

The 2011 Lotte Lenya Competition

Kilbourn Hall, Eastman School of Music
Saturday, 16 April 2011
11:00 AM

Competition Finals



Finals Program

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 complete program, please withhold applause until the conclusion of the final selection of each contestant.

The audience is invited to return for the evening concert, which starts at 8 p.m.

11:00 **Trevor Strader, tenor, 22**
Lyndon Meyer, piano

"Un'aura amorosa," from *Così fan tutte* Mozart/Da Ponte
"Bilbao Song," from *Happy End* Weill/Brecht
"There But For You Go I," from *Brigadoon* Loewe/Lerner
"What Do I Need With Love?," from *Thoroughly Modern Millie* Tesori/Scanlan

11:15 **Peabody Southwell, mezzo-soprano, 27**
Shane Schag, piano

"Prolog," from *Die sieben Todsünden* Weill/Brecht
"I Can Do Better Than That," from *The Last Five Years* Brown
"Give Him This Orchid," from *The Rape of Lucretia* Britten/Duncan
"I'm a Stranger Here Myself," from *One Touch of Venus* Weill/Nash

11:30 **Jacob Lewis Smith, bass-baritone, 30**
Lyndon Meyer, piano

"Ilona," from *She Loves Me* Bock/Harnick
"Vecchia zimarra," from *La bohème* Puccini/Giacosa, Illica
"Oh, the Rio Grande," from *Johnny Johnson* Weill/Green
"Walking Without You," from *Homemade Fusion* Kooman/Diamond

11:45 **Caitlin Mathes, mezzo-soprano, 28**
Shane Schag, piano

"Faites-lui mes aveux," from *Faust* Gounod/Barbier
"Stars and the Moon," from *Songs for a New World* Brown
"Somebody, Somewhere," from *The Most Happy Fella* Loesser
"Surabaya Johnny" from *Happy End* Weill/Brecht

12:00 **Chris Pinnella, bari-tenor, 25**
Lyndon Meyer, piano

"Komm, Zigany," from *Gräfin Mariza* Kálman/Brammer, Grünwald
"Multitudes of Amys," from *Company* Sondheim
"Lonely House," from *Street Scene* Weill/Hughes
"Something's Coming," from *West Side Story* Bernstein/Sondheim

12:15 **Daniel Schwait, baritone, 21**
Shane Schag, piano

"Madamina, il catalogo e questo" from *Don Giovanni* Mozart/Da Ponte
"Good Thing Going," from *Merrily We Roll Along* Sondheim
"Lonely Room," from *Oklahoma!* Rodgers/Hammerstein
"Grabschrift," from *Die Dreigroschenoper* Weill/Brecht

--intermission--

- 1:30 **Alisa Suzanne Jordheim, soprano, 24**
Lyndon Meyer, piano
- "I am the Wife of Mao Tse-Tung," from *Nixon in China* Adams/Goodman
"Je ne t'aime pas" Weill/Magré
"Vanilla Ice Cream," from *She Loves Me* Bock/Harnick
"Not a Day Goes By," from *Merrily We Roll Along* Sondheim
- 1:45 **Matt Leisy, tenor, 30**
Shane Schag, piano
- "Vainement, ma bien-aimée," from *Le roi d'Ys* Lalo/Blau
"When a Woman Has a Baby," from *Street Scene* Weill/Hughes
"Easy to Love," from *Anything Goes* Porter
"It Don't Make Sense," from *Parade* Brown
- 2:00 **Jing Lin, soprano, 26**
Lyndon Meyer, piano
- "Mi chiamano Mimì," from *La bohème* Puccini/Giacosa, Illica
"It Never Was You," from *Knickerbocker Holiday* Weill/Anderson
"Christmas Lullaby," from *Songs for a New World* Brown
"Wie lange noch?" Weill/Mehring
- 2:15 **Jorell Williams, baritone, 26**
Shane Schag, piano
- "Mab, la reine des mensonges" from *Roméo et Juliette* Gounod/Barbier, Carré
"Lost in the Stars," from *Lost in the Stars* Weill/Anderson
"Lonely Town," from *On the Town* Bernstein/Comden
"Make Them Hear You," from *Ragtime* Flaherty/Ahrens
- 2:30 **Emma Sewell, soprano, 28**
Lyndon Meyer, piano
- "Astonishing," from *Little Women* Howland/Dickstein
"A Quiet Thing," from *Flora, the Red Menace* Kander/Ebb
"Seeräuberjenny," from *Die Dreigroschenoper* Weill/Brecht
"The Hours Creep On Apace," from *HMS Pinafore* Sullivan/Gilbert
- 2:45 **John Viscardi, tenor, 27**
Shane Schag, piano
- "Lonely House," from *Street Scene* Weill/Hughes
"She Loves Me," from *She Loves Me* Bock/Harnick
"Kuda, kuda vi udalilis," from *Eugene Onegin* Tschaikovsky/Shilovsky
"Being Alive," from *Company* Sondheim

