

20TH ANNUAL

*Lotte Lenya*

# LOTTE LENYA COMPETITION

A Program of The Kurt Weill Foundation for Music



## 2017 LOTTE LENYA COMPETITION FINALS

Daytime Round

Kilbourn Hall, Eastman School of Music

Saturday, 22 April 2017, 11:00 am

## Number 20!

At the first Lotte Lenya Competition in 1998, the contestants were all Eastman voice students, and the top prize was just \$1,000. This year 266 contestants from 17 countries and 31 states submitted video auditions. In March thirty-two semifinalists competed and coached in Manhattan. Today fourteen finalists spanning the boundaries of eligibility from 19 to 32 compete for a top prize of \$20,000, increasing from \$15,000 for the first time. This year's prizes, recognizing and nurturing young singing actors, will bring the total awarded after twenty competitions to more than \$850,000.

When I conceived the Competition in 1998 as a way to celebrate Lenya's 100th birthday, as well as the arrival (on long term loan) of the manuscripts of all Weill's German compositions at Sibley Music Library, I had only a faint glimmer of hope that it might someday grow into what it's become nineteen years later. Though strictly local that first year, with fewer than two dozen contestants, the LLC already encouraged idiomatic performances of a wide range of repertoire, and it was adjudicated by a distinguished panel of three, representing diverse expertise and viewpoints (a model that has remained unchanged): a conductor (Julius Rudel), a director (Mark Cuddy), and a versatile, world-class singer.

That singer is our **Special Guest of Honor** for the 20th Lenya Competition: **Teresa Stratas** has subsequently served on the judges' panel for half of the finals. And Stratas's own legendary talent and career exemplify the values engendered by the LLC, as her repertory encompassed music theater in its widest sense: opera, operetta, American musical theater, and particularly the music of Kurt Weill. Making her debut at the Met in 1959, she was already an international star before she turned 25. At the Met alone, she sang 41 roles in 382 performances over three decades, including seven new productions mounted for her.



Stratas (left) with Lenya, 1980

Stratas first sang Weill's music in 1979, when she played Jenny in the Met premiere of *Mahagonny*. In appreciation of "her dream Jenny," Lenya gave Stratas a collection of unpublished material which she recorded in 1981 as *The Unknown Kurt Weill*, which garnered a fistful of awards. Then came *Stratas Sings Weill*, Peter Sellars's film of *Die sieben Todsünden*, and *September Songs: The Music of Kurt Weill*. The Kurt Weill Foundation presented her with its Distinguished Achievement Award in Eastman Theatre in 1998 and elected her an honorary trustee in 2005.

Other career highlights include the world premiere production and recording of the three-act *Lulu* under Boulez in Paris, creating the leading roles in *The Ghosts of Versailles* and *Rags* (Tony nomination), and singing Julie in the landmark complete recording of *Show Boat*. She made more than two dozen opera films, and won three Grammy Awards, an Emmy, a Gemini, a Drama Desk Award, and an Academy Award citation for the documentary *Stratasphere*. Teresa holds five honorary doctorates, including one bestowed by the University of Rochester at the celebration here in 1998. This remains the only competition Stratas has ever judged, and now, at Number 20, it's become almost as much hers as Lenya's.

—Kim H. Kowalke, President & CEO, Kurt Weill Foundation for Music; Founder of the LLC

Cover photos, clockwise from top left: Past winners in performance, Justin Hopkins (2012 2nd Prize) and Lauren Michelle (2015 1st Prize) in *Lost in the Stars* with the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra (photo credit: Reed Hutchinson); Matthew Grills (2012 1st Prize) (L) and Brian Mulligan (1998 Top Prize) (R) in *Sweeney Todd* at San Francisco Opera (photo credit: Cory Weaver); Megan Marino (2012 3rd Prize) and Rodell Rosel (2006 2nd Prize) in *Der Rosenkavalier* at Lyric Opera of Chicago (photo credit: Cory Weaver); Amy Justman (2004 Top Prize) (L) and Lauren Worsham (2009 2nd Prize) (R) with Kelli O'Hara (C) in *The Mikado* with MasterVoices (photo credit: Erin Baiano).

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.** For the daytime round, accompanists Lyndon Meyer and Shane Schag will alternate.

