

Lotte Lenya

LOTTE LENYA COMPETITION

A Program of The Kurt Weill Foundation for Music



1st Prize Winners, 2013-2015. Clockwise from top left: Ben Edquist, 2014; Lauren Michelle, 2015; Doug Carpenter, 2013.

2016 LOTTE LENYA COMPETITION FINALS

Daytime Round

Kilbourn Hall, Eastman School of Music

Saturday, 16 April 2016, 11:00 am

About the Lotte Lenya Competition

In 1998, to celebrate the centenary of the birth of Lotte Lenya (1898-1981), an extraordinary singer/actress and one of the foremost interpreters of the music of her husband, Kurt Weill, the Board of Trustees of the Kurt Weill Foundation for Music approved President Kim Kowalke's proposal to establish an annual Lotte Lenya Competition.

The Lotte Lenya Competition recognizes talented young singer/actors ages 19-32 who are dramatically and musically convincing in wide-ranging modes of theater repertoire, from opera/opera to contemporary Broadway musicals, with a focus on the works of Kurt Weill. More than a vocal competition, the Lenya Competition emphasizes idiomatic performance and the acting of songs within a dramatic context. Competition guidelines for 2016 require each contestant to prepare four selections: one theatrical selection by Kurt Weill; two songs from the American musical theater repertoire (one from the pre-1968 "Golden Age" and one from 1968 or later); and one aria from the operatic or opera repertoire. The Weill selections and the opera/opera aria must be sung in their original theatrical versions and languages (with the exception of authorized English translations of *The Threepenny Opera* and *Happy End*).

For the preliminary round, 224 contestants from eleven countries auditioned by submitting a video of their four repertoire selections. In mid-March, thirty-one semi-finalists then auditioned live in New York for adjudicator/coaches Jeanine Tesori and Victoria Clark. Following the preliminary round, the Kurt Weill Foundation presented Emerging Talent Awards of \$500 each to eight young singers and the Grace Keagy Award for Outstanding Vocal Promise to Brendon Slinger, tenor, of Hagerstown, MD.

Fourteen contestants advanced to the finals. Today's performers are competing for top prizes of \$15,000, \$10,000 and \$7,500. Each finalist will receive a prize of at least \$1,000 and a stipend to defray travel costs. In addition to the top prizes, judges may give Lys Symonette Awards, named in honor of Weill's musical assistant on Broadway and Lenya's longtime accompanist and advisor, the Carolyn Weber Award, as well as the Marc Blitzstein Award, inaugurated this year and given for an outstanding performance of a "Golden Age" musical theater number.

In awarding \$750,000 in prizes and awards since the competition began, the Kurt Weill Foundation has recognized the talent and supported the careers of dozens of rising stars. Since 2012, the Foundation has supported the career advancement of previous prizewinners through Professional Development Grants, which past competition winners have used for voice lessons, acting classes, repertoire coaching, language studies, travel to auditions and more. Learn more about the Lotte Lenya Competition at www.kwf.org/LLC.

Each finalist will have fifteen minutes in which to present a program of four contrasting selections, as listed in the program below. To ensure that each contestant has the opportunity to sing his/her entire program, **please withhold applause until the conclusion of each contestant's final selection.**