Judges of the Competition

Rob Berman is the music director of *Encores!*, New York City Center's acclaimed series of great American musicals in concert. There, he has conducted productions of *Bells Are Ringing*, *Lost in the Stars*, *Where's Charley*, *Anyone Can Whistle*, *Fanny*, *Finian's Rainbow*, *Music in the Air*, *Damn Yankees*, *Applause* and the revue *Stairway to Paradise*, for which he also wrote vocal and dance arrangements. On Broadway, Rob has conducted *Promises, Promises*, *Finian's Rainbow*, *Irving Berlin's White Christmas*, *The Pajama Game*, *The Apple Tree* and *Wonderful Town*. He has received two Emmy nominations for his work as music director of the Kennedy Center Honors, where he has conducted such artists as Nathan Gunn, Angela Gheorghiu and Anna Netrebko. He won a Helen Hayes Award for his music direction of the Kennedy Center's production of Stephen Sondheim's *Sunday in the Park with George*. Rob also had the honor of performing for President Obama at the White House as music director of *A Broadway Celebration*. He is originally from Baltimore, Maryland, and he is a graduate of Yale University. He is thrilled to return as a judge for the Lotte Lenya Competition for the third time.

As President and Executive Director of Rodgers & Hammerstein, **Ted Chapin** has spearheaded over twenty award-winning Broadway and London revivals, as well as several film and TV movie remakes and numerous recordings. Chapin currently serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the American Theater Wing, and has been chairman of the Advisory Committee for New York City Center's *Encores!* series since its inception. In addition, he serves on the boards of City Center, Connecticut College, Goodspeed Musicals and Meet The Composer. He has been a guest lecturer at NYU, Yale, Columbia, Lawrence University and St. Catherine's College at Oxford. He was a Tony Awards nominator for two seasons and is currently a member of the Tony Administration Committee. From 1976 until he joined R&H in 1981, Chapin served as musical director for the National Theatre of the Deaf, was Associate Director of the National Theater Institute, and Producer of the Musical Theatre Lab in New York and the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. From 1972 to 1975, he served as Associate to Alan Arkin. By the time he graduated from Connecticut College in 1972, he had amassed more than five years of Broadway credits as production or directorial assistant. In 2003, he turned his observations working as the Production Assistant on the original production of the Stephen Sondheim/Harold Prince musical *Follies* into an award-winning book, *Everything Was Possible: The Birth of the Musical "Follies,"* which was published in hardcover by Alfred A. Knopf and in paperback by Applause Books. This is Chapin's seventh time judging the competition.