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|--------------|---|---|
| <b>11:00</b> | <b>Molly Dunn, 28</b><br>"Ain't it a pretty night" from <i>Susannah</i><br>"Show Me" from <i>My Fair Lady</i><br>"I Won't Mind"<br>"Es zog zu Salomon" from <i>Der Kuhhandel</i>  | Floyd<br>Loewe/Lerner<br>Blumenkrantz/Kessler, Saines<br>Weill/Vambery            |
| <b>11:15</b> | <b>Philip Kalmanovitch, 32</b><br>"Lonely Town" from <i>On the Town</i><br>"In Praise of Women" from <i>A Little Night Music</i><br>"E fra quest'ansie" from <i>Pagliacci</i><br>"This is the Life" from <i>Love Life</i>   | Bernstein/Comden, Green<br>Sondheim<br>Leoncavallo<br>Weill/Lerner                |
| <b>11:30</b> | <b>Marie Oppert, 19</b><br>"Chacun le sait" from <i>La fille du régiment</i><br>"Somebody, Somewhere" from <i>The Most Happy Fella</i><br>"Astonishing" from <i>Little Women</i><br>"J'attends un navire" from <i>Marie Galante</i>   | Donizetti/Saint-Georges, Bayard<br>Loesser<br>Howland/Dickstein<br>Weill/Deval    |
| <b>11:45</b> | <b>Felipe Bombonato, 28</b><br>"Nur die nacht" from <i>Aufstieg und Fall der Stadt Mahagonny</i><br>"Fanny" from <i>Fanny</i><br>"I Am Adolpho" from <i>The Drowsy Chaperone</i><br>"E lucevan le stelle" from <i>Tosca</i>   | Weill/Brecht<br>Rome<br>Lambert/Morrison<br>Puccini/Illica, Giacosa               |
| <b>12:00</b> | <b>Jasmine Habersham, 27</b><br>"Mister Snow" from <i>Carousel</i><br>"Trouble Man" from <i>Lost in the Stars</i><br>"My Man's Gone Now" from <i>Porgy and Bess</i><br>"Still Hurting" from <i>The Last Five Years</i>  | Rodgers/Hammerstein<br>Weill/Anderson<br>G. Gershwin/DuBose, I. Gershwin<br>Brown |
| <b>12:15</b> | <b>Michael Hewitt, 26</b><br>"When my cue comes, call me"<br>from <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i><br>"Let Things Be Like They Always Was" from <i>Street Scene</i><br>"Lonely Room" from <i>Oklahoma!</i><br>"In Praise of Women" from <i>A Little Night Music</i>                                       | Britten/Pears<br>Weill/Hughes<br>Rodgers/Hammerstein<br>Sondheim                  |
| <b>12:30</b> | <b>Gan-ya Ben-gur Akselrod, 29</b><br>"Denn wie man sich bettet, so liegt man"<br>from <i>Aufstieg und Fall der Stadt Mahagonny</i><br>"Somebody, Somewhere" from <i>The Most Happy Fella</i><br>"Children of the Wind" from <i>Rags</i><br>"Non, monsieur mon mari" from <i>Les mamelles de Tirésias</i> | Weill/Brecht<br>Loesser<br>Strouse/Schwartz<br>Poulenc                            |

**-INTERMISSION-**



<b>1:45</b>	<b>Katherine Riddle, 25</b> "When Did I Fall in Love?" from <i>Fiorello!</i> "Volta la terrea" from <i>Un ballo in maschera</i> "That's Him" from <i>One Touch of Venus</i> "Through the Mountain" from <i>Floyd Collins</i>	Bock/Harnick Verdi/Somma Weill/Nash Guettel
<b>2:00</b>	<b>Tony Potts, 24</b> "C'est Moi" from <i>Camelot</i> "Love Song" from <i>Love Life</i> "Mein Sehnen, mein Wähnen" from <i>Die tote Stadt</i> "Funny" from <i>City of Angels</i>	Loewe/Lerner Weill/Lerner Korngold/Schott Coleman/Zippel
<b>2:15</b>	<b>Taylor Raven, 25</b> "Bill" from <i>Show Boat</i> "Cruda sorte! Amor tiranno!" from <i>L'italiana in Algeri</i> "Stay Well" from <i>Lost in the Stars</i> "I'm a Little Bit Off" from <i>Starting Here, Starting Now</i>	Kern/Hammerstein Rossini/Anelli Weill/Anderson Shire/Maltby
<b>2:30</b>	<b>Curtis Bannister, 31</b> "A New Town is a Blue Town" from <i>The Pajama Game</i> "Ah! Lève-toi, soleil!" from <i>Roméo et Juliette</i> "She Cries" from <i>Songs for a New World</i> "Erst trifft dich die Kugel" from <i>Der Silbersee</i>	Adler/Ross Gounod/Barbier, Carré Brown Weill/Kaiser
<b>2:45</b>	<b>Lisa Marie Rogali, 22</b> "The Prologue" from <i>Transformations</i> "Much More" from <i>The Fantasticks</i> "Denn wie man sich bettet, so liegt man" from <i>Aufstieg und Fall der Stadt Mahagonny</i> "Somebody" from <i>Amour</i>	Susa/Sexton Schmidt/Jones Weill/Brecht Legrand/Van Cauwelaert
<b>3:00</b>	<b>Bradley Smoak, 32</b> "This is the Life" from <i>Love Life</i> "Vi ravviso, o luoghi ameni" from <i>La sonnambula</i> "Higher Than a Hawk" from <i>Calamity Jane</i> "Me" from <i>Beauty and the Beast</i>	Weill/Lerner Bellini/Romani Fain/Webster Menken/Rice
<b>3:15</b>	<b>Paulina Villarreal, 27</b> "Carceleras" from <i>Las hijas del Zebedeo</i> "One Life to Live" from <i>Lady in the Dark</i> "Der Abschiedsbrief" "Maybe I Like It This Way" from <i>The Wild Party</i>	Chapí/Estremera Weill/Gershwin Weill/Kästner Lippa

