

2022–23 SEASON

ROCKY MOUNTAIN

REGION AUDITIONS

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 11, 2023

The logo consists of four horizontal white lines of increasing length from top to bottom, creating a stylized mountain peak or a series of steps.

LAFFONT
COMPETITION

The Metropolitan Opera



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

photo: fay fox / met opera

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National Semifinals

Monday, April 17, 2023

The Eric and Dominique

Laffont Grand Finals

Concert Sunday, April
23, 2023

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 start 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 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.

WELCOME TO THE METROPOLITAN OPERA ERIC AND DOMINIQUE LAFFONT COMPETITION

(Formerly Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions)

COLORADO-WYOMING DISTRICT

February 4, 2023

10:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Calvary Baptist Church

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

February 11, 2023

1:30 PM – 5:00 PM

Calvary Baptist Church

Karen Bruggenthies, Rocky Mountain District Chair
Karen and Chris Mohr, Colorado-Wyoming District Co-Chairs
Allan Armstrong, Accompanist
Chris Mohr, Emcee

Each singer will begin with an aria of his or her choice. The judges may then request an additional aria from the three remaining pieces on the list of selections prepared by that singer.

Audience Choice Award – Complete and return the ballot you received with your program to the marked boxes in the lobby by the end of today's Competition. Please do so within 10 minutes of the completion of the final singer's performance to allow us time to tally the votes. A monetary award will be given to the singer who receives the most votes.

The announcement of this year's winner(s) and the presentation of awards will take place back in the Calvary Baptist Church Sanctuary directly following the completion of the judges' deliberations.

For our Audience: Please Remember . . .

- No photography while in the auditorium.
- Turn off all cell phones and electronic devices.
- Enter and leave the hall only between singers and please do so quickly and quietly.
- Do not applaud singers between arias. When judges have dismissed the singer, please show your appreciation with enthusiasm! Please do not attempt to approach or attempt to speak to the judges privately.

All recipients of awards are selected by the Auditions Judges.

COLORADO/WYOMING DISTRICT AWARDS

To be awarded at the judges' discretion: \$5000

\$2000 Spencer Foundation

\$1125 Marcia Ragonetti Award

\$1175 Patron Awards

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL AWARDS

First Place Awards

Patron Award	\$2200
The Spencer Foundation Award	\$2000
The Mrs. Edgar Tobin Award from the Tobin Endowment	\$800
Linda Giedl Award	\$500

Second Place Awards

The Arthur & Miriam Bender Memorial Award	\$200
Colorado/Wyoming Patron Award	\$2300

Third Place Awards

Colorado/Wyoming Patron Award	\$1500
Erna D. Butler Award	\$600

Special Awards

Erna D. Butler Young Singer's Encouragement Award	\$600
Father Diamond Wendelboe Memorial Scholarship	\$500

Regional Finalists Patron Awards and Colorado/Wyoming Patron Awards to non-placing regional finalists \$500 each - *Anonymous*

Regional Winners will be brought to New York for the National Semi-Finals on Sunday, April 16. There they will receive musical preparation under the guidance of the Met staff. From the National Semi-Finalists, all of whom will compete on the Met stage with piano accompaniment, eight to ten will be selected by a jury as National Finalists and will compete in the Grand National Finals Concert on Sunday, April 23, 2023 on the Met stage accompanied by the Met Orchestra. A jury will award \$15,000 each to 4 - 6 National Grand Winners. Each National Finalist not selected as a National Grand Winner will receive \$7500. National Semi-Finalists who do not advance will be awarded \$2500 each.

COLORADO-WYOMING DISTRICT JUDGES



SUSAN SHIPLETT ASHBAKER, recently appointed General Director for Tri-Cities Opera.. She is active in the opera and vocal world as an artistic advisor/consultant, master class presenter, lecturer, and an opera/vocal coach. Her experience on both sides of the opera industry gives her a rare and comprehensive approach to the key elements of career advancement for singers as well as a unique vantage point in the administration of opera companies, arts organizations and institutions of higher learning. Ms. Ashbaker was affiliated with the Opera Company of Philadelphia for 16 years, the last 11 as Director of Artistic and Music Administration, leading the casting practices. Under her leadership, OCP established an intern program with The Curtis Institute of Music. In addition, she has worked as assistant conductor and vocal coach with the New York City Opera, European Center for Opera and Vocal Arts (Belgium), International Vocal Arts Institute in Tel Aviv and Montreal, Theater am Goetheplatz (Bremen, Germany), the Academy of Vocal Arts, and was on the faculty of The Curtis Institute of Music from 1993-2010. Ms. Ashbaker has been Artistic Advisor for The CoOPERative Program at Westminster Choir College, a program designed to help young singers prepare for acceptance into an advanced young artist or summer apprentice program, since its inception in 2005. She is a frequent judge for the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions.