Rebecca Luker was last seen on Broadway in *Mary Poppins* as Winifred Banks (Tony nomination). Other Broadway: *Nine* (Claudia Nardi), and *The Music Man* (Marian/Tony, Drama Desk & Outer Critics Circle Award nominations), Maria in *The Sound of Music* (Outer Critics Circle nomination), Magnolia in *Showboat* (Tony nomination), Lily in *The Secret Garden* (Drama Desk Nomination); Christine in *The Phantom of the Opera*; X (*The Life and Times of Malcolm X*) and *Brigadoon* with City Opera. Off-Broadway: *Indian Blood* (Primary Stages), *Can't Let Go* (Keen Company) and *The Vagina Monologues*. Regional theater: *Passion* (Clara) Kennedy Center, *Time and Again* (Julia) Old Globe, *Harmony* (Mary) La Jolla Playhouse and *She Loves Me* (Amalia) Reprise! series in LA. Concert: *Encores!*, *Boys From Syracuse* and *Where's Charley?*. Symphony appearances include: the Royal Stockholm and London Symphonies, Hollywood Bowl Orchestra. She has appeared at Carnegie Hall, the Library of Congress and the White House. Most recently, Ms. Luker returned to the American Songbook Series five years after her critically acclaimed debut in 2005. In 2008 she debuted at the Kennedy Center's Terrace Theater for the Barbara Cook Spotlight Series, her New York City recital debut with Lincoln Center's American Songbook in 2005 and her solo cabaret debut at the Feinstein's at the Regency that same year. Television: *The Good Wife*, *Law and Order-SVU*, CBS TV Movie *Cupid and Cate*; *An Evening with the Pops*; *An Oscar Hammerstein Celebration*; *A Tribute to Rodgers and Hart* (PBS); The Kennedy Center Honors honoring Julie Andrews and a Richard Rodgers celebration with the Boston Pops (PBS). Recordings: *Greenwich Time* (PSCClassics.com), *Leaving Home* (PSCClassics.com), *Anything Goes: Rebecca Luker Sings Cole Porter* (Fynsworth Alley), the Aria series (Koch) and original cast recordings of *The Secret Garden* and the revivals of *Showboat*, *The Sound of Music* and *The Music Man*. Born and raised in Birmingham, Alabama, Rebecca received an honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts from The University of Montevallo, and now resides in New York City with her husband, actor Danny Burstein, and her stepsons Alex and Zach.

Competition Finalists



Alisa Suzanne Jordheim, lyric coloratura soprano, is a doctoral student and graduate teaching assistant in voice at the University of Cincinnati (CCM). As a studio artist with Central City Opera (2009, 2010), Alisa performed the roles of Fredrika (*A Little Night Music*) and Sirena (Handel's *Rinaldo*); and partial roles including Gilda (*Rigoletto*), Lakmé (*Lakmé*), Lisavetta (*A Month in the Country*), Susanna (*Le Nozze di Figaro*), Laetitia (*The Old Maid and the Thief*), Frasquita (*Carmen*), and Laurie (*The Tender Land*). At CCM, Alisa performed the roles of Lucia (*The Rape of Lucretia*), Echo (*Ariadne auf Naxos*), and Pamina (*Die Zauberflöte*). In November of 2010, Alisa was a young artist with Central City Opera's regional tour. Alisa received an encouragement award at the 2010 Metropolitan Opera Auditions (Wisconsin District), the Audience Favorite Award at the 2009 Tri-State College Vocal Competition, and a Central City Opera Bonfils-Stanton Artists Training Program Award in 2009.

Matt Leisy is currently starring as Matt in *The Fantasticks* Off-Broadway. A graduate of Northwestern University's Schools of Music and Theatre, Matt is equally at home onstage in plays, musicals, concerts, cabaret, opera and on screen in film and television. Other credits include: Scripps in *The History Boys* (St. Louis Rep and Arden Theatre - Barrymore Nomination), Young Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol* (Alabama Shakespeare Festival), Mordred in *Camelot* (Pennsylvania Centre Stage), *The Hatpin* (New York Musical Theatre Festival), *Great Expectations* (Mill Mountain Theatre), *Oliver* (Westchester Broadway Theatre), *The Sound of Music* (Broadway Asia), Algernon in *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Charleston Stage), Chevalier de la Force in *Dialogues of the Carmelites* (Opera Moda), Goro in *Madama Butterfly*, St. Brioche in *The Merry Widow* (Opera in the Ozarks) and countless independent films and readings/workshops in New York. "Much love to my amazing family." www.mattleisy.com.



