

NATIONAL COUNCIL 2020-21 SEASON

# HOUSTON

DISTRICT AUDITIONS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2020

The Met  
ropolitan  
Opera



The 2020 National Council Finalists PHOTO: FAY FOX / MET OPERA

**CAMILLE LABARRE**  
CHAIRMAN

**CAROL E. DOMINA**  
PRESIDENT

**MELISSA WEGNER**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**BRADY WALSH**  
ADMINISTRATOR

**LISETTE OROPESA**  
NATIONAL ADVISOR

### **National Semifinals**

Sunday, May 9, 2021

### **Grand Finals Concert**

Sunday, May 16, 2021

The Semifinals and Grand Finals are currently scheduled to take place at the Met. We are closely monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic and will make alternate arrangements in compliance with any and all necessary safety and health regulations in place during the spring of 2021.

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

## **NATIONAL COUNCIL AUDITIONS**

The Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions program cultivates young opera singers and assists in the development of their careers. The Auditions are held annually in 39 districts and 12 regions of the United States, Canada, and Mexico—all administered by dedicated National Council members and volunteers. Winners of the region auditions advance to compete in the national semifinals. National finalists are then selected and compete in the Grand Finals Concert. During the 2020–21 season, the auditions are being held virtually via livestream. Singers compete for prize money and receive feedback from judges at all levels of the competition.

Many of the world’s greatest singers, among them Lawrence Brownlee, Anthony Roth Costanzo, Renée Fleming, Lisette Oropesa, Eric Owens, and Frederica von Stade, have won the Auditions. More than 100 former auditioners appear on the Met roster each season.

The National Council 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 National Council Audition Program Endowment Fund at the Metropolitan Opera.

## **EDUCATION FUND**

Education Fund grants are available to contestants of the National Council Auditions who reach the semifinal round or further and demonstrate improved skills in a follow-up audition; each eligible contestant may be granted a total of up to \$5,000 upon multiple hearings within three years from when the contestant competed in the National Council Semifinals.

To learn more about donating to the National Council Auditions or the Education Fund, please visit [metopera.org/MONCSupport](http://metopera.org/MONCSupport).

SINGERS



Andres Acosta



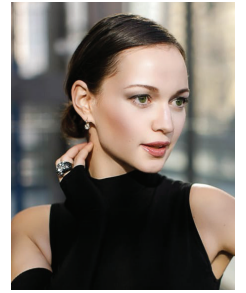
Moriah Berry



Ben Brady



Andres Cascante



Valeriya Chibisova



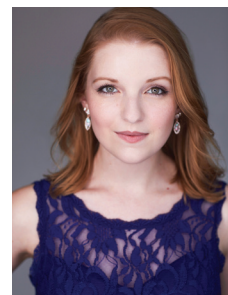
Alan Cline



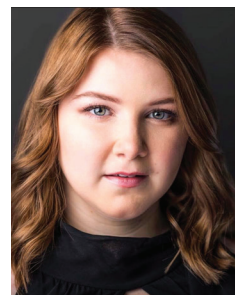
Andrew Forsythe



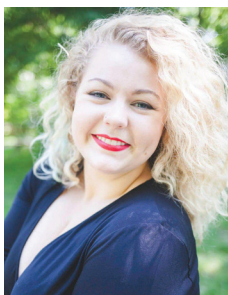
Michelle Girardot



Catherine Goode



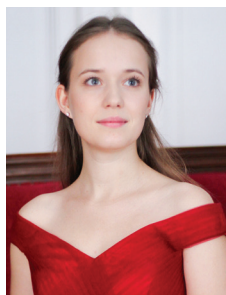
Megan Graves



Katherine Jones



Emily Kern



Dominika  
Koscielniak



Amanda Levy



Cory McGee



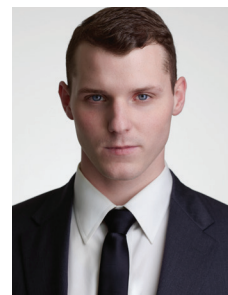
Monica Music



Sarah Neal



Whitney Robinson



Michael Skarke

**REPERTOIRE | DECEMBER 20, 2020**

IN PERFORMANCE ORDER

**CATHERINE GOODE, SOPRANO, 29****FRIENDSWOOD, TX**

Neghittosi, or voi che fate	ARIODANTE	Handel
Großmächtige Prinzessin	ARIADNE AUF NAXOS	R. Strauss
Ah! douce enfant	CENDRILLON	Massenet
Down you go	FLIGHT	Dove