- 11:00 Tom Schimon, 31** Glenn Lewis, piano
 "Papagena, Papagena, Papagena!" from *Die Zauberflöte* Mozart/Schikaneder
 "Der Song von Mandelary" from *Happy End* Weill/Brecht
 "It's Hard to Speak My Heart" from *Parade* Brown
 "Forbidden Fruit" from *The Apple Tree* Bock/Harnick
- 11:15 Briana Silvie, 25** Shane Schag, piano
 "It's Me" from *Me and Juliet* Rodgers/Hammerstein
 "Seguidilla" from *Carmen* Bizet/Meilhac, Halévy
 "Surabaya Johnny" from *Happy End* Weill/Brecht (Feingold)
 "Not a Day Goes By" from *Merrily We Roll Along* Sondheim
- 11:30 Dennis Wees, 21** Glenn Lewis, piano
 "Pass That Football" from *Wonderful Town* Bernstein/Comden, Green
 "People Carry On" from *The Story of My Life* Bartram
 "It Never Was You" from *Knickerbocker Holiday* Weill/Anderson
 "The Confession Aria" from *Dead Man Walking* Heggie/McNally
- 11:45 Lindsay O'Neil, 30** Shane Schag, piano
 "Ah! Je veux vivre" from *Roméo et Juliette* Gounod/Barbier, Carré
 "What Good Would the Moon Be?" from *Street Scene* Weill/Hughes
 "I Don't Need a Roof" from *Big Fish* Lippa
 "Mr. Snow" from *Carousel* Rodgers/Hammerstein
- 12:00 Tony Potts, 23** Glenn Lewis, piano
 "Se vuol ballare" from *Le nozze di Figaro* Mozart/Da Ponte
 "No One Has Ever Loved Me" from *Passion* Sondheim
 "This is New" from *Lady in the Dark* Weill/Gershwin
 "Soliloquy" from *Carousel* Rodgers/Hammerstein
- 12:15 Kayla Wilkens, 26** Shane Schag, piano
 "Verdi" Gerle
 "Make Someone Happy" from *Do Re Mi* Styne/Comden, Green
 "Is It Him or Is It Me?" from *Love Life* Weill/Lerner
 "Pâle et blonde" from *Hamlet* Thomas/Carré, Barbier
- 12:30 Brian Vu, 26** Glenn Lewis, piano
 "O Carlo, ascolta" from *Don Carlo* Verdi/Méry, du Locle
 "Bowler Hat" from *Pacific Overtures* Sondheim
 "West Wind" from *One Touch of Venus* Weill/Nash
 "Where is the Life that Late I Led?" from *Kiss Me, Kate* Porter

-INTERMISSION-

- 1:45 Bradley Smoak, 31** Shane Schag, piano
 "Come, master" from *The Rake's Progress* Stravinsky/Auden
 "It's Hard to Speak My Heart" from *Parade* Brown
 "Let Things Be Like They Always Was" from *Street Scene* Weill/Hughes
 "Pass That Football" from *Wonderful Town* Bernstein/Comden, Green
- 2:00 Reilly Nelson, 26** Glenn Lewis, piano
 "Je suis Lazuli" from *L'étoile* Chabrier/Vanloo, Leterrier
 "Almost Real" from *The Bridges of Madison County* Brown
 "Nannas Lied" Weill/Brecht
 "Warm All Over" from *The Most Happy Fella* Loesser
- 2:15 Jim Schubin, 26** Shane Schag, piano
 "Try Me" from *She Loves Me* Bock/Harnick
 "Serenade" from *The Student Prince* Romberg/Donnelly
 "How Much I Love You" from *One Touch of Venus* Weill/Nash
 "Taking Flight" from *Allison Under The Stars* Goldrich/Heisler
- 2:30 Erika Cockerham, 31** Glenn Lewis, piano
 "Je ne t'aime pas" Weill/Magre
 "Before the Parade Passes By" from *Hello, Dolly!* Herman/Stewart
 "So Anyway" from *Next to Normal* Kitt/Yorkey
 "Ô ma lyre immortelle" from *Sapho* Gounod/Augier
- 2:45 Curtis Bannister, 30** Shane Schag, piano
 "It Never Was You" from *Knickerbocker Holiday* Weill/Anderson
 "Ô souverain, ô juge, ô père" from *Le Cid* Massenet/Gallet, Blau, d'Ennery
 "Make Someone Happy" from *Do Re Mi* Styne/Comden, Green
 "Being Alive" from *Company* Sondheim
- 3:00 Talya Lieberman, 31** Glenn Lewis, piano
 "Youkali" Weill/Fernay
 "Vanilla Ice Cream" from *She Loves Me* Bock/Harnick
 "Stars and the Moon" from *Songs for a New World* Brown
 "No, no, I'll take no less" from *Semele* Handel
- 3:15 Eric Michael Parker, 24** Shane Schag, piano
 "Inkslinger's Song" from *Paul Bunyan* Britten/Auden
 "Lost Boy" from *Darling* Oliver
 "Come to Me, Bend to Me" from *Brigadoon* Loewe/Lerner
 "Lotterieagents Tango" from *Der Silbersee* Weill/Kaiser

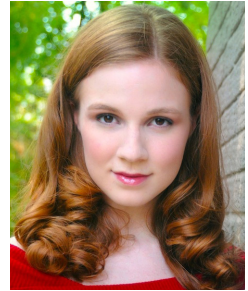
Lotte Lenya Competition Finalists



Described by *TimeOut Chicago* as “radiating with slowly simmering energy”, tenor **CURTIS BANNISTER** has been praised for his “dramatic inflection and compelling energy” by *The Washington Post* and his “thrilling tenor voice and a towering stage presence” by *The Herald Journal*. Last season, Curtis debuted with Theater an der Wien and covered the title role in *Sweeney Todd* for the Finger Lakes Musical Theatre Festival. Upcoming performances include Don Jose in *Carmen* at the Natchez Festival of Music, Mozart’s *Requiem* with Musica Lumina Orchestra and the Niles Metropolitan Chorus in Chicago, and Sportin’ Life in *Porgy & Bess* and the Lover in *Il tabarro* at the Utah Festival Opera. He has performed with Lyric Opera of Chicago, the Baltimore Symphony

Orchestra, Sarasota Opera, and the Musique de Chambre du Musee de Louvre. www.thecurtisbannister.com.