Judges may choose to award, at their sole discretion, any combination of the following prizes: 1st (\$20,000); 2nd (\$15,000); 3rd (\$10,000); Lys Symonette Awards (\$3,500) for outstanding performance of a number or excellence in one area; Marc Blitzstein Award (\$3,500) for outstanding performance of a Golden Age selection; Carolyn Weber Award (\$3,500) for outstanding creativity in the design of a diverse program and exceptional sensitivity to text/music relationships; the inaugural Kurt Weill Award (\$5,000) for outstanding performances of two selections by Weill. All finalists receive travel stipends and an award of at least \$1,000.

## Lotte Lenya Competition Finalists



For the 2016/17 season, **CURTIS BANNISTER** returned to the roster at Lyric Opera of Chicago for *Les Troyens* and *Norma*; performed as tenor soloist in Haydn's *Lord Nelson Mass* for the Baltimore Choral Arts Society; and debuted with Writers Theatre as Lieutenant Barri in Sondheim's *Passion*. Additional season performances include his debut with Porchlight Music Theatre as Edward Moncrief in *On A Clear Day You Can See Forever*; Jim Conley/Newt Lee (u/s) in *Parade* with Writers Theatre; Jean Paul in the off-Broadway musical *Little Fish* for Kokandy Productions; and a recital tour in Sicily, Italy in August 2017. This month, Curtis was a finalist in the Rochester Oratorio Society's Classical Idol XI Competition. Future season engagements include operatic and musical theater debuts in New York City, Philadelphia, Chicago, and Alaska. This is Curtis' second appearance in the Lenya Competition finals.

Born in Tel-Aviv, **GAN-YA BEN-GUR AKSELROD** completed her Bachelor's Degree *cum laude* at the Buchmann-Mehta School of Music and a postgraduate degree in Opera from Brooklyn College. After winning 1st prize at the Hilde Zadek Competition in Vienna, she joined the Young Ensemble of Theater an der Wien, where she performed Lucy in Weill's *Die Dreigroschenoper*. Other roles include Blondchen in *The Abduction from the Seraglio* with Glyndebourne Opera; Elvira in *L'italiana in Algeri* at Théâtre du Capitole, Toulouse; Konstanze in *The Abduction from the Seraglio* at Israeli Opera; and Marie in *Le Malentendu* with the Neue Oper Wien. She has appeared with Aix-en-Provence, Berlin Deutsche Oper, Ravinia Music Festival, and at Carnegie Hall. Gan-ya won 2nd prize in the Güzin Gürel Competition, and additional awards from the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music, the Paul Ben-Haim Competition, the AICF Foundation, the Ronen Foundation, and the IVAI Institute.

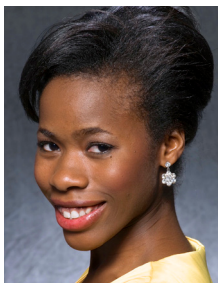


**FELIPE BOMBONATO** is a graduate of the University of Florida, with a BFA in Musical Theatre. His past professional credits include Judas in *Jesus Christ Superstar*; the national tour of *Cats* (swing); Billis in *South Pacific*; Ensemble/Padre in the national tour of *Man of La Mancha*; Philip in *Upside Down*; Eddie/Dr. Scott in *Rocky Horror Picture Show*; Little Bat in *Susannah*; and Stine in *City of Angels*. He would like to thank his family for their continued support; the love of his life, "coach" Molly, for countless hours and advice on each song; his voice teachers, Matt Morgan and Eric Michael Gillett; and of course God, for without Him, I wouldn't be where or who I am. 1 Corinthians 13:13.

**MOLLY DUNN** hails from South Orange, NJ. She spent her college years farming and traveling the world, eventually landing in New York City. She received her Master of Music in Vocal Performance: Musical Theatre from New York University, where she portrayed Margaret Johnson in *The Light in the Piazza* in her culminating performance. She made her operatic debut as an Apprentice Artist at the Miami Music Festival, as Erste Dame in *Die Zauberflöte*, and in the Zarzuela concert series. Favorite musical theater credits include Amalia in *She Loves Me*; Johanna u/s in *Sweeney Todd*; and Rosa Bud in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. Most recently, Molly played Babette in *Beauty and the Beast* at The Fireside Theatre. She studies with Virginia Grasso in New York City. All her love to her family, friends, and mentors. molly-dunn.com



**JASMINE HABERSHAM** is a native of Macon, GA. Most recently, she sang the roles of Yum-Yum in *The Mikado* (Kentucky Opera); Esther in *Intimate Apparel* (Cincinnati OperaFusion); and Clara in *Porgy and Bess* (Utah Festival). Her other performances include Papagena in *The Magic Flute* (Glimmerglass Festival) and Edith in *The Pirates of Penzance* (Atlanta Opera). She has appeared as a young Artist at the Glimmerglass Festival, Kentucky Opera, Central City Opera, and the Brevard Music Center. Jasmine received her Masters and Artist Diploma from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, where she performed the roles of Despina in *Così fan tutte*; Norina in *Don Pasquale*; Mrs. Julian in *Owen Wingrave*; and Pearl in *Morning Star*. This summer, Jasmine will reprise the role of Papagena in *The Magic Flute* at Cincinnati Opera.