CHRISTOPHER CANO, a recitalist, orchestra soloist, and collaborative pianist who has performed throughout the U.S., Mexico, Israel, Europe, and Asia. Cano is a sought-after coach for leading singers, having prepared vocalists for appearances at the Metropolitan Opera, Teatro alla Scala, Chicago Lyric Opera, and orchestral appearances with the New York Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra, and Berlin Philharmonic among others. As a collaborative artist, he has played in the master classes of Marilyn Horne at Carnegie Hall, Licia Albanese, Fedora Barbieri, Anna Moffo, Lauren Flannigan, Martin Katz, Craig Rutenberg, and Susanne Mentzer. As a studio pianist, Cano worked with some of the great artists and teachers of singing including Marilyn Horne, Sherrill Milnes, and Luciano Pavarotti. Beginning in the 2017-2018 season, Cano was appointed as the Head of Music and Director of the Marion Roose Pullin Opera Studio of Arizona Opera and promoted to the position of Director of Artistic Operations in the spring of 2022. (WASHINGTON)—Christopher Cano will join Washington National Opera (WNO) as the Director of the Cafritz Young Artists (CYA) and American Opera Initiative (AOI) in September ahead of the WNO's 2022-2023 season.



BRADY WALSH, Brady Walsh is the current Associate Director at The Metropolitan Opera. Brady has also worked as an Artist Services Manager at The Santa Fe Opera, a Managerial Assistant at Opus 3 Artists, and an Administrator for the National Council Auditions at the Metropolitan Opera. Brady began their career in the arts as an intern at the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions in 2015 and has been working in the industry ever since. Brady Walsh has a Bachelor's Degree in Music Business and Music Education from the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam. Brady is currently a music teacher at a high school in New York.

COLORADO-WYOMING DISTRICT AND ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION ACCOMPANIST



Pianist and vocal coach Allan Armstrong is assistant professor of music in voice at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, where he specializes in art song literature and opera coaching. From 2017-2020, Armstrong was a visiting assistant professor/post-doctoral scholar in the collaborative piano and chamber music department at the Jacobs School of Music. Before joining Jacobs, he was a member of the applied piano faculty at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, where he codirected Bravo Opera Company. Armstrong has been a principal production pianist and coach at Eugene Opera, Opera Colorado, St. Petersburg Opera, Opera on the Avalon, Sugar Creek Opera, Tel Aviv Summer Opera Program and Opera Tampa. He has taught on the faculty of the Sherrill Milnes Savannah Voice Festival and the International Vocal Arts Institute in Blacksburg, Virginia.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION JUDGES



SAMUEL GELBER, is the Director of Artistic Planning of the Washington National Opera at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. He oversees the company's artistic activities in collaboration with Artistic Director Francesca Zambello. He holds the primary responsibility of the casting of singers and conductors. He has proudly served on the juries of significant singing competitions including: Operalia, Joan Pons International Singing Competition, and The Galina Vishnevskaya Competition. Prior to his appointment at the Kennedy Center, Mr. Gelber was Artistic Administrator at the Los Angeles Opera. In this capacity, he worked in direct collaboration with Plácido Domingo, James Conlon, and Susan Graham in developing and casting the company's artistic initiatives. He additionally supervised the Domingo-Colburn-Stein Young Artist Program and Music Administration Department. Gelber was previously Artistic Coordinator of the Metropolitan Opera where he worked on the casting and planning of future seasons. He began his career in artist management working with artists as diverse as Renée Fleming, Lawrence Brownlee, Marco Armiliato, and Julia Fischer. He is a native of Houston, Texas and studied music in New York City at Manhattan School of Music.