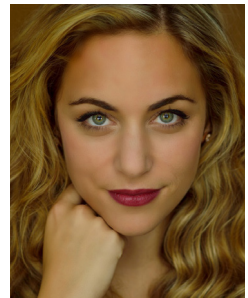
ERIKA COCKERHAM made her professional debut last month as Harriet in Leanna Kirchoff’s opera, *The Clever Artifice of Harriet and Margaret*, with Gateway Opera in St. Louis. Erika was the first of seven children born into an extended family of hilarious, eccentric, expressive, loud, ever musical, unconditionally loving, and dedicated people. Her life with them has shaped her into the passionate person and musician she is today. A deep love for music, instilled in her from the age of 7 when she began playing the piano, was ardently cultivated by her parents and grandparents. Erika has a BFA in Musical Theater and currently studies voice with an emphasis on opera with Martha Hart. She is also the young artist and second soprano section leader for the St. Louis Women’s Hope Chorale.



Recently described by *Opera News* as “delectably stylish,” “poetically compelling,” and “technically refined,” **TALYA LIEBERMAN** will be assuming the soprano position in the Opernstudio at Komische Oper Berlin after finishing her Artist Diploma studies at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, where she currently studies with Bill McGraw. Upcoming highlights include a Cincinnati Opera debut as Lucy in the world premiere of *Fellow Travelers*. Last summer she sang Susanna in *Le nozze di Figaro* as a Filene Young Artist with Wolf Trap Opera. A graduate of the Merola Opera Program, Talya made her recital debut at the San Francisco Opera Center’s Schwabacher Debut Recital series. Talya is a convert from the orchestra pit, having received her master’s

degree in trumpet performance from the University of North Carolina. Talya was a Finalist and Lys Symonette Prize Winner in 2015. www.talyalieberman.com

Born in the coastal town of Sault Ste. Marie in Ontario, Canada, **REILLY NELSON** attended Eastman School of Music, where she received a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance, and University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, where she completed a Master of Music. At CCM she performed Hansel in *Hansel and Gretel*, Mary in Ricky Ian Gordon’s *Morning Star*, and as a soloist in Bolcom’s *Cabaret Songs*. She also performed both Hansel and Cherubino in *Le nozze di Figaro* at Janiec Opera Company at the Brevard Music Center. The mezzo-soprano was a vocal fellow at Tanglewood in summers 2013 and 2014, performing *Les nuits d’été*, Op. 7 and *Folk Songs* by Bernard Rands.



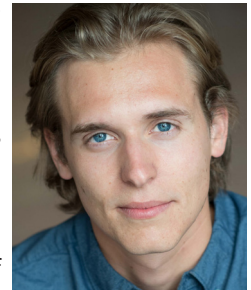
LINDSAY O'NEIL Broadway/National Tour: *The Phantom of the Opera* (Confidante, Madame Firmin, Carlotta u/s), *A Christmas Story*, *The Musical* (Mother u/s), *CATS* (Jellylorum/Griddlebone). New York City: *The Most Happy Fella*, *Little Me*, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* (City Center Encores!), *A Prairie Home Companion* (Garrison Keillor Live from Town Hall), *Carousel* (NY Philharmonic), *W.S. Gilbert and the Broadway He Inspired* (Lyrics & Lyricists), *Babes In Toyland* (Avery Fisher Hall). Regional: *Good News* (Goodspeed Opera House), *Sunset Boulevard* (Ogunquit Playhouse), *The Pirates of Penzance* (LTOTS). Education: MM – Manhattan School of Music, BM – Eastman School of Music. This summer Lindsay will be performing in *The Pirates of Penzance* at Barrington Stage Company. Thanks to Jason and Clara for their constant love and support.