**MICHAEL HEWITT** specializes in Golden Age musical theater, Italian repertoire, and the music of J.S. Bach. He trained at The Music Academy of The West, Aspen Opera Center, Seagle Music Colony, and Barrington Stage Company. He has premiered works by Mohammed Fairouz, Osi Sladek, and Ben Morris. Favorite roles include the title role in *Don Giovanni*; Lancelot (*Camelot*); Emile (*South Pacific*); Bottom (Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*); Frank Butler (*Annie Get Your Gun*); and the title role in *Gianni Schicchi*. He will reprise the role of Jud Fry this summer in *Oklahoma!* at Glimmerglass Opera. When not on stage, he works as a fitness consultant. Recently, Michael raised nearly \$3,000 for pediatric cancer research and treatment at MD Anderson in Houston, TX as a competitor in the D10 Decathlon.

An alumnus of the Atelier lyrique de l'Opéra de Montréal, British-Canadian baritone **PHILIP KALMANOVITCH** recently made his US oratorio debut with the Fairfield County Chorale; his European concert debut with the Printemps Musical de Silly in Belgium; and as Abimélech in *Samson et Dalila* at l'Opéra de Montréal. Other l'OdeM roles include Antonio in *Le nozze di Figaro*; Wagner in *Faust*; and the Motor Cop in *Dead Man Walking*. His portrayal of Don Giovanni in Tel Aviv earned him a Silverman Scholarship from the International Vocal Arts Institute. Active in oratorio and concert, Philip has appeared as a soloist with l'Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal, Kingston Symphony, Grand Philharmonic Choir, Mineola Choral Society, Ottawa Choral Society, Toronto Orpheus Choir, Chorus Niagara, and The Aldeburgh Connection. Philip is based in New York City where he studies with Ron Raines. [www.philipkalmanovitch.com](http://www.philipkalmanovitch.com)



Born in Paris, **MARIE OPPERT** made her French musical theater stage debut in the lead role of Genevieve in *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg* (Théâtre Châtelet, Paris), alongside Natalie Dessay, and musical director Michel Legrand. She began studying classical music at an early age at the Regional Conservatory of Paris and began performing professionally at age 10. Credits include *The Adventures Of Pinocchio* (National Tour); *The Sound of Music*, and Kurt Weill's *Street Scene* (Théâtre Châtelet); *Alice, The Musical* (Théâtre Clavel, Paris); *Sweeney Todd* (National Tour); *The Musketeers at the Convent* (Théâtre Odeon, Marseille); and *Roméo et Juliette* (Théâtre Champs-Élysées, Paris). She is the youngest Fulbright grantee, which allowed her to study musical theater in

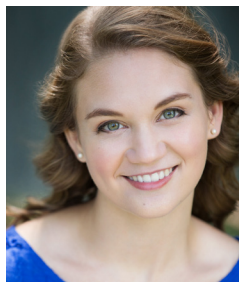
New York City at Marymount Manhattan College. She is now pursuing training in theater and classical singing in Paris, as well as an English degree at the Sorbonne University.

**TONY POTTS** hails from Fargo, ND. Most recently, he performed the roles of Fredrik Egerman in *A Little Night Music* at the University of North Texas, and Charles Clark in *Titanic* with Uptown Players in Dallas, TX. With the Miami Music Festival he sang Marcello in *La bohème*; Mr. Gedge in Britten's *Albert Herring*; and the Father in *Hansel and Gretel*. Other stage roles include Fagin in *Oliver!*; Koko in *The Mikado*; The Watchman, Umpire, and Manager in *The Mighty Casey*; Curly in *Oklahoma!*; and Harold Hill in *The Music Man*. Tony completed his Bachelor's Degree at the University of Northwestern, St. Paul where he studied with Carol Eikum. He is currently a first year Master's student at University of North Texas, where he studies with Stephen Morscheck. This is Tony's second appearance in the Lenya Competition finals.



