

NATIONAL COUNCIL 2020-21 SEASON

MIDWEST

REGION AUDITIONS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2021

The Met
ropolitan
Opera



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

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National Semifinals

Sunday, May 9, 2021

Grand Finals Concert

Sunday, May 16, 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.

SINGERS

ARKANSAS DISTRICT



Alexandra
Nowakowski



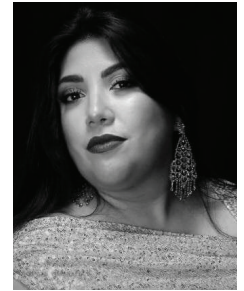
Angel Romero



Hilary Grace Taylor



Grace Tozer Wipfli



Judy Yannini

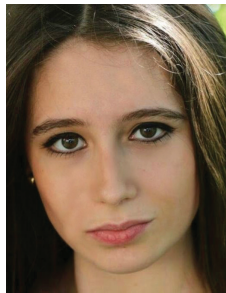
KANSAS CITY DISTRICT



Taylor Comstock



Alejandro Del Angel



Solène Le Van



Mikayla Sager



Jeremiah Sanders

TULSA DISTRICT



Audrey Ballish



Cara Collins



Kristen Marie Gillis



Yu He



Seiyong Kim

REPERTOIRE | FEBRUARY 20, 2021

IN PERFORMANCE ORDER

GRACE TOZER WIPFLI, SOPRANO, 25**OTTAWA HILLS, OH**

L'année en vain chasse l'année	L'ENFANT PRODIGE	Debussy
Non mi dir	DON GIOVANNI	Mozart
Ma quando tornerai	ALCINA	Handel
Otchego eto prezhdne ne znala	IOLANTA	Tchaikovsky

YU HE, BASS-BARITONE, 29**GANZHOU, CHINA**

Madamina, il catalogo è questo	DON GIOVANNI	Mozart
Infelice! e tuo credevi	ERNANI	Verdi
Épouse quelque brave fille	MANON	Massenet
O! du mein holder Abendstern	TANNHÄUSER	Wagner

HILARY GRACE TAYLOR, MEZZO-SOPRANO, 28**DALLAS, TX**

Sein wir wieder gut	ARIADNE AUF NAXOS	R. Strauss
Parto, parto	LA CLEMENZA DI TITO	Mozart
Baby Precious? Is it you?	AFTER LIFE	Cipullo
Where shall I fly?	HERCULES	Handel

AUDREY BALLISH, SOPRANO, 26**CINCINNATI, OH**

Da tempeste	GIULIO CESARE	Handel
Je marche...Obéissons quand leur voix appelle	MANON	Massenet
Ach, ich fühl's	DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE	Mozart
Caro nome	RIGOLETTO	Verdi

JEREMIAH SANDERS, BARITONE, 29**MARION, IN**

A dream wasted	HIGHWAY 1, U.S.A.	Still
Cortigiani, vil razza dannata	RIGOLETTO	Verdi
Scintille, diamant	LES CONTES D'HOFFMANN	Offenbach
Ach, wir armen Leute!	HÄNSEL UND GRETEL	Humperdinck

KRISTEN MARIE GILLIS, SOPRANO, 24**ROUND ROCK, TX**

Mercè, dilette amiche	I VESPRI SICILIANI	Verdi
Ain't it a pretty night	SUSANNAH	Floyd
Ah! je ris	FAUST	Gounod
Klänge der Heimat	DIE FLEDERMAUS	J. Strauss

REPERTOIRE (CONT'D) | FEBRUARY 20, 2021

IN PERFORMANCE ORDER

ANGEL ROMERO, TENOR, 25**HOUSTON, TX**

Sì, ritrovarla io giuro	LA CENERENTOLA	Rossini
Je crois entendre encore	LES PÊCHEURS DE PERLES	Bizet
Un'aura amorosa	COSÌ FAN TUTTE	Mozart
Dal labbro il canto	FALSTAFF	Verdi

ALEXANDRA NOWAKOWSKI, SOPRANO, 28**CHICAGO, IL**

Les oiseaux dans la charmille	LES CONTES D'HOFFMANN	Offenbach
Großmächtige Prinzessin	ARIADNE AUF NAXOS	R. Strauss
Ah! non credea mirarti...Ah! non giunge	LA SONNAMBULA	Bellini
Durch Zärtlichkeit und Schmeicheln	DIE ENTFÜHRUNG AUS DEM SERAIL	Mozart

ALEJANDRO DEL ANGEL, TENOR, 29**MEXICO CITY, MEXICO**

Ah, la paterna mano	MACBETH	Verdi
O paradis	L'AFRICAINNE	Meyerbeer
Kuda, kuda	EUGENE ONEGIN	Tchaikovsky
Quando le sere al placido	LUISA MILLER	Verdi

MIKAYLA SAGER, SOPRANO, 29**VANCOUVER, BC**

Tacea la notte placida	IL TROVATORE	Verdi
I want magic!	A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE	Previn
Pleurez mes yeux	LE CID	Massenet
Non mi dir	DON GIOVANNI	Mozart

CARA COLLINS, MEZZO-SOPRANO, 27**AMARILLO, TX**

Sgombra è la sacra selva...Deh! Proteggimi	NORMA	Bellini
Amour! viens aider ma faiblesse	SAMSON ET DALILA	Saint-Saëns
Cruda sorte	L'ITALIANA IN ALGERI	Rossini
Podrugi milyye	THE QUEEN OF SPADES	Tchaikovsky

SOLÈNE LE VAN, SOPRANO, 23**COLMAR, FRANCE**

En proie à la tristesse	LE COMTE ORY	Rossini
Down you go	FLIGHT	Dove
Klänge der Heimat	DIE FLEDERMAUS	J. Strauss
Quel guardo il cavaliere...So anch'io la virtù magica	DON PASQUALE	Donizetti