**MONICA MUSIC, SOPRANO, 23****DALLAS, TX**

Aure, portate	TOLOMEO	Handel
Come, now a roundel	A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM	Britten
Comme autrefois	LES PÊCHEURS DE PERLES	Bizet
Ach, ich fühl's	DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE	Mozart

**DOMINIKA KOŚCIELNIAK, MEZZO-SOPRANO, 28****BERLIN, GERMANY**

Il padre adorato	IDOMENEO	Mozart
Ah Tanya, Tanya	EUGENE ONEGIN	Tchaikovsky
Svegliatevi nel core	GIULIO CESARE	Handel
I was a constant, faithful wife	THE BEAR	Walton

**MORIAH BERRY, SOPRANO, 28****ATLANTA, GA**

Ah, non credea mirarti...Ah, non giunge	LA SONNAMBULA	Bellini
Je suis encore tout étourdie	MANON	Massenet
My darling Jim	GLORY DENIED	Cipullo
Robert, toi que j'aime	ROBERT LE DIABLE	Meyerbeer

**MICHELLE GIRARDOT, SOPRANO, 27****AUSTIN, TX**

My darling Jim	GLORY DENIED	Cipullo
Je suis encore tout étourdie	MANON	Massenet
Die Wiener Herrn	ARABELLA	R. Strauss
Deh vieni, non tardar	LE NOZZE DI FIGARO	Mozart

**BEN BRADY, BASS-BARITONE, 30****DENVER, CO**

Chto skazhet on?	IOLANTA	Tchaikovsky
Sorge infausta una procella	ORLANDO	Handel
Schweig, schweig	DER FREISCHÜTZ	Weber
When my cue comes, call me	A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM	Britten



**REPERTOIRE (CONT'D) | DECEMBER 20, 2020**

IN PERFORMANCE ORDER

**VALERIYA CHIBISOVA, SOPRANO, 28****MOSCOW, RUSSIA**

Donde lieta uscì	LA BOHÈME	Puccini
Ach, ich fühl's	DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE	Mozart
Signore, ascolta	TURANDOT	Puccini
Otchego eto prezhde ne znala	IOLANTA	Tchaikovsky

**ALAN CLINE, BARITONE, 30****WELLSBURG, WV**

Avant de quitter ces lieux	FAUST	Gounod
Per me giunto	DON CARLO	Verdi
Ya vas lyublyu	THE QUEEN OF SPADES	Tchaikovsky
Si può? Si può?	PAGLIACCI	Leoncavallo

**KATHERINE JONES, SOPRANO, 24****INDIANAPOLIS, IN**

Come scoglio	COSÌ FAN TUTTE	Mozart
Il est doux, il est bon	HÉRODIADE	Massenet
Klänge der Heimat	DIE FLEDERMAUS	J. Strauss
Quando m'en vo	LA BOHÈME	Puccini

**ANDREW FORSYTHE, BASS, 23****HOLLY, MI**

A strike's a strike	THE MIGHTY CASEY	Schuman
Vecchia zimarra, senti	LA BOHÈME	Puccini
Come dal ciel precipita	MACBETH	Verdi
Vi ravviso, o luoghi ameni	LA SONNAMBULA	Bellini

**EMILY KERN, SOPRANO, 26****GRAPEVINE, TX**

Stridono lassù	PAGLIACCI	Leoncavallo
Und ist kein Betrug in seinem Munde	WOZZECK	Berg
I want magic!	A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE	Previn
Das war sehr gut, Mandryka	ARABELLA	R. Strauss

**MEGAN GRAVES, MEZZO-SOPRANO, 23****HASLET, TX**

Cruda sorte	L'ITALIANA IN ALGERI	Rossini
Connais-tu le pays?	MIGNON	Thomas
Daybreak	THREE DECEMBERS	Heggie
Priva son d'ogni conforto	GIULIO CESARE	Handel

**REPERTOIRE (CONT'D) | DECEMBER 20, 2020**

IN PERFORMANCE ORDER

**WHITNEY ROBINSON, MEZZO-SOPRANO, 28****HOUSTON, TX**

O mio Fernando	LA FAVORITA	Donizetti
Hurr, hopp, hopp, hopp	HÄNSEL UND GRETEL	Humperdinck
Acerba voluttà	ADRIANA LECOUVREUR	Cilea
Stride la vampa!	IL TROVATORE	Verdi

**CORY MCGEE, BASS, 24****STAFFORD, VA**

Madamina, il catalogo è questo	DON GIOVANNI	Mozart
Ves' tabor spit	ALEKO	Rachmaninoff
Come, master	THE RAKE'S PROGRESS	Stravinsky
Vous qui faites l'endormie	FAUST	Gounod