**TAYLOR RAVEN** is originally from Fayetteville, NC. This season, she joined Pittsburgh Opera as a Resident Artist, where she performed as Oronte (*Riccardo Primo*) and Hannah After (*As One*). Raven recently made her debut in Kaminsky's *As One* with Seattle Opera. In 2016, Raven performed in the Schwabacher Summer Concert with San Francisco Opera's Merola Opera Program, where she also gave a debut recital. Other credits include Die Knusperhexe (*Hänsel und Gretel*); Ruth (*The Pirates of Penzance*); Ottavia (*L'incoronazione di Poppea*); Angelina (*La Cenerentola*); Martha (*Dream Lovers*); La Voix (*Les Contes D'Hoffman*); and Annio (*La Clemenza di Tito*). She has participated in other young artist programs including Central City Opera and Virginia Opera and won 1st prize in the 2015 Denver Lyric Opera Competition. Raven holds degrees from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and the University of Colorado, Boulder.

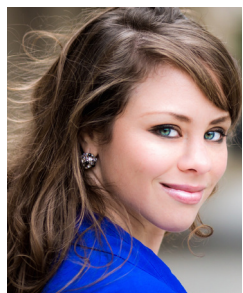
A finalist in the 2015 Lotte Lenya Competition, **KATHERINE RIDDLE** recently appeared in the Broadway-aimed revival of *The Secret Garden*, co-produced by Shakespeare Theatre Company and 5th Avenue Theatre. Select credits and roles: *Sweeney Todd* and *La bohème* (Glimmerglass Festival); *Madama Butterfly* and *South Pacific* (Annapolis Opera); Fiona (*Brigadoon*); Cosette (*Les Misérables*); Laurey (*Oklahoma!*); Cinderella (*Into the Woods*); Mary (*Laura Ingalls Wilder National Tour*). A frequent soloist with National Broadway Chorus, Katherine has shared the stage with Kevin Spacey, Christine Ebersole, LaChanze, and Renée Fleming at venues including the Kennedy Center and Jazz at Lincoln Center. She has performed as a soloist with the American Pops Orchestra, Fairfax Symphony, West Virginia Symphony, and Vladimir Symphony Orchestra. Katherine graduated magna cum laude from American University and studied abroad at Kings College, London. Upcoming: *A Grand Night for Singing* (NextStop Theatre Company).



**LISA MARIE ROGALI** is currently pursuing her Master's Degree in Vocal Performance at The University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. Lisa recently graduated with her Bachelor's in Music Education from Pennsylvania State University, where she was an active performer in opera, concert, and musical theater. Favorite professional credits include Elle in *La voix humaine*; Louise in *Gypsy*; Musetta in *La bohème*; Eliza Doolittle in *My Fair Lady*; Blanche de la force in *Dialogues of the Carmelites*; Cosette in *Les Misérables*; and Dorabella in *Così fan tutte*. Most recently, Lisa received the Encouragement Award at the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions in Pittsburgh. Lisa is excited to make her debut with Opera Saratoga singing the role of Fatmé in Grétry's *Zémire et Azor* this summer.



A recent graduate of the Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center and 2017 winner of The Richard F. Gold Career Grant, **BRADLEY SMOAK** has been heard with many companies nationwide, with particular success at Lyric Opera of Chicago (ten roles since 2014, including Zuniga/*Carmen*, Ghost of Hector/*Les Troyens*, Antonio/*Nozze di Figaro*) and Opera Theatre of Saint Louis (operas of Mozart, Puccini, Strauss, along with glowing critical praise for his Pirate King in *The Pirates of Penzance*). He has appeared in concert with Chicago Symphony Orchestra (*L'enfant et les sortilèges*, *Pelléas et Mélisande*) and onstage at Boston Lyric Opera, Palm Beach Opera, and Sarasota Opera, just to name a few. Smoak made his international debut at Ireland's Wexford Festival Opera in *The Ghosts of Versailles* and Donizetti's *Maria Padilla*, and was the winner of the inaugural Marc Blitzstein Award at the 2016 Lotte Lenya Competition.



Praised for her “mesmerizing” stage presence, and her “assured vocalism”, singer/actress **PAULINA VILLARREAL** is establishing a career as a prominent recitalist, cabaret, operatic, and musical theater singer around the United States and Mexico. She is a current Young Artist at Cincinnati Opera, and a graduate of the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. CCM Opera credits include William Bolcom's Complete Cabaret Songs, Ricky Ian Gordon's *Bright-Eyed Joy: a Cabaret show*; Marianna in Rossini's *Il Signor Bruschino*; and the staged version of J.S. Bach's *St. Matthew Passion*. Performance highlights include a fellowship with the Tanglewood Music Center; *Simply Sondheim* with the Boston Pops (Boston, MA); *Sondheim vs Webber* with the Kentucky Symphony Orchestra; as well as featured performances with the Appalachian Symphony Orchestra and the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra.

