

2024-25 SEASON

UTAH

DISTRICT COMPETITION

NOVEMBER 2, 2024



LAFFONT
COMPETITION

The Metropolitan Opera



2024 Finalists with Maestro Evan Rogister and Competition alumni Denyce Graves and Ryan Speedo Green

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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 Jamie Barton, Stephanie Blythe, Lawrence Brownlee, Anthony Roth Costanzo, Emily D'Angelo, Michael Fabiano, Renée Fleming, Susan Graham, Ryan Speedo Green, Lisette Oropesa, Eric Owens, and Nadine Sierra.

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.

National Semifinals

Sunday, March 9, 2025

Eric and Dominique Laffont Grand Finals Concert

Sunday, March 16, 2025

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

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.

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UTAH DISTRICT COMPETITION
NOVEMBER 2, 2024
LIBBY GARDNER CONCERT HALL
UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

Julie McBeth and Carol & Gunter Radinger, Co-Directors
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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.

Complete and return the **Audience Choice Award** 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 completed audition 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 winners** will take place in the reception space directly following the completion of the judges' deliberations.

REPERTOIRE | NOVEMBER 2, 2024
IN PERFORMANCE ORDER

LINNEA MINER MOTT, SOPRANO, 27

PLEASANT GROVE, UT

Once I thought (Laurie's Song)	THE TENDER LAND	Copland
Chacun le sait	LA FILLE DU RÉGIMENT	Donizetti
Sul fil d'un soffio etesio	FALSTAFF	Verdi
Tornami a vagheggiar	ALCINA	Handel

SANDRA ALDAZ MERAZ, MEZZO-SOPRANO, 29

CHIHUAHUA, MEXICO

Mon cœur s'ouvre à ta voix	SAMSON ET DALILA	Saint-Saëns
Près des remparts de Séville (Seguidilla)	CARMEN	Bizet
Una voce poco fa	IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA	Rossini
Va! Laisse couler mes larmes	WERTHER	Massenet

NATALIA CHAMPAGNE, SOPRANO, 28

CHISINAU, MOLDOVA

Ah! Je veux vivre	ROMÉO ET JULIETTE	Gounod
Ludmila's Cavatina	RUSLAN AND LUDMILA	Glinka
Regnava nel silenzio	LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR	Donizetti
Gold is a fine thing (The Silver Aria)	THE BALLAD OF BABY DOE	Moore

ANTHONY RUIZ, TENOR, 26

LONGMONT, CO

Dies Bildnis ist bezaubernd schön	DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE	Mozart
Lonely House	STREET SCENE	Weill
Avete torto!...Firenze è come un albero fiorito	GIANNI SCHICCHI	Puccini
Oui, ce qu'elle m'ordonne... Lorsque l'enfant revient	WERTHER	Massenet

STEPHANIE CHEE, SOPRANO, 24

SUNNYVALE, CA

Neghittosi, or voi che fate	ARIODANTE	Handel
Ach, ich fühl's	DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE	Mozart
His name is Jan	BREAKING THE WAVES	Missy Mazzoli
Je suis encor tout étourdie	MANON	Massenet