**AMANDA LEVY, SOPRANO, 26****SMITHTOWN, NY**

Ah! je ris	FAUST	Gounod
After you hear me out	GLORY DENIED	Cipullo
Non mi dir	DON GIOVANNI	Mozart
Klänge der Heimat	DIE FLEDERMAUS	J. Strauss

**ANDRES ACOSTA, TENOR, 28****MIAMI, FL**

Se all'impero	LA CLEMENZA DI TITO	Mozart
Ah! lève-toi, soleil!	ROMÉO ET JULIETTE	Gounod
Fra poco a me ricovero	LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR	Donizetti
Last night, how many?	FELLOW TRAVELERS	Spears

**ANDRES CASCANTE, BARITONE, 27****SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA**

Nel mondo e nell'abisso	TAMERLANO	Handel
Cruda, funesta smania	LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR	Donizetti
Captain Ahab? I must speak with you	MOBY-DICK	Heggie
L'orage s'est calmé	LES PÊCHEURS DE PERLES	Bizet

**SARAH NEAL, MEZZO-SOPRANO, 23****SOUTH BEND, IN**

Que fais-tu, blanche tourterelle	ROMÉO ET JULIETTE	Gounod
Non più mesta	LA CENERENTOLA	Rossini
We had one room	ELIZABETH CREE	Puts
Nimmermehr wird mein Herze	MARTHA	Flotow

**MICHAEL SKARKE, COUNTERTENOR, 24****LEAGUE CITY, TX**

---

Qual nave smarrita

RADAMISTO

Handel

I know a bank

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

Britten

Quella beltà

ERCOLE SUL TERMODONTE

Vivaldi

Che farò senza Euridice?

ORFEO ED EURIDICE

Gluck

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS | DECEMBER 20, 2020

## JUDGES

### JANE EAGLEN

SOPRANO  
VOICE FACULTY, NEW ENGLAND CONSERVATORY

### BILL PALANT

MANAGING DIRECTOR, ÉTUDE ARTS, LLC

### NINO SANIKIDZE

HEAD COACH, YOUNG ARTIST PROGRAM, LA OPERA  
FACULTY ARTIST, MUSIC ACADEMY OF THE WEST VOCAL INSTITUTE

### BETHANY SELF

MONC PIANIST

### BRANDON ELDREDGE

JESSICA HALL

SERGEY IOROV

KIRILL KUZMIN

NANAMI NOMURA

BIN YU SANFORD

BRIAN SUITS

ADDITIONAL PIANISTS

### VERONIKA ARKHANGEL

SYDNEY MULLOY

MONC STAFF

### MARC SICILIANO

KISWE STAFF

## HOUSTON DISTRICT

### RHONDA SWEENEY

DIRECTOR

### RICHARD DICKSON

SINGER LIAISON

### JANE EGNER

TREASURER

### BILL HAASE

KIRK HICKEY

BARBARA KAUFFMAN

MARKETING

### RICHARD KUMMINS

VOLUNTEER LIAISON

### GLORIA PORTELA

FUNDRAISING

### JANET SIMS

HOSPITALITY



## DONORS

### ANGEL (\$2,000)

RHONDA AND DONALD SWEENEY

### UNDERWRITER (\$1,000-\$1,999)

JOHN G. TURNER AND JERRY G. FISCHER

### BENEFACTOR (\$500-\$999)

BILL ARNING AND AARON SKOLNICK  
CHRISTOPHER BACON AND CRAIG MILLER  
ERIK NELSON AND TERRY BRANDHORST

### SPONSOR (\$250-\$499)

ANONYMOUS  
MICHELLE BEALE AND DICK ANDERSON  
SALLY AND TOM BOLAM  
ROBERT CHANON  
RICHARD DICKSON  
CHIP AND MISSY GALAGAZA  
KIRK HICKEY AND BILL MAGUIRE  
MARIANNE KAH  
BARBARA AND BOB KAUFFMAN  
MURRAY AND ANNE MCANDREW  
SHIRLEY ROSE  
DAVID ROWAN

### FRIEND (\$100-\$249)

ANONYMOUS  
GERRY AITKEN  
URSULA BALAGURA  
ANDREW BOWEN  
SHARON M. D'ORSIE  
JANE EGNER  
MARTHA FAGIN  
BILL AND DIANA FREEMAN  
MARY MARKS GUILLORY  
DONNA HAHUS  
ALAN AND ELLEN HOLZBERG  
LEE HUBER  
BEVERLY JOHNSON  
ELIZABETH AND ALBERT KIDD  
RICHARD KUMMINS  
GIUSEPPE MANISCALCO  
HELEN MANN, MBE  
DOROTHY MCCAINE  
SUSAN OSTERBERG  
ROBERT WAKEFIELD

