

NATIONAL COUNCIL 2020-21 SEASON

# CENTRAL

REGION AUDITIONS

SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 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/SupportMONC](http://metopera.org/SupportMONC).

**SINGERS**

**ILLINOIS DISTRICT**



Jangho Lee



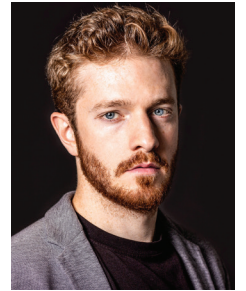
Nina Mutalifu



Jacqueline Piccolino



Emily Richter



Ryan Wolfe

**KENTUCKY DISTRICT**



Kendra Faith  
Beasley



Hayley Maloney



Wm. Clay  
Thompson



Ethan Vincent

**TENNESSEE DISTRICT**



Anthony  
Ciaramitaro



Yvette Keong



Erica Petrocelli



Sarah Vautour

REPERTOIRE | MARCH 21, 2021  
IN PERFORMANCE ORDER

**SARAH VAUTOUR, SOPRANO, 26**

**ALPHARETTA, GA**

Padre, germani, addio!	IDOMENEO	Mozart
Qui la voce...Vien, diletto	I PURITANI	Bellini
Presentation of the rose	DER ROSENKAVALIER	R. Strauss
Je suis encore tout étourdie	MANON	Massenet

**KENDRA FAITH BEASLEY, MEZZO-SOPRANO, 24**

**MADISON, GA**

When I am laid in earth	DIDO AND AENEAS	Purcell
Mon cœur s'ouvre à ta voix	SAMSON ET DALILA	Saint-Saëns
Stride la vampa!	IL TROVATORE	Verdi
O mio Fernando	LA FAVORITA	Donizetti

**ERICA PETROCELLI, SOPRANO, 28**

**EAST GREENWICH, RI**

Amour, ranime mon courage	ROMÉO ET JULIETTE	Gounod
Das war sehr gut, Mandryka	ARABELLA	R. Strauss
Porgi, amor	LE NOZZE DI FIGARO	Mozart
Come scoglio	COSÌ FAN TUTTE	Mozart

**ANTHONY CIARAMITARO, TENOR, 29**

**CORAL SPRINGS, FL**

Questa o quella	RIGOLETTO	Verdi
Addio, fiorito asil	MADAMA BUTTERFLY	Puccini
Pourquoi me réveiller	WERTHER	Massenet
Notte! perpetua notte	I DUE FOSCARI	Verdi

**YVETTE KEONG, SOPRANO, 23**

**SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA**

Comme autrefois	LES PÊCHEURS DE PERLES	Bizet
Presentation of the rose	DER ROSENKAVALIER	R. Strauss
Eccomi in lieta vosta...Oh! quante volte	I CAPULETI E I MONTECCHI	Bellini
No word from Tom	THE RAKE'S PROGRESS	Stravinsky

**RYAN WOLFE, BARITONE, 24**

**ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, IL**

Comme une pâle fleur	HAMLET	Thomas
O! du mein holder Abendstern	TANNHÄUSER	Wagner
Hai già vinta la causa	LE NOZZE DI FIGARO	Mozart
Our very own home	FELLOW TRAVELERS	Spears

**REPERTOIRE (CONT'D) | MARCH 21, 2021**

IN PERFORMANCE ORDER

**HAYLEY MALONEY, SOPRANO, 24****CLIFFORD, PA**

Adieu, notre petite table	MANON	Massenet
Caro nome	RIGOLETTO	Verdi
Ach, ich fühl's	DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE	Mozart
The transport from Holland	OUT OF DARKNESS: ANOTHER SUNRISE	Heggie

**ETHAN VINCENT, BARITONE, 30****KANSAS CITY, MO**

Ya vas lyublyu	THE QUEEN OF SPADES	Tchaikovsky
O Carlo, ascolta...lo morirò	DON CARLO	Verdi
Avant de quitter ces lieux	FAUST	Gounod
Within this frail crucible of light	THE RAPE OF LUCRETIA	Britten

**EMILY RICHTER, SOPRANO, 23****ARLINGTON, VA**

Embroidery in childhood	PETER GRIMES	Britten
Mi tradi, quell'alma ingrata	DON GIOVANNI	Mozart
Depuis le jour	LOUISE	Charpentier
I worry, that's all	FELLOW TRAVELERS	Spears

**JANGHO LEE, TENOR, 28****SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA**

Dies Bildnis ist bezaubernd schön	DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE	Mozart
Questa o quella	RIGOLETTO	Verdi
Ah! lève-toi, soleil!	ROMÉO ET JULIETTE	Gounod
Kuda, kuda	EUGENE ONEGIN	Tchaikovsky

**NINA MUTALIFU, SOPRANO, 29****URUMQI, CHINA**

Tu che di gel sei cinta	TURANDOT	Puccini
Come scoglio	COSÌ FAN TUTTE	Mozart
Song to the moon	RUSALKA	Dvořák
Ah! je ris	FAUST	Gounod