## Today's Staff Accompanists

**LYNDON MEYER** is thrilled to be returning as staff accompanist for the Lotte Lenya competition for the ninth consecutive year. A Tulsa-based conductor, pianist and vocal coach, Lyndon serves as chorus master, principal pianist, and assistant conductor for Tulsa Opera, and maintains an active coaching and performance schedule. Lyndon has degrees from the University of Arkansas and the Eastman School of Music. He has performed around the country as a recitalist, accompanist, chamber musician, and conductor, including twice at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

Ohio native **SHANE SCHAG** has performed in recital both as soloist and ensemble performer throughout the United States and Europe, including a concerto performance with the Ashland Symphony Orchestra. He has won several awards and scholarships, including the Gwendolyn Koldofsky Memorial Award, given to “a musician who demonstrated outstanding professionalism in collaborative piano.” In 2007, Mr. Schag made his debut at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall. Now, he serves as staff pianist for the Weill Music Institute's Musical Explorers and Link Up concert series — educational programs inspiring the next generation of music lovers in the classroom and beyond. 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. In 2016, Mr. Schag was an inaugural faculty member of Vocal Coach Asia (Singapore) and the Creative Voice Institute (Taiwan). This July he will perform in the cabaret *Kurt Weill's America* presented at the Brevard Music Festival with William Sharp and Lisa Vroman. He has accompanied the finals of the Lotte Lenya Competition since 2008.

## Today's Judges

**ROB BERMAN** is a New York based music director. He is in his tenth season as music director of *Encores!*, New York City Center's acclaimed series of great American musicals in concert. There he has conducted twenty-five productions including *Lost in the Stars*; *The Most Happy Fella*; *Merrily We Roll Along*; *Pipe Dream*; *Do I Hear A Waltz?*; and *Anyone Can Whistle*. Last season on Broadway, Rob was represented by three shows: *Dames At Sea*; *Tuck Everlasting*; and the Tony and Grammy nominated *Bright Star* by Steve Martin and Edie Brickell. Other Broadway credits include *Promises, Promises*; *Finian's Rainbow*; *The Pajama Game*; *Wonderful Town*; and *Irving Berlin's White Christmas*. For nine years Rob was music director of the *Kennedy Center Honors* on CBS, for which he won an Emmy Award for Outstanding Musical Direction. He won a Helen Hayes Award for his music direction of the Kennedy Center Sondheim Celebration's production of *Sunday in the Park with George*. His work with Stephen Sondheim also includes productions of *Passion* and *Pacific Overtures* at Classic Stage Company and the revue *Opening Doors* at Zankel Hall. Rob has conducted twelve original cast recordings including a new recording of Jerome Kern's *Roberta*. Other credits include conducting the Los Angeles Philharmonic for Barbara Cook and music direction for the PBS presentation of *A Broadway Celebration: In Performance at the White House*. He is happy to be returning as a judge for the Lotte Lenya Competition for the sixth time.

**ANNE BOGART** is a Co-Artistic Director of the ensemble-based SITI Company, head of the MFA Directing program at Columbia University, and author of five books: *A Director Prepares*; *The Viewpoints Book*; *And Then You Act*; *Conversations with Anne*; and *What's the Story*. With SITI, Bogart has directed more than 30 works in venues around the world, including *Chess Match No. 1*; *Steel Hammer*; *The Theater is a Blank Page*; *Persians*; *A Rite*; *Café Variations*; *Radio Macbeth*; *American Document*; *bobrauschenbergamerica*; and *Hotel Cassiopeia*. Recent opera works include Kurt Weill's *Lost in the Stars*; Verdi's *Macbeth*; Bellini's *Norma*; and Bizet's *Carmen*. Her many awards and fellowships include three honorary doctorates (Cornish School of the Arts, Bard College, and Skidmore College); a Duke Artist Fellowship; a United States Artists Fellowship; a Guggenheim Fellowship; a Rockefeller/Bellagio Fellowship; and a Robert Rauschenberg Foundation Residency Fellowship. This is her first time judging the Lotte Lenya Competition.

**SHULER HENSLEY** has won multiple awards for his work on Broadway, Off-Broadway, film and television. His powerful and moving performance as Jud Fry in *Oklahoma!*, earned him an Olivier Award for the production's West End run and the “Triple Crown” for its Broadway iteration: Tony, Drama Desk, and Outer Critics Circle awards. Most recently, he starred as Oscar in The New Group's production of *Sweet Charity* opposite Sutton Foster. Broadway: *Monster in Young Frankenstein*; *Javert in Les Misérables*; two plays in rep at the Cort Theatre: *Waiting for Godot* and *No Man's Land*. Off-Broadway: The Grinch in *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*; Tony in New York City Center's *Encores!* production of *The Most Happy Fella*; *Fiorello!*; *The Whale*, for which he was awarded “Stage Performance of the Year” by *New York* magazine; *Silence! The Musical*; *Sweet and Sad*; and *The Great American Trailer Park Musical*. Regional: *Ghost Brothers of Darkland County* at Atlanta's Alliance Theatre; *All About Us*; *The Phantom of the Opera*; Julian Marsh in The Muny's production of *42nd Street*. TV & Film: *Elementary*; *The Americans*; *Deadline*; *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*; recurring roles in *Shades of Blue* and *OA*; *The Legend of Zorro*; *Van Helsing*; *The Bread, My Sweet*; *Odd Thomas*; *Cruiser*; and President James Garfield in PBS's *Murder of a President*, on Georgia Public Broadcasting. Work with symphony orchestras includes *Carousel* at Avery Fisher Hall with the New York Philharmonic, which was nationally broadcast on PBS; *On the Town* with the San Francisco Symphony and Michael Tilson Thomas; the Detroit Symphony, and the New World Symphony. A native of Marietta, GA, he devotes much time, energy and talent to support and further the arts in education. This is his first time judging the Lotte Lenya Competition.

