

The 2002 Lotte Lenya Competition for Singers

Kilbourn Hall, Eastman School of Music

13 April 2002

The Kurt Weill Foundation for Music wishes to thank the Eastman School of Music for graciously hosting both preliminary and final rounds of this competition.



In 1998, on the occasion of the centenary of the birth of Lotte Lenya (1898-1981), the foremost interpreter of the music of her husband, Kurt Weill (1900-1950), the Kurt Weill Foundation for Music established an annual Lotte Lenya Competition for Singers. The competition recognizes excellence in the performance of music for the theater, in its broadest sense, including opera, operetta, and American musical theater. Criteria for adjudication include vocal beauty and technique as well as interpretation, acting, idiomatic performance of a varied repertoire, and stage presence. The 2002 competition is open to singers residing in the United States and Canada who have not yet reached their 32nd birthday as of 31 December 2001. Thirteen finalists have been chosen from regional competitions held in New York City, Rochester, and Chicago. At today's final competition, judges are Teresa Stratas, world-renowned singer and interpreter of Weill; Eric Stern, conductor of many Broadway shows and musical theater recordings, and musical director of the off-Broadway *Berlin to Broadway with Kurt Weill*; and Stanley Walden, composer, conductor, and founder of the musical theater training program at the Hochschule der Künste in Berlin, and author of the standard German textbook on acting in the musical theater. Awards at the finals will include prizes of \$5000, \$3500, and \$2500, and winners will also be presented in a 13 May recital at the Lincoln Center Library for the Performing Arts in New York City.

In the preliminary round of today's competition, each finalist will have a maximum of fifteen minutes to present a program of four selections. To insure that each contestant has the opportunity to sing his/her complete program, **please withhold applause until the conclusion of the final selection of each contestant.**

The final round, which will present all the finalists in concert, begins at 7:30 pm. The audience is invited to return at that time.

Preliminary Round

(Order of individual programs is subject to change)

11:00 **Alta Boover, mezzo-soprano**, Rochester, NY
Joy Puckett, piano

"The Worst Pies in London," *Sweeney Todd*
"Mr. Right," *Love Life*
"Matrosen Tango," *Happy End*
"Va! laisse couler mes larmes," *Werther*

Sondheim
Weill
Weill
Massenet

11:20 **Ethan Watermeier, baritone**, Astoria, NY
Warren Helms, piano

"Soliloquy," *Carousel*
"Ô vin, dissipe la tristesse," *Hamlet*
"Here I'll Stay," *Love Life*
"Wie lange noch?"

Rodgers
Thomas
Weill
Weill

11:40 **Lisa Conlon, soprano**, Rochester, NY
Janelle Fung, piano

"So anch'io la virtù magica," *Don Pasquale*
"Denn wie man sich bettet,"
Aufstieg und Fall der Stadt Mahagonny
"One Life to Live," *Lady in the Dark*
"Your Daddy's Son," *Ragtime*

Donizetti

Weill
Weill
Flaherty

12:00 **Michael McKinsey, baritone**, Rochester, NY
Aino Theisen, piano

"This is New," *Lady in the Dark*
"Der Song von Mandalay," *Happy End*
"Se vuol ballare," *Le Nozze di Figaro*
"Epiphany," *Sweeney Todd*

Weill
Weill
Mozart
Sondheim

12:20 **Misty Ann Sturm, soprano**, Rochester, NY
Amber Shay, piano

"Wie lange noch?"
"Brack Weaver, My True Love," *Down in the Valley*
"What Will It Be for Me?," *Regina*
"Getting Married Today," *Company*

Weill
Weill
Blitzstein
Sondheim

12:40 **Lucas Meachem, baritone**, Rochester, NY
Lois Kaarre, piano

"Life, Love and Laughter," *The Firebrand of Florence*
"Moritat," *Die Dreigroschenoper*
"Ah Vittoria!," *Gianni Schicchi*
"Soliloquy," *Carousel*

Weill
Weill
Puccini
Rodgers

1:00 **Amy Van Looy, soprano**, Rochester, NY
Joy Puckett, piano

"Somehow I Never Could Believe," *Street Scene*
"Stridono lassù," *I Pagliacci*
"Ach bedenken Sie ...,"
Aufstieg und Fall der Stadt Mahagonny
"The Physician," *Nymph Errant*

Weill
Leoncavallo

Weill
Porter

- BREAK -

2:00 **T. Adam Goos, tenor**, Chicago, IL
Thomas Rosenkranz, piano

"When the Children Are Asleep," *Carousel*
"Es regnet"
"It Never Was You," *Knickerbocker Holiday*
"Children of the World," *A Bayou Legend*

Rodgers
Weill
Weill
Still

2:20 **Stephanie Tennill, soprano**, New York, NY
Warren Helms, piano

"Deh vieni, non tardar," *Le nozze di Figaro*
"That's Him," *One Touch of Venus*
"Surabaya-Johnny," *Happy End*
"Stars and the Moon," *Songs from a New World*

