



Lotte Lenya THE LENYA COMPETITION



2022 LOTTE LENYA COMPETITION FINALS

Merkin Hall at Kaufman Music Center
Friday, May 6th, 1:00pm

1:00pm: Welcome - Ted Chapin, Chair of the KWF Board of Trustees;
 Introductions - Kim H. Kowalke, President of the KWF and
 Founder of the Competition

**Please withhold applause until the conclusion of each contestant's
 final selection.**

1:15	Cierra Byrd "Sgombra è la sacra selva" from <i>Norma</i> "Je ne t'aime pas" "The Gentleman is a Dope" from <i>Allegro</i> "Poor Unfortunate Souls" from <i>The Little Mermaid</i>	Lyndon Meyer, piano Bellini/Romani Weill/Magre Rodgers/Hammerstein Menken/Ashman
1:30	Jeremy Weiss "Papagena! Papagena! Papagena!" from <i>Die Zauberflöte</i> "A New Town is a Blue Town" from <i>The Pajama Game</i> "It All Fades Away" from <i>The Bridges of Madison County</i> "Ruf aus der Gruft/Grabschrift" from <i>Die Dreigroschenoper</i>	Shane Schag, piano Mozart/Schikaneder Adler/Ross Brown Weill/Brecht
1:45	Ruth Acheampong "Mister Snow" from <i>Carousel</i> "Before It's Over" from <i>Dogfight</i> "In uomini, in soldati" from <i>Così fan tutte</i> "Nannas Lied"	Lyndon Meyer, piano Rodgers/Hammerstein Pasek/Paul Mozart/Da Ponte Weill/Brecht
2:00	Ian Williams "C'est Moi" from <i>Camelot</i> "Love Song" from <i>Love Life</i> "Favorite Places" from <i>Ordinary Days</i> "Ô vin, dissipe la tristesse" from <i>Hamlet</i>	Shane Schag, piano Loewe/Lerner Weill/Lerner Gwon Thomas/Barbier/Carré
2:15	Lauren Senden "Quando m'en vo" from <i>La bohème</i> "It Might as Well Be Spring" from <i>State Fair</i> "Le train du ciel" from <i>Marie Galante</i> "In My Dreams" from <i>Anastasia</i>	Shane Schag, piano Puccini/Illica/Giacosa Rodgers/Hammerstein Weill/Deval Ahrens/Flaherty
2:30	Eric Botto "At the Fountain" from <i>The Sweet Smell of Success</i> "Che gelida manina" from <i>La bohème</i> "Tonight at Eight" from <i>She Loves Me</i> "Erst trifft dich die Kugel" from <i>Der Silbersee</i>	Lyndon Meyer, piano Hamlisch/Carnelia Puccini/Illica/Giacosa Bock/Harnick Weill/Kaiser

**-INTERMISSION-
 30 minutes**

3:15	Francesca Mehrotra "Se giunge un dispetto" from <i>Agrippina</i> "Je ne t'aime pas" "What's the Use of Wond'rin'" from <i>Carousel</i> "The Light in the Piazza" from <i>The Light in the Piazza</i>	Shane Schag, piano Handel/Grimani Weill/Magre Rodgers/Hammerstein Guettel
3:30	Tristan Tournaud "Kuda, kuda vi udalilis" from <i>Eugene Onegin</i> "Maria" from <i>West Side Story</i> "People Carry On" from <i>The Story of My Life</i> "Lonely House" from <i>Street Scene</i>	Lyndon Meyer, piano Tschaikovsky/Shilovsky Bernstein/Sondheim Bartram Weill/Hughes
3:45	Katrina Galka "The Fire Aria" from <i>L'Enfant et les Sortilèges</i> "Will He Like Me?" from <i>She Loves Me</i> "Maybe I Like It This Way" from <i>The Wild Party</i> "Surabaya Johnny" from <i>Happy End</i>	Shane Schag, piano Ravel/Colette Bock/Harnick Lippa Weill/Brecht (Feingold)
4:00	Ronald Wilbur "Night Song" from <i>Golden Boy</i> "Here I'll Stay" from <i>Love Life</i> "When The Air Sings of Summer" from <i>The Old Maid and the Thief</i> "Whatever" from <i>It Shoulda Been You</i>	Shane Schag, piano Adams/Strouse Weill/Lerner Menotti Anselmi/Hargrove
4:15	Amanda Sheriff "Valeria's Aria" from <i>Mayo</i> "Je ne t'aime pas" "Mister Snow" from <i>Carousel</i> "I Won't Mind"	Lyndon Meyer, piano Cipullo Weill/Magre Rodgers/Hammerstein Blumenkrantz/Kessler/Saines

**-INTERMISSION-
 30 minutes**

5:00pm: Concert of past Competition winners, Victoria Clark, host.

5:30pm: Presentation of Awards, Kim Kowalke and Ted Chapin.