## 20 Competitions

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### Top Prize Winners

#### 1998

Top Prize of \$1,000: Brian Mulligan. Prizes of \$500 to: Rachel Albert, Leah Arington, Heidi Bieber, Rebecca Comerford, Katia Escalera, Danielle Frink, Elizabeth McDonald, Lauren Pastorek, Tami Petty, Teresa Winner

#### 1999

Top Prize increased to \$2,000  
First Prize: Amy Orsulak  
Second Prize: Christina Carr, Dirk Weiler  
Third Prize: Daniel Spiotta, Amy Van Looy

#### 2000

The Competition was held in Germany.  
First Prize: Annette Postel  
Second Prize: Kaja Plessing, Kathrin Unger, Cordula Wirkner

#### 2001

Top Prize increased to \$3,500  
First Prize: Jennifer Dyan Goode  
Second Prize: Jacob Langfelder, Raquela Sheeran

#### 2002

Top Prize increased to \$5,000  
First Prize: Lisa Conlon  
Second Prize: Kyle Barisich, Ethan Watermeier

#### 2003

Top Prize increased to \$7,500  
First Prize: Siri Vik  
Second Prize: Peter McGillivray  
Third Prize: Elaine Alvarez, Jeffrey Behrens, Michael McKinsey

### Finals Judges

Rob Berman (2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2014, 2017) • André Bishop (2001) • Anne Bogart (2017) • William Bolcolm (2005) • Theodore S. Chapin (2003, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016) • Victoria Clark (2008) • Mark Cuddy (1998) • Jonathan Eaton (1999) • Andy Einhorn (2016) • Alvin Epstein (2004) • Shuler Hensley (2017) • James Holmes (2000, 2006, 2008, 2013, 2015) • Michael Kaufmann (2011) • Welz Kauffman (2001) • Judy Kaye (2014) • Rebecca Luker (2011, 2012, 2015) • John Mauceri (1999) • Timothy Nolen (2010) • Elmar Ottenthal (2000) • Harold Prince (2005) • Patricia Racette (2013) • Angelina Réaux (2004, 2005) • James Robinson (2014) • Julius Rudel (1998) • Ted Sperling (2003, 2007) • Eric Stern (2002) • Teresa Stratas (1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2016) • Lisa Vroman (2010) • Stanley Walden (2002)

#### 2004

Three equal top prizes were awarded to: Richard Todd Adams, Amy Justman, Misty Ann Sturm

#### 2005

First Prize: Jonathan Michie  
Second Prize: Liam Bonner, Erik Liberman  
Third Prize: Morgan James

#### 2006

First Prize: Justin Welsh  
Second Prize: Justin Lee Miller, Rodell Aure Rosel  
Third Prize: Sarah Blaskowsky, Hallie Silverston

#### 2007

First Prize: James Benjamin Rodgers  
Second Prize: Analisa Leaming  
Third Prize: Leena Chopra, Christopher Herbert

#### 2008

Top Prize increased to \$10,000  
First Prize: Rebecca Jo Loeb  
Second Prize: Ariela Morgenstern  
Third Prize: Maija Skille, Bray Wilkins

#### 2009

Top Prize increased to \$15,000  
First Prize: Alen Hodzovic  
Second Prize: Lauren Worsham  
Third Prize: Zachary James

#### 2010

First Prize: Rebekah Camm  
Second Prize: David Arnsperger, Margaret Gawrysiak

#### 2011

First Prize: Caitlin Mathes  
Three equal prizes were awarded to: Jing Lin, Emma Sewell, Jacob Lewis Smith

#### 2012

First Prize: Matthew Grills  
Second Prize: Justin Hopkins, Jacob Keith Watson  
Third Prize: Megan Marino

#### 2013

First Prize: Douglas Carpenter  
Second Prize: Maren Weinberger  
Third Prize: Alison Annopp, Lauren Roesner

#### 2014

First Prize: Ben Edquist  
Second Prize: Arlo Hill  
Third Prize: Natalie Ballenger

#### 2015

First Prize: Lauren Michelle  
Second Prize: Robin Bailey, Jordan Davidson  
Third Prize: Michael Maliakel, Adam Fieldson

#### 2016

First Prize: Jim Schublin, Brian Vu  
Second Prize: Dennis Wees  
Third Prize: Talya Lieberman, Eric Michael Parker

#### 2017

Prizes increased to \$20,000, \$15,000, and \$10,000

## 7 Lenya Winners on Broadway This Season

**Analisa Leaming**, 2007 2nd Prize: *Hello, Dolly!* • **Jacob Keith Watson**, 2012 2nd Prize: *Amélie* • **Erik Liberman**, 2005 2nd Prize: *War Paint* • **Doug Carpenter**, 2013 1st Prize: *Beautiful* • **Richard Todd Adams**, 2004 Top Prize: *Cats* • **Amy Justman**, 2004 Top Prize: *In Transit* • **Kyle Barisich**, 2002 2nd Prize: *The Phantom of the Opera*.

