeff Counts.

Dr. Anderson's professional opera coaching career was launched by her two seasons as apprentice coach in the prestigious Houston Grand Opera Studio. Previous to her appointment in Utah, she served as chorus master and musical administrator for the Orlando Opera, where she made her conducting debut leading performances of *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. Mentorship and development of operatic artists has long been a focus. She is often asked to present master classes and offer individual consultations to opera and voice students at music schools across the country. Dr. Anderson has also presented on opera coaching topics at CollabFest at University of Southern California and was a panelist on OPERA America's webinar "Behind the Table: Demystifying the Opera Audition."

OTHER PIANISTS

Peter Blackham will play for Anna Low, Katherine Cox, and Frank Ruiz
Bryce Turner will play for Courtney Griggs

Donations to the Utah District Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition provide the prize monies for award winners and support the costs incurred in hosting this round of the competition. It is important to note that although the Utah District is officially sanctioned by The Metropolitan Opera and feeds the national competition finals, it must raise 100% of needed funds for our annual Utah District Competition, which we accomplish through the generosity of local businesses and individuals.

**Thank you to the following generous donors whose contributions made this
November 4, 2023 Utah District Competition possible.**

BENEFACTOR

Timothy F. Buehner Foundation
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in memory of Judy Watts Brady



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The Utah District, Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition Advisory Board and Committee gratefully acknowledge the continued partnership of The University of Utah School of Music, which donates the use of this beautiful facility for the competition.

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Dr. Judy Watts Brady (1945-2023)

This year we lost an extraordinary member of our Utah arts family. Known throughout the community for her philanthropic and professional contributions to the social services, Judy Watts Brady was also a beloved friend to and advocate for the performing arts. She believed that, in addition to mental and physical health, the soul itself required care and feeding and that few things could provide those as well as the performing arts. Judy's spirit, enthusiasm, and that special smile that she brought to every room is sorely missed by all of us who knew and loved her.



Keanu Aiono-Netzler



Jenny Andrus



Kade Bennett



Katherine Cox



Katelyn Cox



Nicole Dayton



Courtney Griggs



Madelynn Hunter



Aaron Jenkins



Ryan Johnson



Christopher Lau



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UTAH DISTRICT



LAFFONT
COMPETITION

The Metropolitan Opera