5:00pm - Concert of Past Competition Winners Victoria Clark, host

Kyle Lopez Barisich, 2nd Prize 2002

"If I Sing" from *Closer than Ever*

Maltby/Shire

Rebecca Jo Loeb, 1st Prize 2008

"Nobles seigneurs, salut!" from *Les Huguenots*

Meyerbeer/Scribe/Deschamps

Michael Maliakel, 3rd Prize 2015

"Deli" from *New Yorkers*

Weiner/Slater

Analisa Leaming, 2nd Prize 2007

"Hello Young Lovers" from *The King and I*

Rodgers/Hammerstein

Robert Ariza, Lys Symonette Award 2014

"Dust and Ashes" from *Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812*

Malloy

Briana Elyse Hunter, Lys Symonette Award 2014

"Seguidilla" from *Carmen*

Bizet/Meilhac/Halévy

Andrew Polec, 1st Prize 2021

"Bilbao Song" from *Happy End*

Weill/Brecht (Feingold)

Lyndon Meyer and Shane Schag, piano

Kyle Lopez Barisich played Raoul in *The Phantom of the Opera* on Broadway and in the national tour. He has appeared in *South Pacific* at the Hollywood Bowl, and in regional theater productions of *Falsettos*, *My Fair Lady*, *Titanic*, and *Into the Woods*.

Rebecca Jo Loeb starred as Susan Cooper in the German premiere of *Love Life* in 2017, and as Lumee in the world premiere of Ellen Reid and Roxie Perkin's *p r i s m* at LA Opera in 2018. She has appeared at the Met, Dutch National Opera, and Deutsche Oper Berlin, and currently in the cast of *Omar* at the Spoleto Festival.

Michael Maliakel is currently starring in the title role of *Aladdin* on Broadway, and played the lead role of Hemant in the world premiere of *Monsoon Wedding* at Berkeley Repertoire Theatre in 2017.

Analisa Leaming's credits on Broadway include Irene Molloy in *Hello, Dolly!*, Principal Rosalie Mullins in *School of Rock*, Anna Leonownens in *The King and I*, and Anita in *On the 20th Century*.

Robert Ariza appeared in the titular role of the Chicago company of *Hamilton*, and as Marius in the national tour of *Les Misérables*. He recently appeared in *The Visitor* alongside David Hyde Pierce at the Public Theater, and in the world premiere of *Somewhere Over the Border* at Syracuse Stage.

Briana Elyse Hunter originated the role of The Mother in Jeanine Tesori and Tazewell Thompson's opera *Blue* in 2019. She made her Met debut this season in Terence Blanchard's *Fire Shut Up in My Bones*.

Andrew Polec is the winner of 2017 Best West End Debut award for his starring role in *Bat Out of Hell*. He has been seen off-Broadway in *The Fantasticks* and as Berger in the 2021 Old Globe production of *Hair*.

24 and Counting...

This is the 24th annual Lenya Competition. At its conclusion, more than 1.3 million dollars in prizes will have been awarded cumulatively by the Kurt Weill Foundation to hundreds of exceptional performers, chosen from thousands of contestants from around the globe. Previous prizewinners are currently singing in the world's leading opera houses, on Broadway, and in the West End. They include Grammy and Drama Desk award winners, Tony and Olivier nominees, Cardiff Singer of the World finalists, and a West End Newcomer of the Year (see page 11 for recent performances of Competition Prizewinners). We look forward to celebrating the remarkable achievements of such alumni next year when the Competition turns 25.



Kowalke with 11-time judges Stratas and Chapin at the 2009 Competition

When I started the Competition in 1998 to celebrate the centenary of Lotte Lenya's birth and the arrival of Kurt Weill's manuscript scores at Eastman's Sibley Music Library, I had no inkling that it might soon grow into a major international competition with a top prize of \$20,000. Although then only a local event, limited to Eastman students, the initial jury included legendary soprano Teresa Stratas and Maestro Julius Rudel. A top prize of just \$1,000 was won by the 19-year-old baritone Brian Mulligan. Stratas prophesied that he would have a career – which has proven to be quite the understatement!

Gradually eligibility expanded both in age (19-32) and geography: first to the tri-state area, then the U.S., and, just in time for the centenary of Weill's birth in 2000, internationally. Repertoire requirements evolved into four selections bridging opera, musical theater, and Weill's works. To reify the goal of making this more than just a vocal competition, with acting valued as highly as singing, each year the three-person jury has included the diverse perspectives of a performer, a conductor/coach, and a director/producer. And with Teresa Stratas and Ted Chapin both serving 11 times, the list of other judges is a veritable "who's who" of musical theater and opera: Patricia Racette and Rebecca Luker; Harold Prince and Jack Viertel; Andy Einhorn and James Holmes, among them. Today we welcome actor Phillip Boykin, director Robin Guarino, and composer/coach/conductor Jeanine Tesori to that illustrious group!

Until 2021, the finals of the Competition had been hosted by Eastman's Kilbourn Hall in Rochester, New York. Last year's pandemic-delayed final round departed from that pattern, with the event taking place in Manhattan at Riverside Theater in August, but with a limited invitation-only audience. So today's contest in Merkin Hall is indeed a first. We are thrilled to welcome you, largely a new audience, as well as seven former prizewinners singing for your enjoyment while our judges deliberate.