JOHN KEENE was appointed Chorus Director of San Francisco Opera in January 2022. Previously was Head of Music Staff and Chorus Master at Seattle Opera where he made his conducting debut in 2016. Prior to Seattle he was head of Music Staff and Chorus Master at Florida Grand Opera where he worked with Plácido Domingo, Helen Donath, Dmitri Hvorostovsky, Sherrill Milnes, and Bryn Terfel. During his time at FGO Maestro Keene was also head of the Young Artist Studio and appeared in concert as conductor. As founder of the Elysian Group in NYC conducted operas in Merkin Concert Hall. For San Francisco Opera he has been a member of the Merola Program and conducted Western Opera Theater's thirtieth anniversary national tour of *Il barbiere di Siviglia*. He served as Director of the Apprentice Program for Sarasota Opera, served as Assistant Conductor for eleven seasons for New Orleans Opera and performed continuo for the American stage premieres of Purcell's *King Arthur* and Mozart's *Mitridate* for Opera Theatre of Saint Louis. A celebrated vocal coach and teacher, John Keene has been a member of the opera faculty at Mannes College of Music, was Music Director of LSU Opera, and has presented master classes in vocal repertoire, opera, and accompanying nationwide. Performances as accompanist and chamber musician include appearances at Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center and Lincoln Center.



PAUL HOPPER, serves as Associate Artistic Administrator at The Metropolitan Opera where he oversees the casting of supporting roles and all covers for roughly twenty-five productions per season. Previously, he was the Assistant Artistic Director at Houston Grand Opera where he assisted in long term artistic planning and casting, managed special artistic initiatives, and guided a variety of audiences in learning more about opera, including numerous events in support of the company's first Ring Cycle. As principal dramaturg for the company he worked closely with composers and librettists in the commissioning and development of new works and oversaw the supertitles for all productions. Passionate about redefining the perception of what opera is capable of achieving, Paul forged new working relationships with Houston Methodist Hospital, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, The Rothko Chapel, and the Women's Home. He has been a guest speaker at the OPERA America Conference, University of Houston, Houston Seminar, Czech Center Houston, and the HoustonLeipzig Sister City Association. A graduate of the Eastman School of Music and the University of Houston, he previously held positions at the Santa Fe Opera and ADA Artist Management.

REPERTOIRE | FEBRUARY 11, 2023 IN PERFORMANCE ORDER

ALINA TAMBORINI, SOPRANO, 28 OKEMOS, MI - Utah District



Ah! non credea... Ah! non giunge	LA SONNAMBULA	Bellini
Je dis que rien ne m'épouvante	CARMEN	Bizet
Embroidery Aria	PETER GRIMES	Britten
Klänge der Heimat (Csárdás)	DIE FLEDERMAUS	Strauss II

ELIJAH ENGLISH, COUNTERTENOR, 29 BOULDER, CO - Colorado-Wyoming District



Dawn, Still Darkness	FLIGHT	Dove
I know a bank where the wild thyme blows	A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM	Britten
J'ai perdu mon Eurydice	ORFEE ET EURYDICE	Gluck
Se bramate d'amar chi vi sdegna	SERSE	Handel

WINONA MARTIN, MEZZO-SOPRANO, 26 DALLAS, TX - Arizona District



Wie du warst	DER ROSENKAVALIER	Strauss
Svegliatevi nel core	GIULIO CESARE	Handel
Simple Child	THE GRAPES OF WRATH	Gordon
Que fais-tu, blanche tourterelle	ROMÉO ET JULIETTE	Gounod

CHRISTIAN SIMMONS, BASS-BARITONE, 28 WASHINGTON, DC - Utah District



Aleko's Cavatina (Vyes' tabor spit)	ALEKO	Rachmaninoff
Non più andrai	LE NOZZE DI FIGARO	Mozart
"I'm a lonely man, Susannah"	SUSANNAH	Floyd
Di due figli vivea, padre beato	IL TROVATORE	Verdi

SAVANNAH PORTER, SOPRANO, 25 FORT WORTH, TX - Utah District

Les oiseaux dans la charmille (Doll Song)	LES CONTES D'HOFFMANN	Offenbach
Caro Nome	RIGOLETTO	Verdi
The Silver Aria	THE BALLAD OF BABY DOE	Moore
Spiel' ich die Unschuld vom Lande	DIE FLEDERMAUS	Strauss II

COLIN MILLER, TENOR, 21 ALBUQUERQUE, NM - Colorado-Wyoming District

Una furtiva lagrima	L'ELISIR D'AMORE	Donizetti
Un' aura amorosa	COSÌ FAN TUTTE	Mozart
Dies Bildnis ist bezaubernd schön	DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE	Mozart
Ah! mes amis, quel jour de fête!... Pour mon âme	LA FILLE DU RÉGIMENT	Donizetti