Los Angeles native **ERIC MICHAEL PARKER** has been lauded for his vocal and theatrical versatility on stages around the world, from Operafestival di Roma to the Tokyo Disney Resort. Recent credits: Freddy (*My Fair Lady*), Melchior (*Spring Awakening*), Jasper (*The Mystery of Edwin Drood*), Henry (*Next to Normal*). Eric was Man One u/s in the song cycle *The Trouble With Words* (LA Fringe Festival's Best Musical Award, Ovation Award for Best Original Music & Lyrics). He performed numerous roles with Cape Cod's College Light Opera Company, including Edwin (G&S's *Trial by Jury*), Pirelli (*Sweeney Todd*), Will Parker (*Oklahoma!*). Eric holds his B.M. in Vocal Performance from the Hall-Musco Conservatory of Music at Chapman University, where he sang such roles as Alfredo

(*La Traviata*) and Monostatos (*Die Zauberflöte*). He received the Conservatory's Award for Artistic Excellence in 2013.

TONY POTTS is a Minneapolis-St. Paul based performer. This past summer he performed the roles of Vicar in Britten's *Albert Herring* and the father in *Hansel and Gretel* at the Miami Music Festival, as well as various concerts and recitals. His stage roles have included Fagin in *Oliver!*, Koko in *The Mikado*, The Watchman, Umpire, and Manager in *The Mighty Casey*, Curly in *Oklahoma!*, Buddy in *Side Show*, and Harold Hill in *The Music Man*. Tony is a recent graduate of the University of Northwestern, St. Paul where he completed his undergraduate degree in vocal performance. This summer, Tony heads back to Miami to perform the role of Marcello in *La bohème*. Tony studies with Carol Eikum, who teaches at the University of Northwestern, St. Paul.



TOM SCHIMON, born in Vienna, now lives in Berlin. In 2009 he graduated from the Bayerische Theaterakademie August Everding in Munich, where he studied Musical Theater. His professional career started in 2007 at the Staatstheater am Gärtnerplatz in Munich as Mercedes in *La Cage aux Folles* and Toby in *Sweeney Todd*. He has appeared as Angel in *Rent*, Jack in *Into the Woods*, Nick in *Fame* and Seymour in *The Little Shop of Horrors* at such theaters as the Vienna Volksoper, Deutsches Theater Munich and Theater Basel. In 2010 he performed in a commemorative concert for Paul Abraham with the Bayerisches Rundfunkorchester conducted by Ulf Schirmer. Tom is currently 1st Man in *Kiss Me, Kate* at the Staatstheater Kassel, Action in *West Side Story* at Oper Leipzig and rehearsing the role of Henrik for a new production of *A Little Night Music* at the Theater Bielefeld.

Currently on the new National Tour of *The Sound of Music*, **JIM SCHUBIN** has worked both in New York as well as extensively around the country in regional theaters, including Barrington Stage, Cape Playhouse, West Virginia Public Theater, and more. Off-Broadway, Jim starred as Matt in the longest running musical of all time, *The Fantasticks*. Jim has performed as a soloist as well as a member of Teatro with orchestras around the country and most recently he performed his self-written and produced solo show, *Life is a Highway*, in the famous Metropolitan Room in New York. Favorite past credits include Jesus (*Godspell*), Beast (*Beauty and the Beast*), Barrett (*Titanic*), The Courier (*1776*), and Freddie (*Chess*). He holds a BFA in Musical Theater from Emerson College. This is Jim's third consecutive year as a Finalist.



The winner of the inaugural Carolyn Weber Award in the 2015 Lotte Lenya Competition, **BRIANA SILVIE**'s past performances include Lillian Holiday in *Happy End*, L'enfant in *L'enfant et les sortilèges*, Gertrude McFuzz in *Seussical*, Cathy in *The Last Five Years*, and the title role in the recent New York premiere of a musical adaptation of *Emma*. Briana is an alumna of the Interlochen Arts Academy and earned her undergraduate degree in Music at UCLA. She has been the recipient of the Fine Arts Award and Maddy Summer Artist Award from the Interlochen Center for the Arts, a National YoungArts Foundation Award, and the second-place prize in the Walter Jurmann Vocal Competition. Briana's voice can be heard on video-game, musical, and feature-film soundtrack recordings for companies

including Sony Music Entertainment Japan, Hal Leonard, MTI Broadway Jr., Skywalker Sound, and Universal Pictures. www.BrianaSilvie.com.