CARLYLE QUINN, MEZZO-SOPRANO, 24	PORTLAND, OR	
Iris, hence away	SEMELE	Handel
L'amour est un oiseau rebelle (Habanera)	CARMEN	Bizet
Pauline's Aria (Polina's Aria)	PIQUE DAME	Tchaikovsky
È sgombro il loco... Ah! pareo che per incanto	ANNA BOLENA	Donizetti
DYANNA BOHORQUES, SOPRANO, 26	BRONX, NY	
Ah, fuggi il traditor!	DON GIOVANNI	Mozart
Donde lieta uscì	LA BOHÈME	Puccini
Il est doux, il est bon	HÉRODIADE	Massenet
How beautiful it is (The Tower)	THE TURN OF THE SCREW	Britten
JACOB KENISON, TENOR, 27	TOOELE, UT	
Donna non vidi mai	MANON LESCAUT	Puccini
Amor ti vieta	FEDORA	Giordano
Dein ist mein ganzes Herz	DAS LAND DES LÄCHELNS	Lehár
Il mio tesoro	DON GIOVANNI	Mozart
EMILY GALLAGHER, SOPRANO, 27	COLD SPRING HARBOR, NY	
Tiger! wetze nur die Klauen	ZAIDE	Mozart
No word from Tom	THE RAKE'S PROGRESS	Stravinsky
Je dis que rien ne m'épouvante (Michaëla's Aria)	CARMEN	Bizet
Sventurata mi credea	LA CENERENTOLA	Rossini
ERICK MOSTELLER, BARITONE, 25	SALT LAKE CITY, UT	
Deh, vieni alla finestra	DON GIOVANNI	Mozart
Mein Sehnen, mein Wähnen	DIE TOTE STADT	Korngold
La banca di Francia (Schaunard's Aria)	LA BOHÈME	Puccini
Within this frail crucible of light	THE RAPE OF LUCRETIA	Britten
CEILIDH ARGYLE, SOPRANO, 25	SOUTH JORDAN, UT	
Ain't it a pretty night?	SUSANNAH	Floyd
The sun has fallen (The Black Swan)	THE MEDIUM	Menotti
Porgi, amor	LE NOZZE DI FIGARO	Mozart
Quando m'en vo'	LA BOHÈME	Puccini

SARAH SCOFIELD, MEZZO-SOPRANO, 26

WEST LAFAYETTE, IN

We had one room in Lambeth Marsh...	ELIZABETH CREE	Kevin Puts
Nobles seigneurs, salut!	LES HUGUENOTS	Meyerbeer
Svegliatevi nel core	GIULIO CESARE	Handel
Una voce poco fa	IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA	Rossini

MCKENZIE MULBERRY, SOPRANO, 23

HOUSTON, TX

Be kind and courteous	A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM	Britten
Da schlagt die abschiedstunde	DER SCHAUSPIELDIREKTOR	Mozart
Je suis Titania	MIGNON	Thomas
Tornami a vagheggiar	ALCINA	Handel

SAM PLUMB, TENOR, 29

SALT LAKE CITY, UT

Che gelida manina	LA BOHÈME	Puccini
I see, you see	MOBY-DICK	Jake Heggie
Dies Bildnis ist bezaubernd schön	DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE	Mozart
Salut! demeure chaste et pure	FAUST	Gounod

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

CASSANDRA WILLOCK, SOPRANO, 30

SEATTLE, WA

Injurious Hermia	A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM	Britten
Je suis encor tout étourdie	MANON	Massenet
Mi tradì quell'alma ingrata	DON GIOVANNI	Mozart
Son pochi fiori	L'AMICO FRITZ	Mascagni

LEHI MORAN, TENOR, 22

DELTA, UT

Ah! mes amis, quel jour de fête!...Pour mon âme	LA FILLE DU RÉGIMENT	Donizetti
Avete torto!...Firenze è come un albero fiorito	GIANNI SCHICCHI	Puccini
Je crois entendre encore	LES PÊCHEURS DE PERLES	Bizet
È serbato, a questo acciaro	I CAPULETI E I MONTECCHI	Bellini

MARY FETTERMAN, SOPRANO, 24

BOYERTOWN, PA

Chi il bel sogno di Doretta	LA RONDINE	Puccini
Deh vieni, non tardar	LE NOZZE DI FIGARO	Mozart
I Want Magic!	A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE	Previn
Nun eilt herbei ... Verführer!	DIE LUSTIGEN WEIBER VON WINDSOR	Nicolai

SAVANNAH PARSONS, SOPRANO, 25

BAKERSFIELD, CA

Have peace, Jo	LITTLE WOMEN	Mark Adamo
Me voilà seule... Comme autrefois	LES PÊCHEURS DE PERLES	Bizet
Porgi, amor	LE NOZZE DI FIGARO	Mozart
Sì, mi chiamano Mimì	LA BOHÈME	Puccini

YANTIAN SUN, BARITONE, 25

JINAN, CHINA

Avant de quitter ces lieux	FAUST	Gounod
Cruda, funesta smania	LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR	Donizetti
E fra quest'ansie	PAGLIACCI	Leoncavallo
Mein Sehnen, mein Wähnen	DIE TOTE STADT	Korngold