A native of China, **Jing Lin** is a graduate student in vocal performance under the tutelage of Myra Merritt at Bowling Green State University. She is a versatile performer who is equally at home on the opera and musical stage. Recent roles include Galatea in the BGSU production of *Acis and Galatea* and Paggio in a concert production of *Rigoletto* with Plácido Domingo at the Reignwood Theater in Beijing, China. In 2005, she joined the cast of *Butterflies Musical* in the leading role of Zhu Ying Tai under the musical direction of San Bao and stage direction of Gilles Maheu. She has performed with various musical companies in China, including Poly Theater of China in Beijing, Dongguan Yulan Theater in Guan Zhou, and the Globe Theater in Harbin. She is also the recipient of the Ralph Appelman Award, a first place winner of the Great Lakes Regional NATS Competition, and the winner of the 10th annual Dr. Majorie Conrad Peatee Art Song Competition.

Caitlin Mathes is a native of Dayville, Connecticut. She is a recent graduate of the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, where she has sung Idamante in *Idomeneo*, Ruggiero in *Alcina*, and Ottavia in *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, among others. During the summer of 2009, she was a participant of San Francisco Opera's Merola Opera program, where she sang the role of Despina in *Così fan tutte*. Caitlin has appeared as a young artist with the Opera Theatre of St. Louis and Chautauqua Opera, and recently sang a one woman cabaret in Spoleto, Italy. Caitlin will be performing the role of Sister Dorothy Stang in Encompass Opera's premiere of *Angel of the Amazon* in May 2011. She will also be covering the role of Rosina for Opera New Jersey's *Il barbiere di Siviglia* this summer, and she's looking forward to becoming a Studio Artist with Portland Opera, starting in the fall.





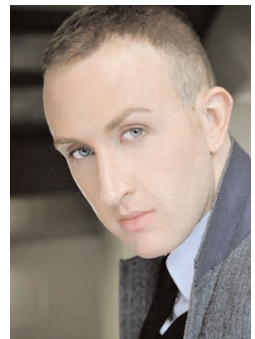
Chris Pinnella received his B.A. from Marymount Manhattan College. After graduating he has worked with Julie Andrews, Marcia Milgrom Dodge, Ian Fraser, and John Bucchino as Simeon in the world premiere of *Simeon's Gift* at Bay Street Theatre. Chris also performed the role of Billy Bigelow in Lyric Stage's production of *Carousel*, which featured a 40-piece orchestra playing Don Walker's original orchestrations. Chris frequently makes appearances as a guest artist with the Orchestra of St. Peter by the Sea. He has performed off-Broadway with Musicals Tonight in Jerome Kern's *Roberta* and has been seen regionally as Tony in *West Side Story*, Burrs in *The Wild Party*, Freddy in *My Fair Lady* in concert, Barrett in *Titanic*, and Sidney Falcone in *Sweet Smell of Success*.

Baltimore native **Daniel Schwait** has been described as having "a talent beyond his years" by the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*. His stage roles include Fred Graham/ Petruchio (*Kiss Me, Kate*), the title role in *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* and Terry Connor (*Side Show*) at Seattle's ArtsWest Playhouse, and Boy 2 (*Trouble in Tahiti*). He will appear as Kurt Weill in the upcoming *September Songs: The Life and Legacy of Kurt Weill* at the Manhattan School of Music. He has performed in *Beautiful Girls*, a gala concert of music by Stephen Sondheim staged by Lonny Price, and with the Boston Pops in the annual *Film Night at Tanglewood* in a program of music composed and conducted by John Williams. Daniel has appeared in concert with The Manhattan School of Music Chamber Sinfonia, The Oratorio Society of New York, The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, and in solo recital.