Known for his compelling presence on both operatic and concert stages, bass-baritone **BRADLEY SMOAK** continues to delight audiences with his "easy charismatic charm" and versatility across a wide variety of musical styles and theatrical characterizations. A member of the Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center, Smoak's credits include principal roles with Lyric Opera of Chicago, Palm Beach Opera, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, New York City Opera, and Wexford Festival Opera (Ireland). Upcoming: Lyric Opera of Chicago (*Zuniga/Carmen*, *Bandit Chief/Don Quichotte*), Opera Theatre of St. Louis (*Colline/La bohème*), and a debut with Michigan Opera Theatre (*Lignière/Cyrano*). Recently, he made his Chicago Symphony Orchestra debut in *Pelléas et Mélisande* and *L'enfant et les sortilèges* with Esa-Pekka Salonen. A North Carolina native, Mr. Smoak holds a BFA in Music Theater from Illinois Wesleyan University.



BRIAN VU, a 2015-16 Resident Artist with the Pittsburgh Opera, is slated to perform this season as John Brooke in *Little Women*, Leo Stein in *27*, and Figaro in the student matinee performance of *Il barbiere di Siviglia*. With Yale Opera, he sang Count Almaviva in *Le nozze di Figaro*, Dapertutto in *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*, Dandini in *La Cenerentola*, Marcello in *La bohème*, and Robert in *Iolanta*. His awards include the Sullivan Foundation Award, Grand Finalist in the 2016 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and a career grant from the Opera Buffs of Los Angeles, among others. Brian is a graduate of Yale School of Music and University of California, Los Angeles. He has been a Young Artist at the Glimmerglass Festival, Vocal Fellow in Marilyn Horne's Music Academy of the West, and a member of the Wolf Trap Opera Studio.

DENNIS WEES, an Albuquerque, NM native, is a Dallas/Fort Worth-based actor and singer. Credits include Fyedka in *Fiddler on the Roof* at both Casa Mañana and Lyric Stage, Matt in *The Fantasticks* (Theatre Three), Nanki-Poo in *The Hot Mikado* (Theatre Three), Charles in *Titanic* (Lyric Stage), Doc MacCahan in *The Golden Apple* (Lyric Stage), Montparnasse in *Les Miserables* (Casa Mañana), Melchior in *Spring Awakening* (Albuquerque Little Theater), and Papageno in *The Magic Flute* (SMU). He also appears as Doc on the first full recording of *The Golden Apple* released last year by PS Classics. Dennis will graduate from Southern Methodist University with a BM in Vocal Performance in May.



With a passion for musical theater and opera, **KAYLA WILKENS** is a versatile young artist originally from Salem, OR. She has performed in the world premieres of *Persephone Unplugged* (Persephone), *O Pioneers!* (Marie Shabata), Libby Larsen's *Moabit Sonnets* (soprano soloist), and in the American debut of Robert Owen's *Culture, Culture!* (featured coloratura). As a soloist, her concert performances include Paulus' *To Be Certain of the Dawn*, Bach's *Magnificat*, Orff's *Carmina Burana*, and performing with Tony-winner Steven Lutvak in a staged revue celebrating his music. While completing her masters at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, she sang La Fée in *Cendrillon*, Miss Wordsworth in *Albert Herring*, and Cunegonde in *Candide*. Honors include the Dorothy Kirsten-James Browning Most

Promising Singer prize in the NATS National Artist Awards and awards in the Metropolitan Opera Council Auditions, and the Carolyn Bailey and Dominick Argento National Vocal Competition.

Today's Staff Accompanists

GLENN LEWIS is a native of Rochester, NY. Since 2008 he has held the position of Head of Music Staff for Pittsburgh Opera, where he has served as conductor, recitalist, rehearsal pianist and vocal coach. Prior to this, he worked for 11 years in the opera houses of Cologne and Düsseldorf as pianist and conductor. He has worked for 14 summers as a member of the music staff of the Santa Fe Opera festival. He has done guest engagements for the Metropolitan Opera, the Lyric Opera of Chicago and is currently working in Washington, DC on the soon to be presented Wagner *Ring* cycle. He has played song recitals for major artists, including Susanne Mentzer, Stephanie Blythe, and Matthew Worth. He is an active solo recitalist and chamber music player as well. He holds degrees in piano performance from Ithaca College and Northwestern University and an artist certificate in opera coaching and conducting from University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.