COURTNEY CASTON, SOPRANO, 29

MABLETON, GA

My man's gone now	PORGY AND BESS	Gershwin
Pleurez! pleurez, mes yeux!	LE CID	Massenet
Porgi, amor	LE NOZZE DI FIGARO	Mozart
Voi lo sapete	CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA	Mascagni

CAROLINE BUSSELBERG, SOPRANO, 27

HOUSTON, TX

Ach, ich fühl's	DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE	Mozart
Caro nome	RIGOLETTO	Verdi
No word from Tom	THE RAKE'S PROGRESS	Stravinsky
Quel guardo il cavaliere... So anch'io la virtù magica	DON PASQUALE	Donizetti

MARLIE KROGH, MEZZO-SOPRANO, 23

PINE VALLEY, UT

Ah, Michele, don't you know	THE SAINT OF BLEECKER STREET	Menotti
Chacun à son goût	DIE FLEDERMAUS	Strauss II
Per questa fiamma indomita	ANNA BOLENA	Donizetti
Va! Laisse couler mes larmes	WERTHER	Massenet

CASSIE WEINTZ, SOPRANO, 25

HIGHLAND, UT

Chacun le sait	LA FILLE DU RÉGIMENT	Donizetti
Deh vieni, non tardar	LE NOZZE DI FIGARO	Mozart
Steal me, sweet thief	THE OLD MAID AND THE THIEF	Menotti
Prendi, per me sei libero	L'ELISIR D'AMORE	Donizetti

BENJAMIN SOUTH, TENOR, 24	MUSCLE SHOALS, AL	
Ah, lève-toi, soleil!	ROMÉO ET JULIETTE	Gounod
Dies Bildnis ist bezaubernd schön	DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE	Mozart
Here I stand...Since it is not by merit	THE RAKE'S PROGRESS	Stravinsky
Tombe degli avi miei ...Fra poco a me ricovero	LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR	Donizetti
KIERSTEN LANGFORD, SOPRANO, 22	BRIGHAM CITY, UT	
Ach, ich fühl's	DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE	Mozart
Chacun le sait	LA FILLE DU RÉGIMENT	Donizetti
Dearest Mama	THE BALLAD OF BABY DOE	Moore
Les oiseaux dans la charmille (Doll Song)	LES CONTES D'HOFFMANN	Offenbach
HOLLY DUERICHEN, MEZZO-SOPRANO, 24	MAPLE RIDGE, CANADA	
Nobles seigneurs, salut!	LES HUGUENOTS	Meyerbeer
Parto, parto, ma tu, ben mio	LA CLEMENZA DI TITO	Mozart
Svegliatevi nel core	GIULIO CESARE	Handel
Una voce poco fa	IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA	Rossini
KATHERINE COX, SOPRANO, 23	PLEASANT GROVE, UT	
Pleurez! pleurez, mes yeux!	LE CID	Massenet
Mi tradì quell'alma ingrata	DON GIOVANNI	Mozart
Donde lieta uscì	LA BOHÈME	Puccini
Porgi, amor	LE NOZZE DI FIGARO	Mozart
JOSEPH CALZADA, BASS-BARITONE, 25	PEMBROKE PINES, FL	
Aprite un po' quegli'occhi	LE NOZZE DI FIGARO	Mozart
Miei rampolli femminini	LA CENERENTOLA	Rossini
Papagena! Weibchen! Täubchen!	DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE	Mozart
Riez! Allez!	DON QUICHOTTE	Massenet
MADISON O'BRIEN, SOPRANO, 23	FORT WORTH, TX	
I Want Magic!	A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE	Previn
Come scoglio	COSÌ FAN TUTTE	Mozart
Je dis que rien ne m'épouvante	CARMEN	Bizet
Mäsičku na nebi hlubokém	RUSALKA	Dvořák

JUDGES



Susanne Mentzer

Mezzo Soprano
Professor of Voice,
San Francisco
Conservatory of Music

American mezzo-soprano **Susanne Mentzer** has established herself not only as an international singer but also as a writer, teacher, and arts advocate. Susanne continues to perform concert and chamber music, most recently commissioning 21 songs from a diverse group of composers for a project called *Standing Still: Still Standing*, on poems written during the pandemic by her life-partner Reg Huston. With fifty operatic roles performed, Susanne retired from the opera stage in August 2022. She had a significant opera career of forty-two years, appearing on four continents with nearly every great opera house and orchestra. She was a guest artist at The Metropolitan Opera in leading roles from 1989-2016.