HANNAH SHEA, SOPRANO, 25 HARRISBURG, PA - Arizona District

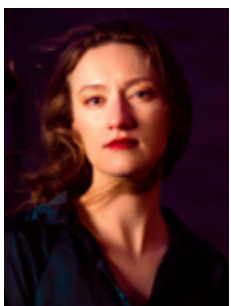
All'afflitto è dolce il pianto	ROBERT DEVEREUX	Donizetti
Wie du warst	DER ROSENKAVALIER	Strauss
Werther! Qui m'aurait dit...Ces lettres	WERTHER	Massenet
Am I In Your Light?	DOCTOR ATOMIC	Adams

DULCE MARIA GUADERRAMA, SOPRANO, 28 MEXICO CITY - Mexico District

Sul fil d'un soffio etesio	FALSTAFF	Verdi
Care compagne...Come per me sereno	LA SONNAMBULA	Bellini
Durch Zärtlichkeit und Schmeicheln	DIE ENTFUHRUNG AUS DEM SERAIL	Mozart
Ah, tardai troppo... O luce di quest' anima	LINDA DI CHAMOUNIX	Donizetti

GRIFFEN HOGAN TRACY, BASS, 30 GOLDEN, CO - Colorado-Wyoming District

When my cue comes, call me	A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM	Britten
Solche hergelaufne Laffen	DIE ENTFÜHRUNG AUS DEM SERAIL	Mozart
Vecchia zimarra, senti	LA BOHÈME	Puccini
Gremin's Aria	EUGENE ONEGIN	Tchaikovsky

JORDAN BOWMAN, SOPRANO, 30 POCATELLO, ID - Idaho-Montana District

Je dis que rien ne m'épouvante	CARMEN	Bizet
Ain't it a pretty night	SUSANNAH	Floyd
Mi tradi quell'alma ingrata	DON GIOVANNI	Mozart
Senza mamma	SUOR ANGELICA	Puccini

KYLE TINGZON, COUNTERTENOR, 28 MANILA, PHILIPPINES - Colorado-Wyoming District

Combattono il mio core... Furibondo spira il vento	PARTENOPE	Handel
Welcome, wanderer... I know a bank	A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM	Britten
O libertà crudele... Scorre il fiume mormorando	ERCOLE SU' L TERMODONTE	Vivaldi
Dawn, still darkness	FLIGHT	Dove

CORNELIA LOTITO, MEZZO-SOPRANO, 29 LONG VALLEY, NJ - Idaho-Montana District

Una voce poco fa	IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA	Rossini
All'afflito e dolce il pianto	ROBERT DEVEREUX	Donizetti
Que fais-tu, blanche tourterelle	ROMÉO ET JULIETTE	Gounod
Parto, parto, ma tu, ben mio	LA CLEMENZA DI TITO	Mozart

EDUARDO NIAVE, TENOR, 27 TORREON, COAHUILA, MEXICO - Mexico District



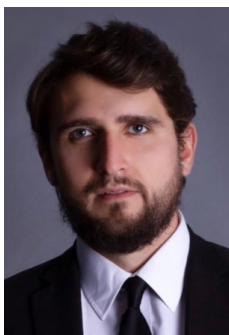
Quando le sere al placido	LUIA MILLER	Verdi
Ô souverain, ô juge, ô pere	LE CID	Massenet
Pourquoi me réveiller	WERTHER	Massenet
Recondita armonia	TOSCA	Puccini

CLAIRE ROBINSON, SOPRANO, 25 PLEASANT GROVE, UT - Utah District



Prendi, per me sei libero	L'ELISIR D'AMORE	Donizetti
Frère voyez!... Du gai soleil	WERTHER	Massenet
Ach, ich fühl's	DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE	Mozart
The Silver Aria	The Ballad of Baby Doe	Moore

RAFAEL ROJAS REA, TENOR, 26 ZAPOPAN JALISCO, MEXICO - Mexico District



De' miei bollenti spiriti	LA TRAVIATA	Verdi
Ah, lève-toi, soleil!	ROMÉO ET JULIETTE	Gounod
Ach so fromm, ach so traut (M'appari)	MARTHA	Flotow
Pourquoi me réveiller	WERTHER	Massenet

CAITLIN GOTIMER, SOPRANO, 29 MALVERNE, NY - Arizona District



Vissi d'arte, vissi d'amore	TOSCA	Puccini
L'empio rigor del fato	RODELINDA	Handel
Song to the Moon	RUSALKA	Dvorak
Ah! Je ris de me voir (The Jewel Song)	FAUST	Gounod

The Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition Rocky Mountain Region would like to acknowledge the very generous donation of \$750 made by Lynn Harrington.

Thank you for your support!

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Myra Louise Bender: *The Arthur & Miriam Bender Memorial Award*
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