Ohio native **SHANE SCHAG** has performed in recital throughout the United States and Europe, including a concerto performance with the Ashland Symphony Orchestra. He is the recipient of the Gwendolyn Koldofsky Memorial Award. He has worked as a vocal coach for Centro Studi Italiani Opera Festival and as an assistant conductor for the Gotham Chamber Opera. In 2007, Mr. Schag made his debut at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall. Now he serves as staff pianist for Carnegie Hall's Muscial Explorers and Link Up concert series. He has been the pianist and musical director for numerous recitals and cabaret acts including *Songs My Mother Never Taught Me*, by Deborah Karpel. Mr. Schag is a member of the recital coaching faculty and resident musical director for the American Musical Theater Ensemble at the Manhattan School of Music. He has also served on the faculty of Operaworks in Los Angeles and the International Vocal Arts Institute in Tel Aviv and Virginia. He has accompanied the finals of the Lotte Lenya Competition since 2008.

Today's Judges

TERESA STRATAS made her debut at the Metropolitan Opera in 1959 in Massenet's *Manon*. By the time she was 25, she was an international star, singing in all the major opera houses in the world, including a Mimi at Covent Garden, a Violetta in Munich, and a Butterfly at the Met. Over the next three decades, she sang 41 roles in 382 performances at the Met alone, including seven new productions mounted for her. Other career highlights include the world premiere of the three act version of *Lulu* under Boulez in Paris, the role of Marie Antoinette in *The Ghosts of Versailles*, the lead role in the Broadway musical *Rags*, and the role of Julie in the landmark recording of *Show Boat*. She has made more than two dozen opera films, won three Grammy Awards, an Emmy, a Gemini, a Drama Desk Award, a Tony nomination, and an Academy Award citation. In 1997 the NYSTA awarded her its American Artist Citation, and the Canadian government bestowed upon her its highest civilian honor, Officer of the Order of Canada, followed in 2000 with the Governor General's Performing Arts Award. She holds five honorary doctorates, including one from the University of Rochester. In 2015, Stratas was honored with an Opera News Award. The Kurt Weill Foundation gave her its Distinguished Achievement Award in 1998 and named her an honorary trustee in 2005. Stratas first sang Weill's music in 1979, when she played Jenny in the Met premiere of *The Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny*. Lotte Lenya dubbed Stratas "her dream Jenny" and gave her a collection of unpublished material which Stratas recorded in 1989 as *The Unknown Kurt Weill*, which garnered a fistful of awards. She followed with *Stratas Sings Weill*, appeared in Peter Sellars's film of *Die sieben Todsünden*, and two music videos in *September Songs: The Music of Kurt Weill*. This is her tenth appearance as judge of the Lotte Lenya Competition.

THEODORE S. CHAPIN is President of Rodgers & Hammerstein, a position he has held for many years. They are currently represented with the Lincoln Center Theater production of *The King and I*, and touring productions of *Cinderella*, and the Jack O'Brien-directed production of *The Sound of Music* for which Chapin is one of the producers. Chapin serves on several boards including The American Theater Wing (where he was Chairman for four years), Goodspeed Musicals, and New York City Center where he was part of the creation of the *Encores!* series. He served as a Tony Awards nominator for two seasons, and is currently a member of the Tony Administration Committee. His career began as production or directorial assistant for the Broadway productions of *Follies*, *The Rothschilds* and *The Unknown Soldier and His Wife*, as well as Bernstein's *Mass* at the Kennedy Center and *Candide* in San Francisco. As Associate to Alan Arkin, he worked on the original Broadway production of Neil Simon's *The Sunshine Boys* and the CBS-TV special of George Furth's *Twigs* starring Carol Burnett. Odd though it sounds, he was the musical director for the National Theater of the Deaf's production of *Four Saints in Three Acts*. He has been a visiting lecturer at several universities and colleges, including Yale, NYU, Lawrence University, and Columbia. His book *Everything Was Possible: The Birth of the Musical "Follies,"* was published by Alfred A. Knopf in 2003, and is currently in print in paperback by Applause Books. He is honored to be making another return appearance as a judge of the Lotte Lenya Competition.