In 2016 she joined the faculty of San Francisco Conservatory of Music after 12 years in academia as a Tenured Professor at the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University and Associate Professor at DePaul University in Chicago. She is also an instructor of the Adler Fellowship Program at San Francisco Opera and at Songfest at Colburn. She has been on faculty at the Aspen Music Festival and School. She regularly adjudicates competitions and serves on the Board of Directors of The Sullivan Foundation and The George London Foundation which each give awards to promising young singers. See susannementzer.com for more.



Roger Malouf

Coach,
Respiro Opera

When **Roger Malouf** was an Assistant Conductor with The Metropolitan Opera, he worked on a wide range of productions led by maestros James Levine, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Simon Rattle, Lorin Maazel, Julius Rudel, Fabio Luisi, Andrew Davis, Marco Armiliato, Plácido Domingo, Joseph Colaneri, Gianandrea Noseda, and Valery Gergiev, among others. He was an Assistant Professor at Mannes College of Music, and Co-Director of the Opera Workshop in the Extension Division. He also served on the staff of the New York City Opera and The Juilliard School.

As a vocal coach, Roger was on the faculty of the Bel Canto Institute in Florence; of the American Institute for Musical Studies (AIMS) in Graz, Austria; and at the International Vocal Institute in Croatia, on the island of Hvar. He was an accompanist for the Belvedere Competition at the Vienna Chamber Opera, as well as for the Jugendfestspieltreffen at the Bayreuth Festival. Roger has conducted productions of opera and musical theater for the Natchez Opera Festival, the Little Opera Theatre of New York, Brooklyn Repertory Opera, at Trinity Church on Wall Street, and for West Side Opera in Manhattan.



Daniel Belcher

Baritone
Voice Faculty,
University of Houston
Moore School of Music

GRAMMY® Award-winning baritone **Daniel Belcher** has performed in many of the world's music capitals, including Paris, London, New York, San Francisco, Berlin, Stuttgart, Amsterdam, Geneva, Madrid, Toronto, Montreal, Tokyo, Seoul, and Houston. With a repertoire of more than 80 roles, Daniel has championed roles from the Baroque to those composed expressly for him. He came to international attention in 2004 when he created the role of Prior Walter in Peter Eötvös' *Angels in America* for the Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris.

In addition to his active performing career, Daniel is a sought-after voice teacher, administrator and clinician. During his time as the Director of the Artist Diploma at William Jewell College, he developed a program designed to bridge the gap between academia and the professional performing career. He recently joined the voice faculty at Moores School of Music, University of Houston, and serves as the voice teacher for the Resident Artist Program at Opera Colorado. In the past, he has served on the faculties of the Florida State University, Hawaii Performing Arts Festival, IVAI – Tel Aviv, William Jewell, and the Sibelius Akademie in Helsinki. See danielbelcherbaritone.com for more.

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 2, 2024, Utah District Competition possible.

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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. Carol Anderson
Official Pianist

Carol Anderson is in her 22nd 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 Ghost Light 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: Lawrence Gee will play for Jacob Kenison and Peter Blackham will play for Marlie Krogh.



Sandra Aldaz Meraz



Ceilidh Argyle



Dyanna Bohorques



Caroline Busselberg



Joseph Calzada



Courtney Caston



Natalia Champagne



Stephanie Chee



Katherine Cox



Holly Duerichen



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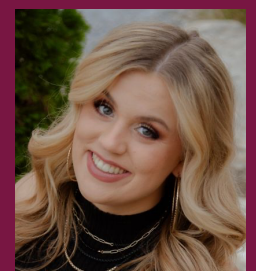
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