### SUPPORTER (<\$100)

JUDY AND HARRY BRISTOL  
CHRISTA COOPER

## LETTER FROM THE HOUSTON DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Thank you for joining us for our 10th Anniversary season of the Houston District Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions! Our goal remains the same even in the online format -- to discover exceptional young opera singers at all levels of experience, and to assist those with the greatest potential in furthering their careers. Today's judges will provide valuable feedback to help the singers improve for the next round of competition and other auditions. Today's Houston District Winners advance to the Gulf Coast Region on February 28th, joining winners from Mexico, Puerto Rico and New Orleans Districts.

Since Houston became a MONC District in 2011, we've given \$62,900 to 31 Houston District Winners and 24 Encouragement Awardees. Thanks to our loyal and generous donors who have made these Houston District Auditions successful for the past 10 years.

Houston's vibrant music community supports the Auditions in many ways, especially Houston Grand Opera, HGO Guild, HGO Studio, HGO Chorus, HGOco, Opera in the Heights, Houston Ebony Opera Guild, University of Houston's Moores School of Music, Rice University's Shepherd School of Music, University of St. Thomas, Texas Southern University, Houston Baptist University, Lone Star Lyric Theater, Ars Lyrica Houston, Apollo Chamber Players, and Mercury. Thanks also to our official pianist Bethany Self, Artist Teacher of Opera Studies at Rice University's Shepherd School of Music since 2014, and previously on the HGO music staff as assistant conductor and principal coach for mainstage productions.

From the MONC Houston District Volunteer Team, best wishes for the 2020 holiday season and to seeing you in person in a brighter 2021!

RICHARD DICKSON, SINGER LIAISON

JANE EGNER, TREASURER

BILL HAASE, MARKETING

KIRK HICKEY, MARKETING

BARBARA KAUFFMAN, MARKETING

RICHARD KUMMINS, VOLUNTEER LIAISON

GLORIA PORTELA, FUNDRAISING

JANET SIMS, HOSPITALITY

RHONDA SWEENEY, DISTRICT DIRECTOR

## LEADERSHIP FOR THE 2020-21 SEASON

### Regional Chairpersons

David O'Connor  
CENTRAL

Lara Marcon  
Stefanie VanSteelandt  
EASTERN

Diane Dupin  
Melissa Gordon  
GULF COAST

Barbara and Ronald Glass  
Mary Susman and Tom Herm  
MIDWEST

Pauline Ho Bynum  
NEW ENGLAND

Clint Singley  
NORTHWEST

Stephen Dilts  
ROCKY MOUNTAIN

Randall Romig  
SOUTHEAST

Connie Fullmer  
Jimmy Longoria  
UPPER MIDWEST

Molly Siefert  
Marianne Grant  
WESTERN

### District Directors

Kimberley Smith  
ARIZONA

Martin and Melissa Thoma  
ARKANSAS

Barbara and John VanScoyoc  
BOSTON

Leah Wietig  
BUFFALO-TORONTO

Karen Mohr  
COLORADO-WYOMING

Robin Valovich  
CONNECTICUT

Swantje Knye-Levin  
Joan Travis  
FLORIDA

Alexis Lundy  
Jason Meeks  
GEORGIA

Rhonda Sweeney  
HOUSTON

Diana Livingston Friedley  
IDAHO-MONTANA

Jason Pompeii  
ILLINOIS

Sara Compton  
Donald Simonson  
IOWA

Melinda J. Cannady  
Dr. Wilma B. Wilcox  
KANSAS CITY

Cacey Nardolillo  
KENTUCKY

Karen Gottlieb  
Laurel Howat  
Susan Malinowski  
LOS ANGELES

Joan Mitchell  
MEXICO

Theodore Fellenbaum  
Barbara Wiltsie  
MICHIGAN

Laura Franz  
Adrienne Dickson  
NEBRASKA

Royce Blackburn  
Louise Pinkerton  
NORTH DAKOTA-MANITOBA

Rebeccka Coe  
Susan Mitchell  
NEW ORLEANS

Lara Marcon  
Stefanie VanSteelandt  
NEW YORK

Steven LaCosse  
Leslie Paliyenko  
NORTH CAROLINA

Annette Condeluci  
Christopher Scott  
PITTSBURGH

Ada Sofia Esteves  
PUERTO RICO

Kate Thickstun  
Joan Henkelman  
SAN DIEGO

Fred Dear  
Patty Doherty  
Michele Patzakis  
Khorl Dastoor (*Consultant*)  
SAN FRANCISCO