**WM. CLAY THOMPSON, BASS, 30****LEXINGTON, KY**

Madamina, il catalogo è questo	DON GIOVANNI	Mozart
Riez, allez, riez du pauvre idéologue	DON QUICHOTTE	Massenet
Lyubvi vse vozrasty pokorny	EUGENE ONEGIN	Tchaikovsky
Wie schön ist doch die Musik	DIE SCHWEIGSAME FRAU	R. Strauss

REPERTOIRE (CONT'D) | MARCH 21, 2021  
IN PERFORMANCE ORDER

JACQUELINE PICCOLINO, SOPRANO, 30

PALATINE, IL

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Ó marno to je	RUSALKA	Dvořák
Love me big	MCTEAGUE	Bolcom
Morrai sì, l'empia tua testa	RODELINDA	Handel
Sì, mi chiamano Mimì	LA BOHÈME	Puccini

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS | MARCH 21, 2021

### JUDGES

#### **AFTON BATTLE | GENERAL DIRECTOR, FORT WORTH OPERA**

Afton Battle comes to Fort Worth Opera following strategic consulting work with Red Clay Dance Company, the National Black Theatre, the African American Policy Forum, and Brooklyn arts and culture firm Red Olive Consulting.

She was previously the Director of Development for the New York Theatre Workshop, Director of the Annual Campaign for America's premiere ballet company, The Joffrey Ballet, and the Corporate and Foundation Relations and Individual Giving Manager for the National Museum of Mexican Art in Chicago, Illinois.

Prior to that, she served as the Program and Grants Manager for Bank Street College of Education in New York. Ms. Battle graduated from the University of Houston with a degree in Voice Performance, before attending Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey and receiving a Master of Music in Voice Performance and Pedagogy.

#### **KEVIN MURPHY | PROFESSOR OF MUSIC & DIRECTOR, COACHING AND MUSIC ADMINISTRATION FOR INDIANA UNIVERSITY, JACOBS SCHOOL OF MUSIC, OPERA THEATER**

Pianist Kevin Murphy is professor of music in collaborative piano and director of coaching and music administration for IU Opera Theater at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. A leading figure in the world of classical vocal music, he has served as Jacobs faculty since 2011. He recently joined Professor Anne Epperson at the Jacobs School in creating a new Collaborative Piano Program.

In 2011, he was appointed Director of the Program for Singers at Ravinia's Steans Music Institute, and 2013-14 marked his first season as Artistic Consultant for the Tucson Desert Song Festival. Previously, Murphy was director of music administration and casting advisor at the New York City Opera (2008-12) and director of musical studies at the Opéra National de Paris (2006-08).

In addition to his on- and off-stage partnership with his wife, soprano Heidi Grant Murphy, Murphy has collaborated in concert and recital with artists such as Michelle DeYoung, Thomas Hampson, Danielle de Niese, Lawrence Brownlee, Marcelo Alvarez, Iestyn Davies, Bejun Mehta, Gary Lakes, Kathleen Battle, Nathan Gunn, Elina Garanča, Matthew Polenzani, Cecilia Bartoli, Frederica von Stade, Plácido Domingo, Paul Groves, Renée Fleming, Gerald Finley, Kiri Te Kanawa, Wolfgang Brendel, Christine Brewer, and Pinchas Zukerman. He is sought after and respected for his work as a private vocal coach and teacher and has guest taught at San Francisco Opera's Merola Program, the International Vocal Arts Institute in Israel and Italy, Glimmerglass Opera, Tanglewood, Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, and the Juilliard School.

A native of Syracuse, New York, Murphy earned his Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance from Indiana University and his Master of Music in Piano Accompanying from the Curtis Institute of Music. He resides in Bloomington, Indiana, with his wife, Heidi, and their four children.

## **MELISSA WEGNER | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, METROPOLITAN OPERA NATIONAL COUNCIL AUDITIONS**

Melissa Wegner is the Executive Director of the Metropolitan Opera's National Council Auditions (MONC) where she is responsible for identifying and awarding the most promising operatic talent in North America. At the Met, she hears artists in stage and screening auditions and is responsible for casting the Met's New Opera Commissions workshops. She is the casting consultant for the upcoming Ricky Ian Gordon/Lynn Nottage opera INTIMATE APPAREL at Lincoln Center Theater.

In addition to the District, Regional and National rounds of MONC, Ms. Wegner has adjudicated the Belvedere Competition, the McCammon Voice Competition, the Nicola Martinucci Competition, and the NATSAA Competition Finals. A faculty member of Ravinia's Steans Music Institute, she has also been visiting faculty for Bard College's Graduate Vocal Arts Program. She is in demand as a clinician and lecturer at top conservatories, universities, and festivals throughout the country.

In 2019 Ms. Wegner was named one of Musical America's Top 30 Professionals of the Year, received the Maria Callas Prize from Melos International, and was named an official ambassador for Opera America's 50th Anniversary.

Ms. Wegner is a member of Families of FANA WNY, which supports the orphanage in Colombia from which she was adopted. She serves on the boards of SUNY Potsdam and Bard College's Conservatory of Music, and is an advisor for Turn The Spotlight, a mentoring organization for exceptional women, people of color, and other equity-seeking groups.

## **PIANISTS**

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