Emma Sewell gained her BMus honours degree in Performance at Trinity College of Music, London, where she performed Polly Peachum in Weill's *Threepenny Opera*. Whilst studying she formed a female barbershop group, The Ruby Cubes, who went on to win Trinity's Chamber Music Prize and perform at St. Martin in the Fields. After leaving college, she worked on new pieces such as *The Nightingale and the Rose* (title role), based on Oscar Wilde's short story, and such Gilbert and Sullivan roles as Edith (*The Pirates of Penzance*) and Mad Margaret (*Ruddigore*). Emma was then cast in the UK No.1 tour of *The Sound of Music*, understudying the role of Maria. Straight after this she worked with Paul Gemignani on a new musical *Lend me a Tenor - The Musical* in its out-of-town Plymouth 'try out' before a possible West End transfer later this year. Most recently, Emma played Carrie Pimperidge in *Carousel* at the Broadway Theatre, London.

Jacob Lewis Smith studied at Manhattan School of Music and is currently a student of Victoria Clark. He has recently recorded with Kanye West and Jay Z for the upcoming album *Watch the Throne* on Def Jam Records. Past shows include Dick McGann in *Street Scene* (Chautauqua Opera debut), Raggedy Andy in *Griffelkin*, Cinderella's Prince in *Into the Woods*, Miles Gloriosus in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *4 Stop Tour* (Off-Broadway), *Defying Gravity: A Stephen Schwartz Revue*, *Hair*, Lt. Wright in *The Secret Garden*, Charlie in *Brigadoon*, Gregor and featured dancer in *Mame*, a Gershwin - Bernstein revue, *The World Upstairs* (a new musical workshop), *And the World Goes Round: The Songs of Kander and Ebb*, and *Tanner on Tanner* with Cynthia Nixon.



Mezzo-soprano **Peabody Southwell** made her professional debut with Long Beach Opera as The Fox in Janáček's *Cunning Little Vixen* immediately following her 2008 graduation from UCLA. Subsequent engagements have included Ramiro in Vivaldi's *Moteczuma* (US Premiere), Drummer in Ullman's *Emperor of Atlantis*, Nancy T'ang in Adams' *Nixon in China*, Baroness von Botzenheim in Kurka's *Good Soldier Schweik*, Neris in Cherubini's *Medea*, Nefertiti in Glass' *Akhmaten* and Carmen in Brook's *La Tragédie de Carmen*. Orchestral credits include Dalbavie's *Sextine Cyclus* and Debussy's *Les chansons de Bilitis* with Blackbird Music Project, Berlioz's *Les nuits d'été* and Mark Popeney's *Harvest Moon* (World Premiere). Committed to contemporary music, she has premiered many works, recently for Patrick Leonard and White Oak Dance Project. Upcoming projects include her Central City Opera debut as Anna I in Weill's *Die sieben Todsünden* and Zita in Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi*, Shostakovich's *Moscow, Cherry Town* and recitals in San Francisco, New York and Paris.



Trevor Strader (tenor) recently received a bachelor of music degree from the Eastman School of Music as a student of Carol Webber. Roles with Eastman Opera Theatre include Archibald Craven in *The Secret Garden*, Don Basilio in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, and The Prologue in *The Turn of the Screw*. Trevor has performed with Mercury Opera Rochester, Lake George Opera, and in over 30 productions in the Albany area. He has competed and placed in many regional and national vocal competitions and has performed the national anthem at Madison Square Garden, The Bank Atlantic Center, and the Jobbing.com Arena. Recently, Trevor won 2nd place in the Jesse Kneisel Lieder Competition, was a recipient of the Ornest Award for vocal and academic excellence at Eastman, and received an Encouragement Award from the 2009 Lotte Lenya Competition. He will be in Geva Theatre's upcoming production of *The Music Man*.