ANDY EINHORN, leading Broadway music director and conductor, directs concerts in the 16/17 season with Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, National Arts Centre Orchestra, Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, Tucson Symphony and the Fresno Philharmonic. Broadway credits include *Cinderella*, *Evita*, *Brief Encounter*, *The Light in the Piazza*, and *Sondheim on Sondheim*. He most recently served as music director and conductor for the Châtelet Theatre's production of Sondheim's *Passion* and the Broadway production of Woody Allen's *Bullets Over Broadway*. Since 2011 he has served as music director/pianist for six-time Tony Award winner, Audra McDonald, performing with her at such prestigious orchestras and venues as The Philadelphia Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, National Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles Opera, Avery Fisher Hall, Carnegie Hall, Walt Disney Concert Hall and Teatro Real, Madrid. They recently recorded performances for an upcoming telecast with the Sydney Symphony at the Sydney Opera House. Einhorn has also music directed for Barbara Cook at Feinstein's and Toronto's Royal Conservatory of Music. Tour work includes *Sweeney Todd*, *The Light in the Piazza*, *Mamma Mia!*, and *The Lion King*. Einhorn's work can be heard on the current touring production of *The Sound of Music*. Recording credits include *Bullets Over Broadway*, *Cinderella*, *Evita*, *Sondheim on Sondheim* (Grammy nominee), *Stage Door Canteen* and McDonald's newest release, *Go Back Home*. He served as the music director for HBO's Peabody Award-winning documentary *Six by Sondheim* and music supervisor for Great Performances Peabody Award-winning special "Broadway Musicals: A Jewish Legacy" on PBS. .

Lenya Competition News

Lenya Competition Winners on Stage

Lauren Michelle, 2015 1st Prize: Irina in Weill's *Lost in the Stars* at Washington National Opera, February 2016; one of five finalists in the 2015 BBC Cardiff Singer of the World Competition; Musetta in *La bohème* at Opera Theatre of St. Louis, May 2016; Jessica in *The Merchant of Venice* at Welsh National Opera, Autumn 2016 • **Ben Edquist**, 2014 1st Prize: First-year artist with the Houston Grand Opera Studio; roles include Edward Kynaston in *Prince of Players* (world premiere) and Jigger Craigin in *Carousel* April-May 2016 • **Maren Weinberger**, 2013 2nd Prize: roles in such works as *Embedded*, *Buried Alive*, *JFK*, and *Il barbiere di Siviglia* at Fort Worth Opera in 2016 • **Matthew Grills**, 2012 1st Prize: Tobias in *Sweeney Todd* at San Francisco Opera, September 2015; various engagements with Bayerische Staatsoper including Pedrillo in *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*, April/July 2016; Dancaïro in *Carmen*, May 2016, and Edgar Evans in *South Pole*, January-February, & July 2016 • **David Arnsperger**, 2010 2nd Prize: title role in both *Sweeney Todd* at Welsh National Opera, November 2015, and *The Phantom of the Opera* at Metronom Theater Oberhausen, March 2016 • **Kyle Scatliffe**, 2010 Lys Symonette Award: currently starring as Harpo in *The Color Purple* on Broadway • **Lauren Worsham**, 2009 2nd Prize: Lisa in *Dog Days* at Los Angeles Opera, June 2015 and Fort Worth Opera, April 2015; awarded a Drama Desk Award and nominated for a Tony Award in 2014 for her performance as Phoebe D'Ysquith in *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* • **Zachary James**, 2009 3rd Prize: The Scribe in *Akhnaten* at English National Opera, March 2016; Pooh-Bah in *The Mikado* at Anchorage Opera, April 2016 • **Analisa Leaming**, 2007 2nd Prize: currently appearing as Anna Leonowens (cover for Kelli O'Hara) in *The King and I* at Lincoln Center Theater • **Jonathan Michie**, 2005 1st Prize: Papageno in Barrie Kosky's production of *Die Zauberflöte* at Los Angeles Opera

Marc Blitzstein Award Inaugurated

A new "Marc Blitzstein Award" of \$3,500 will recognize an outstanding performance of a musical theater number from the "Golden Age." The award honors American composer Marc Blitzstein (*The Cradle Will Rock*, *Regina*), whose English adaptation of Weill's *The Threepenny Opera* opened off-Broadway in 1954, starring Lotte Lenya in the role of Jenny Diver. It subsequently ran for 2,707 performances, which set the record for longest running musical at that time and secured *Threepenny's* success in America. In 2012, the Kurt Weill Foundation acquired 50% ownership of Blitzstein's compositions.

Kurt Weill/Lotte Lenya Glimmerglass Artists

Brian Mulligan, winner of the top prize at the first Lenya Competition in 1998, has been named the inaugural Kurt Weill/Lotte Lenya Artist at this year's Glimmerglass Festival in Cooperstown, NY, where he will be seen as John Proctor in *The Crucible*. He will also appear this year as Paolo Albiani in *Simon Boccanegra* at the Metropolitan Opera, and Jack Torrence in *The Shining* at Minnesota Opera.