## LLC Winners on Grammy Award–Winning Recordings

**Lucas Meachem**, 2002 Lys Symonette Award, on *The Ghosts of Versailles* (Best Opera Recording); and **Kyle Scatliffe**, 2010 Lys Symonette Award, on *The Color Purple* (Best Musical Theater Recording).

## Winners Performing Weill Around the World

**Justin Hopkins**, 2012 2nd Prize (as Stephen Kumalo) and **Lauren Michelle** 2015 1st Prize (as Irina) in *Lost in the Stars* at Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Jeffrey Kahane and directed by Anne Bogart • **Tora Augestad**, 2008 Lys Symonette Award: Weill songs with the Bamberger Symphoniker, conducted by HK Gruber; Anna I in *Die sieben Todsünden* with the Oslo Philharmonic, May 2017 • **Rebecca Jo Loeb**, 2008 1st Prize: Anna I in *Die sieben Todsünden* with the Sinfonieorchester Aachen, 23 April 2017 • At the 2017 Kurt Weill Fest in Dessau, Germany: **Jeanine De Bique**, 2007 Lys Symonette Award, **Matthew Grills**, 2012 1st Prize, and **Justin Hopkins** appeared as soloists in *Die Verheissung*; • **Tom Schimon**, 2016 Carolyn Weber Award, in a concert adaptation of *Johnny Johnson* • **Brian Charles Rooney**, 2007 Lys Symonette Award: *Berlin to Broadway* with the York Theatre Company.

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## Awards Presented Before the Finals

### Non-Advancing Semifinalists (\$500)

Meroë Khalia Adeeb, 30 (Maryland, USA)  
Carolyn Bacon, 26 (Oregon, USA)  
\*Daniel Berryman, 26 (Washington, USA)  
Samantha Bruce, 27 (California, USA)  
Kristen Choi, 29 (California, USA)  
Jil Clesse, 26 (Luxembourg)  
Kellie Cundiff, 32 (Illinois, USA)  
Benjamin Dutton, 22 (New Jersey, USA)  
Maurio Hines, 31 (North Carolina, USA)  
Charlotte Knight, 30 (Ontario, Canada)  
\*Reilly Nelson, 27 (Ontario, Canada)  
\*Lindsay O'Neil, 31 (New York, USA)  
Mackenzie Rogers, 26 (Oregon, USA)  
Laura Sanders, 22 (California, USA)  
Aaron Sheppard, 25 (Newfoundland, Canada)  
Elise Spurlock, 30 (Louisiana, USA)  
Travis Taylor, 28 (Texas, USA)  
Anson Woodin, 26 (Iowa, USA)

### Emerging Talents (\$500)

Danielle Bavli, 21 (New York, USA)  
Annette Berning, 21 (New York, USA)  
Tucker Breder, 21 (Pennsylvania, USA)  
Kalyn Schnabel, 22 (New York, USA)  
Juliane Stolzenbach Ramos, 21 (Freiburg, Germany)  
Trevor Vanderzee, 23 (Illinois, USA)

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

Jennifer Witton (London, United Kingdom)

*2017 Semifinals Coach/Adjudicators were veteran Broadway performer Judy Blazer and Tony Award-winning music director Ted Sperling*

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

# ***“No vocal contest better targets today’s total package talents.” -OPERA NEWS 2014***

## **About the Competition**

In 1998, to honor 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 (1900-1950), the Kurt Weill Foundation for Music established the annual Lotte Lenya Competition. The competition recognizes talented young singer/actors who are dramatically and musically convincing in repertoire ranging from opera/opera/etta to contemporary Broadway scores, with a focus on the works of Kurt Weill. More than a vocal competition, the Lotte Lenya Competition emphasizes idiomatic performances of diverse repertoire and the acting of songs and arias within a dramatic context.

## **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 and Administrative Assistant  
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. To sign up for the Kurt Weill Newsletter and our E-News, please visit our website, [kwf.org](http://kwf.org).

## **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; Julia Ng, Interim Director of Concert Activities; Daniel Mason, Assistant Stage Operations Manager; Alexandra Cohen, Program Assistant; the Concert Office staff; Richard Kessel, Executive Director of Communications; Helene Snihur, Assistant Director of Public Relations; and Nana Stotz, Operations Coordinator, Technology and Media Production.

*Kurt Weill*

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