Tenor **John Viscardi** is a resident artist at the Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia. At AVA he debuted as Fenton in Verdi's *Falstaff* and will appear as Don Ottavio in Mozart's *Don Giovanni* this May. This summer, he debuted with the Ocean City Pops, performing in the Our Three Tenors concert series. In 2009, John made his Lincoln Center debut as the Toy Soldier in *Babes in Toyland* at Avery Fisher Hall, was heard as Rinuccio in Rockland County Opera's *Gianni Schicchi* as well as *West Side Story*'s Tony in "Celebrating Jerome Robbins" at the Hudson Riverfront Performing Arts Center. While at New York University, John performed numerous roles, including Tamino in *The Magic Flute*, Camille in *The Merry Widow*, and Frederick in *The Pirates of Penzance*. John was awarded 1st place in the 2010 Mario Lanza Scholarship Competition and 3rd place in the 2010 Giargiari Bel Canto Competition.



American baritone **Jorell M. Williams** is pursuing a versatile performing career. He has appeared with the Copland House Center of American Music at the 42nd Annual ASCAP awards, recorded live with the Essential Voices USA in "Mr. President" for NPR, and made his Off-Broadway debut performing the role of "Villager" with City Center *Encores!* in Kurt Weill's *Lost in the Stars*. He also had the honor of performing with the Chorale Le Chateau of New York in "A Celebration of America" at the Kennedy Center on the occasion of the Presidential Inauguration of Barack Obama. Jorell is a recipient of awards from the Gerda Lissner International Vocal Competition, Civic Morning Musicals Foundation, and Career Bridges Foundation. This summer, Jorell will be performing the role of Captain Corcoran in Gilbert and Sullivan's *HMS Pinafore* with the Caramoor Bel Canto Music Festival, and will participate as vocal fellow with the Ravinia Steans Music Institute.

About the Lotte Lenya Competition

In 1998, to celebrate the centenary 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. Dr. Kowalke, the Richard L. Turner Professor in Humanities at the University of Rochester and professor of musicology at the Eastman School of Music, arranged for the inaugural contest to be held at Eastman to coincide with Sibley Music Library's receipt of Weill's holograph scores from Vienna. Even as the competition has grown into an international event, the Eastman School has continued to host the finals.

The Lotte Lenya Competition recognizes talented young singer/actors aged 19-30 who are dramatically and musically convincing in contrasting modes of theater music by Kurt Weill and other composers. More than a vocal competition, the Lenya Competition emphasizes idiomatic performance of a wide range of repertoire and the acting of songs within a dramatic context. Revised competition guidelines for 2011 require each contestant to prepare four selections: one aria from the operatic or operetta repertoire; one theatrical selection by Kurt Weill; and two songs from the American musical theater repertoire, one from the "Golden Age" (pre-1968) and one from 1968 or later. The Weill selection(s) and the opera/operetta aria must be presented in their original languages, keys and arrangements.

For the first round, contestants submitted a preliminary audition video of their four repertoire selections. From these submissions, 30 semi-finalists were invited to audition live in New York for adjudicator/coaches David Loud, Carolyn Marlow and Vicki Shaghoian. After the semi-finals, 12 finalists were invited to Rochester to compete in the finals, and some semi-finalists were given special awards. Emerging Talent Awards of \$500 each went to Natalie Ballenger, Samantha Helmstetter, Nathan Lucrezio, Kevin Russell Rose and Cecilia Ticktin, and the Grace Keagy Award for Outstanding Vocal Promise was awarded to Amber Opheim. The award honors singer-actress Grace Keagy (1921-2009), a great supporter and past judge for the competition.

The 2011 finalists are competing for top prizes of \$15,000, \$10,000 and \$7,500. Each finalist has received a \$500 prize and an honorarium to defray the costs of traveling to the finals. 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. In awarding more than \$350,000 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. Learn more at www.kwf.org.



Competition Administration, for the Kurt Weill Foundation:

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Carolyn Weber, Director

Brady Sansone, Office Manager

Kate Chisholm, Promotion Manager

The Kurt Weill Foundation for Music

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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 Andrew Green, Director of Concert Operations; Serin Kim Hong, Assistant Director of Concert Operations; and Helene Snihur, Assistant Director of Public Relations.