In 2014 the Weill Foundation inaugurated an annual sponsorship at Glimmerglass for a performer engaged as a Young Artist at the Festival who had previously reached the finals of the Lotte Lenya Competition. 2014 1st Prize Winner Ben Edquist and 2013 2nd Prize Winner Maren Weinberger were named the Weill/Lenya Young Artists at Glimmerglass in 2014 and 2015, respectively. Now principal guest artists at Glimmerglass who have been winners in the Lenya Competition will be eligible for sponsorship from the KWF.

Awards Presented Before the Finals

Emerging Talents (\$500)

Jeremy Brown, 21 (Nebraska, USA)
Kaitlyn Davis, 23 (New York, USA)
Katherine McLellan, 22 (Connecticut, USA)
Todd McNeel, 23 (Massachusetts, USA)
Randa Meierhenry, 22 (Iowa, USA)
Lucas Pastrana, 21 (Wisconsin, USA)
Janell Stallard, 22 (Texas, USA)
Katherine Weber, 23 (New York, USA)

Grace Keagy Award for Outstanding Vocal Promise (\$500)

Brendan Sliger, 28 (Maryland, USA)

Non-Advancing Semifinalists (\$500)

Amanda Achen, 24 (California, USA)
Gan-ya Ben-gur Akselrod*, 28 (Tel Aviv, Israel)
Justin Austin, 25 (New York, USA)
Chase Cornett, 31 (New York, USA)
Jasmine Habersham, 26 (Georgia, USA)
Anthony Heineman**, 28 (Missouri, USA)
Kimberly Hessler, 25 (California, USA)
Adam Hill, 26 (New York, USA)
Stephanie Junge, 23 (Osnabrück, Germany)
Stephanie Maloney, 27 (New York, USA)
Ian McEuen, 29 (Maryland, USA)
Cassi Mikat, 21 (Michigan, USA)
Taylor Pardell, 27 (Vancouver, Canada)
Daniel Schwait**, 26 (Maryland, USA)
Annie Sherman**, 25 (California, USA)
Cecilia Ticktin**, 26 (New Jersey, USA)
Aaron Young, 31 (Alaska, USA)

**Gan-ya Ben-gur Akselrod was selected to be a finalist but the management of the Théâtre du Capitole in Toulouse, where she was rehearsing L'italiana in Algeri, denied permission for her to compete in Rochester.*

***Denotes a contestant who has previously reached the finals of the Lenya Competition*

Competition Administration for the Kurt Weill Foundation

Kim H. Kowalke, President & CEO, Founder of the Competition
Brady Sansone, Director of Programs and Business Affairs
Elizabeth Blaufox, Associate Director of Programs and Promotion
Veronica Chaffin, Office Manager
Natasha Nelson, Administrative Assistant

The Kurt Weill Foundation for Music, Inc., administers, promotes, and perpetuates the legacies of Kurt Weill and Lotte Lenya. It encourages broad dissemination and appreciation of Weill's music through support of performances, productions, recordings, and scholarship, and it fosters understanding of Weill's and Lenya's lives and work within diverse cultural contexts. Building upon the legacies of both, it nurtures talent, particularly in the creation, performance, and study of musical theater in its various manifestations and media.

Acknowledgements

The Kurt Weill Foundation is grateful to the University of Rochester's Eastman School of Music for hosting today's competition in Kilbourn Hall. In particular, thanks to Jamal Rossi, Dean of the Eastman School of Music; Keith C. Elder, Director of Concert Activities; Julia Ng, Rental Sales Manager; the Concert Office staff; Richard Kessel, Executive Director of Communications; and Nana Stotz, Operations Coordinator, Technology and Media Production.

"No vocal contest better targets today's total package talents."

-OPERA NEWS 2014



SINGING THE STORY **The Lotte Lenya Competition**

This 18-minute high-definition film traces the journey of the 2013 Lotte Lenya Competition, on-stage and off, through the semi-finals, finals, and a star-studded 15th anniversary celebration concert at New York's Symphony Space. Through live footage and interviews, *Singing the Story* reveals the rigorous and unique nature of this prestigious international contest for singer-actors.

Watch *Singing the Story: The Lotte Lenya Competition* and videos of Lenya Competition Finals at [YouTube.com/KurtWeillFoundation](https://www.youtube.com/KurtWeillFoundation)

Kurt Weill

THE KURT WEILL FOUNDATION FOR MUSIC

7 East 20th Street | New York, NY 10003 | (212) 505-5240 | www.kwf.org



Follow us on Twitter! @KurtWeillFndn #Lenya2016