Bettie and Van Edwards  
SOUTH CAROLINA

Jocelynne McCall  
Jan Simpson  
TENNESSEE

Kathleen and Leonard Pataki  
TULSA

Julie McBeth  
Carol and Gunter Radinger  
UTAH

Maxine Levy  
WASHINGTON

Nicolas Krusek  
WESTERN CANADA

Lisa Hanson  
WISCONSIN

## THANK YOU TO OUR NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS AND CONTRIBUTORS

Ms. Jo-Ann C. Adams	Ms. Lily Hsieh	Ms. Rhonda Sweeney
Dr. Joan T. Ades	Mr. and Mrs. William Jagoda	Mrs. Beatrice B. Taplin
Mr. and Ms. Alan Agle	Dr. and Mrs. Waine C. Johnson	Mrs. Eva Tausig
Mr. Donald J. and Dr. Marie Z. Amoruso	Mr. Michael Kalkstein	Ms. Martha J. Taylor
Mrs. Susan K. Appel	Mr. John Kander	Mrs. Douglas Dockery Thomas
Mr. R. J. Barnett	Mr. & Mrs. Patrick J. Kennedy	Mrs. George J. Towne
Mr. Norton Belknap	Dr. Karen and Mr. Kevin Kennedy	Ms. Joan Travis
Mrs. Jane C. Bergner	Mrs. Leona Kern	Mr. and Mrs. John VanScoyoc
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Braddock	Ms. Injoa Kim	Dr. Wilma B. Wilcox
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Brauer	Dr. Richard Klein	Dr. Judith G. Wolf
Dr. and Mrs. Harmar Brereton	Ms. Swantje Knye-Levin	Dr. and Mrs. Timothy Young
Mrs. Sara Brewster	Mr. Daniel Kopti	Mr. and Mrs. Edward Zimmerman
Mr. Roger E. Burke	Mr. Thomas F. Kranz	
Mrs. Pauline H. Bynum	Mr. and Mrs. Dennis W. LaBarre	
Mr. Arthur B. Casper	Mrs. Dominique F. Laffont	
Mrs. Eleanor N. Caulkins	Mr. and Mrs. Fernand Lamesch	
Mr. Ellis Chernoff	Mrs. Walter J. Laughery, Jr.	
Mr. Theodore Chu	Dr. Edward D. Levy, Jr.	
Ms. Emily Cornelius	Dr. and Mrs. Charles Lightdale	
Mr. and Mrs. William R. Craven	Ms. Susan Malinowski	
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Crawford	Mr. and Mrs. Jack McDowell	
Mr. and Mrs. Ross Dacal	Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Michaels	
Mrs. Julia W. Dayton	Mr. Paul Hart Miller	
Mr. Frederick L. Dear	Ms. Joan Mitchell	
Dr. Stephen Dilts	MONC St. Louis District	
Mrs. Carol E. Domina	Mr. and Mrs. Edward C. Oelsner	
Mr. & Mrs. Ross Dacal	Ms. Lisette Oropesa	
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis H. Dunn	Mrs. Constance V. Pathy	
Dr. and Mrs. Charles L. Dupin	Mr. and Ms. Lawrence T. Perera	
Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. Edge	Dr. and Mrs. Macon Phillips Jr.	
Ms. Suzanne B. Engel	Prof. Lisa A. Raskin	
Dr. Theodore L. Fellenbaum	Dr. & Mrs. Jonathan M. Raskin	
Mrs. Marina Kellen French	Dr. and Mrs. Cornelius Rosse	
Ms. Connie Fullmer	Mr. Milton B. Rubin	
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald R. Glass	Mr. and Mrs. William C. Rustin Jr	
Mr. and Mrs. Harry S. Glaze	Mrs. Christine F. Saurel	
Mrs. Lynn C. Goldberg	Dr. and Mrs. Frank Sharbrough	
Ms. Beth A. Goodman	Ms. Louise Shouse	
Ms. Melissa Gordon	Ms. Martha Siefert	
Mr. Christopher T. Clark	Ms. Katherine Simmons	
Dr. Veronika Grimm-Matthews	Ms. Kimberley Smith	
Dr. and Mrs. Randolph Guthrie	Ms. Dorothy Smith	
Mrs. Charles Henkelmann	Mrs. Hope G. Smith	
Mr. Thomas Herm	Mrs. Charles F. Smithers	
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hobart	Ms. Anne Solomon	
Mr. and Mrs. James Houston	Mrs. William F. Sondericker	
Mrs. Margaret Talmadge Howell	Mr. David Spiro	