Mozart
Weill
Weill
Brown

2:40 **Kenneth L. Overton, baritone**, Bronx, NY
Jennifer Peterson, piano

"Non piu andrai," *Le nozze di Figaro*
"Thousands of Miles," *Lost in the Stars*
"Das Lied von der harten Nuss," *Happy End*
"The Impossible Dream," *Man of La Mancha*

Mozart
Weill
Weill
Leigh

3:00 **Dianna Dollman, mezzo-soprano**, Montreal, QB
Thomas Rosenkranz, piano

"Seeräuberjenny," *Die Dreigroschenoper*
Pauline's Aria, *Pique Dame*
"I Cain't Say No," *Oklahoma!*
"Stay Well," *Lost in the Stars*

Weill
Tchaikowsky
Rodgers
Weill

3:20 **Kyle Barisich, baritone**, New York, NY
Warren Helms, piano

"A Rhyme for Angela," *The Firebrand of Florence*
Harlekin's Aria, *Ariadne auf Naxos*
"Wie lange noch?"
"Good Thing Going," *Merrily We Roll Along*

Weill
R. Strauss
Weill
Sondheim

3:40 **Nicole Cabell, soprano**, Chicago, IL
Thomas Rosenkranz, piano

"Denn wie man sich bettet,"
Aufstieg und Fall der Stadt Mahagonny
"Foolish Heart," *One Touch of Venus*
"Son pochi fiori," *L'amico Fritz*
"Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man of Mine," *Showboat*

Weill
Weill
Mascagni
Kern

Final Round

7:30 • All contestants will appear in concert, with winners announced at its conclusion. Program to be determined by the judges of the competition.

Judges of the Competition

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, a Butterfly at the Met. During 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 Corigliano's *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 from several institutions, including the University of Rochester, as well as the Kurt Weill Foundation's Distinguished Achievement Award. Stratas's involvement with the music of Kurt Weill began in 1979, when she played Jenny in *Mahagonny* at the Met. Lotte Lenya dubbed Stratas "her dream Jenny" and gave her a collection of unpublished material which Stratas recorded in 1981 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*. Ms. Stratas has served as a judge at each annual Lenya Competition.

Stanley Walden has been a faculty member at the Juilliard School, Sarah Lawrence College and SUNY/Purchase and guest composer at the Eastman School and Yale University. Since 1989, he has been the chairman of the program in Musical Theater which he founded at the Hochschule der Künste in Berlin, Germany. His commissions include *Invisible Cities* for the Philadelphia Orchestra; *Weewis* for the Joffrey Ballet; the chamber symphony *After Auschwitz* for Musica Viva of the Eastman School; *Circus*, conducted by Seiji Ozawa with the Chicago Symphony; and many chamber works which have been performed by Jan DeGaetani, Reri Grist, Gilbert Kalish, Joel Krosnick, Robert Levin and other distinguished artists. His theater works include *The Serpent and Mutation Show* with The Open Theater; *The Kid* and *Pinkville* at the American Place Theater in New York; the Broadway success *Oh! Calcutta!* (produced throughout the world); the salsa musical *Miami Lights* at the Coconut Grove Playhouse in Miami and Theater Works in Palo Alto; *Back Country* in Boston; *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* at the Arena Stage, Washington, DC; *Claire* in Bochum and Ghent; *The Beggar's Opera* in Berlin; and *Café Mitte* in Berlin. His films include *La Fille D'Amerique*, *Frohes Fest* (first prize, Mannheim Festival) and *Desperado City* (Camera d'Or, Cannes). His grand opera *Bach's Letzte Oper* will see the light of day in December 2002 in Erfurt, Germany. With his wife Barbara Walden, he authored a textbook on the comprehensive training of the singing actor, *Life Upon the Wicked Stage: Ausbildung zum Musicaldarsteller*, forthcoming in English. In March, Walden launched "Liebster Kurt.... Dein Stanley" at the tenth Kurt Weill Festival in Dessau.

Eric Stern has been conducting and arranging in New York for over twenty-five years. His Broadway credits include the recent productions of *The Music Man*, *Follies*, *Parade*, *Candide*, *Show Boat*, *Once Upon A Mattress*, *The King and I*, *The Will Rogers Follies*, *Gypsy*, *Sunday in the Park With George*, *Carousel*, and *Rags*. Among his numerous recordings: Dawn Upshaw (including "I Wish It So," containing music of Kurt Weill), Mandy Patinkin, Audra McDonald, "Leonard Bernstein's New York," and three Gershwin reconstructions for Nonesuch Records. He has recorded and concertized with The London Symphony Orchestra, The Cleveland Orchestra, The Chicago Symphony, The Boston Pops, and the BBC Proms. Eric led the Covent Garden Festival's Sondheim 70th Birthday celebration, as well as gala performances of *Porgy and Bess* and *The Bernstein Mass*. He is a frequent guest conductor of the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, specializing in American concert music. He was the musical director of the Brooklyn Academy of Music's centenary Kurt Weill gala, and musical director of the 2000 off-Broadway revival of *From Berlin to Broadway with Kurt Weill*.