REPERTOIRE (CONT'D) | FEBRUARY 20, 2021

IN PERFORMANCE ORDER

TAYLOR P. COMSTOCK, TENOR, 30**INDEPENDENCE, MO**

Ah! lève-toi, soleil!	ROMÉO ET JULIETTE	Gounod
Firenze è come un albero fiorito	GIANNI SCHICCHI	Puccini
Che gelida manina	LA BOHÈME	Puccini
Open Thou my lips, O Lord	THE CRUCIBLE	Ward

JUDY YANNINI, SOPRANO, 29**TIJUANA, MEXICO**

Donde lieta uscì	LA BOHÈME	Puccini
Amour, ranime mon courage	ROMÉO ET JULIETTE	Gounod
Dove sono	LE NOZZE DI FIGARO	Mozart
Glück, das mir verblieb	DIE TOTE STADT	Korngold

SEIYOUNG KIM, TENOR, 27**SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA**

Sì, ritrovarla io giuro	LA CENERENTOLA	Rossini
Que les destins prospères	LE COMTE ORY	Rossini
Ich baue ganz auf deine Stärke	DIE ENTFÜHRUNG AUS DEM SERAIL	Mozart
Im Gegenteil	ARIADNE AUF NAXOS	R. Strauss

JUDGES

MICHAEL HEASTON | ARTISTIC ADMINISTRATOR, THE METROPOLITAN OPERA

A well-respected artistic administrator, collaborative pianist and vocal coach, Michael Heaston has established himself as one of opera's most important leaders and mentors. He has recently returned to The Metropolitan Opera as Artistic Administrator, where he oversees all casting and artistic planning. Prior to this he was Professor of Opera/Director of Opera Studies at Rice University and Music Director of the Houston Grand Opera Studio. He served as Executive Director and Acting Artistic Director of the Lindemann Young Artist Development Program at The Met. He has also been the Director of the Cafritz Young Artist Program, American Opera Initiative, and Advisor to the Artistic Director at Washington National Opera, Associate Artistic Director at The Glimmerglass Festival, and Head of Music Staff at The Dallas Opera.

A sought-after adjudicator, he has been a frequent judge for the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and served on the juries of the Marilyn Horne Song Competition at Music Academy of the West, Dallas Opera Guild Vocal Competition, Jensen Vocal Competition, Young Patronesses of the Opera Competition, McCammon Vocal Competition, DC Vocal Arts Art Song Competition and many others. Mr. Heaston is also in demand as a clinician, having presented master classes at The Juilliard School, Banff Centre for the Performing Arts, University of Michigan, Florida Grand Opera, and Boston Conservatory at Berklee, to name a few.

CORY LIPPIELLO | ARTISTIC ADMINISTRATOR, LYRIC OPERA OF CHICAGO

Cory Lippiello is the Artistic Administrator for Lyric Opera of Chicago where she prepares principal casting for main-stage operas, musicals, and Lyric Unlimited programming. As a producer/director, Ms. Lippiello created several filmed concerts during the 2020-21 online streaming season, including Lyric's fall gala and the upcoming New Classics musical theater concert. Before coming to Chicago in 2015, she served as Director of Artistic Planning for The Atlanta Opera and spent ten years as Artistic Administrator for New York City Opera. With over twenty-five years of experience as a producer and arts administrator, she has held significant positions with Wolf Trap Opera, New York Philharmonic, IMG Artists, OPERA America, and Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS.

Ms. Lippiello is a sought-after speaker on the topics of casting and auditions, and through Utopia Arts she mentors young BIPOC administrators at various stages of their careers. Additionally, she has served as an adjudicator for the Metropolitan Opera National Council auditions and as a grants panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts. In her former life as an experienced costume designer and technician, she created work for the Pig Iron Theater Company, Barnard College, The Ridiculous Theatrical Company, and the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Ms. Lippiello is a graduate of Vassar College.

CHRISTOPHER MCBETH | ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, UTAH OPERA

Christopher McBeth was appointed Artistic Director of Utah Opera in 2003. Since then, Utah Opera has received national recognition for creating new productions, a commitment to works by American composers, and its involvement in the creation of new operas. Mr. McBeth is committed to the professional development of young opera singers through the Utah Opera Resident Artist Program and many alumni of the program can be heard in opera houses and concert halls around the world. In addition, Mr. McBeth regularly adjudicates vocal competitions and holds an adjunct title with the University of Utah. Prior to Utah Opera, Mr. McBeth held positions with Fort Worth Opera, and Houston Grand Opera.

PIANISTS

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EILEEN DOWNEY
SORA JUNG
KATHLEEN KELLY
ALEX KOSTADINOV
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CHAIRMEN AND AUDITIONS DIRECTORS

FELICIA ELDER
AUDITIONS DAY DIRECTOR

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NOTE FROM THE MIDWEST REGION

Sixty-six years ago, in 1955, the Midwest Region's initial District (Tulsa) became the second District in the country to hold auditions, following Minneapolis in 1954. In the intervening sixty-six years, many young artists have come through the Midwest Region to later distinguish themselves on the stage and in the field of music. The auditions are a tradition in our four districts thanks in part to the vibrant performing arts communities whose leaders and patrons mutually support efforts benefiting the arts, including the MONC Auditions. We look forward to the next sixty-six years.

We recently lost a valued patron and former Midwest Region Chair. Margo Wallace volunteered with the Kansas City District Auditions before moving to Tulsa in the early 1970's and served as Tulsa District Directors along with her late husband Milt, and they subsequently served as Chairs of the Midwest Region. We will miss her and her dedication to this auditions program.

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