Today's eleven finalists are a diverse group, selected and coached by Victoria Clark and Lauren Worsham from a field of 28 semifinalists. The six women and five men range in age from 21 to 32, with a median age of 28. Several have firmly established careers, others are on the cusp thereof, already equipped with extraordinary talent and skill. I expect the competition to be intense and exhilarating, as each performer attempts to "do it all" and win top prize. Welcome!

Kim H. Kowalke

President of the Kurt Weill Foundation and Founder of the Lenya Competition

Lotte Lenya Competition Finalists



Toronto-based soprano **RUTH ACHEAMPONG** is completing her Master of Music in Voice and Opera at McGill University under the tutelage of John Mac Master. Ruth has performed the roles of Frasquita and April in excerpts from Bizet's *Carmen* and Sondheim's *Company*, respectively. In 2019, Ruth took part in a table read for *Covenant Chains*, a new chamber opera by Canadian composer Peter Skoggard and librettist Jerry Prager. Last year, she performed the role of Jeannette in the Canadian premiere of Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges' *L'amant anonyme*. She also participated in the workshop of a new opera, *Vanishing Point*, by Parisa Sabet and Nika Khanjani in a collaboration between Opera McGill and Musique 3 femmes. This

season, Ruth sang the role of Dorinda in Handel's *Orlando* with Opera McGill and the McGill Baroque Orchestra under the baton of Hank Knox.

ERIC BOTTO is known for his vocal and dramatic versatility, with credits such as Alfredo in *La traviata*, Rodolfo in *La bohème*, Henrik in *A Little Night Music*, the title role in Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette*, and Piangi in *The Phantom of the Opera*. In the summer of 2020, Eric performed in the world premiere of *In Our Silence*, a song cycle created by composer Frances Pollock and librettist Jerre Dye, which highlighted each of the Chautauqua Opera young artists' experiences during COVID-19 isolation. He is excited to return to Chautauqua this summer as Spoletta in Puccini's *Tosca* and Andrew Johnson in Virgil Thomson's *The Mother of Us All*. Eric holds degrees from Colorado State University and the University of Mobile, and is currently in the Artist Diploma program at the University of Colorado Boulder under the tutelage of Dr. John Seesholtz.



American mezzo-soprano **CIERRA BYRD** is in her second year with the Met's Lindemann Young Artist Development Program. This season, she made her Met debut as Bertha in *Fire Shut Up in My Bones*. Recently, Ms. Byrd appeared in Mahler's Symphony No.3 with The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of Marin Alsop. Notable accolades include The Wilson Vocal Award, Peabody's Artist Excellence Award, and a grant prize from The Gerda Lissner Foundation. She is a graduate of Peabody Conservatory, from the studio of Margaret Baroody and Denyce Graves. Recent roles include the Princess in *Suor Angelica* and Lady Catherine DeBourgh in the stage premiere of Mechem's *Pride and Prejudice* with Peabody Opera Theatre, the Witch in *Hansel and Gretel* with Opera Saratoga and Manual Cinema, and the Governess in *The Queen of Spades* with Des Moines Metro Opera.

KATRINA GALKA has appeared on professional stages across the US and abroad, including Japan, Egypt, Oman, Switzerland, and Austria. She has performed at the Wiener Staatsoper, Opernhaus Zürich, Atlanta Opera, Portland Opera, Arizona Opera, New Orleans Opera, Opera San Jose, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Odyssey Opera, On Site Opera, Glimmerglass Festival, and the Seiji Ozawa Music Academy. Crossover roles include Anne Eggerman in *A Little Night Music*, Johanna in *Sweeney Todd*, Cunegonde in *Candide*, and Luisa in *The Fantasticks*. Katrina has received awards from YoungArts, the Mario Lanza Institute, National Opera Association Vocal Competition, Jensen Foundation, Marcello Giordani Competition, and the Heida Hermanns Competition. She was a Lys Symonette Award recipient in the 2021 Lotte Lenya Competition. Future engagements include Julie Jordan in *Carousel*, as well as soloist debuts with Bayerische Staatsoper and Staatsoper Hamburg.



Indian-American soprano **FRANCESCA MEHROTRA** has been hailed as "a talented and warm actor and singer" with "clear, deft and nimble tone (*Glens Falls Chronicle*). In the 2022-23 season, Francesca will cover Clara (*The Light in the Piazza*) and sing Ida (*Die Fledermaus*) at Central City Opera. At Opera Colorado, Francesca will cover Gilda (+performance) and sing Countess Ceprano in *Rigoletto*, Mabel and Juliet in touring productions of *Pirates of Penzance* and *Romeo and Juliet*, and Juliette in *Die Tote Stadt*. Previous roles include Gretel (*Hansel & Gretel*) with Fort Worth Opera's Children's Opera Theatre, Susanna (*Le nozze di Figaro*) and Cleopatra (*Giulio Cesare*) at Seagle Festival, Zelda '18 (*The Ghosts of Gatsby*) with Opera Birmingham at the Opera America New Works Forum, Norina (*Don Pasquale*) and Mukhtar Mai (*Thumbprint*) at Boston Conservatory, and Nannetta (*Falstaff*), Tytania (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*), and Lucinda (*Dark Sisters*) at Texas Christian University.



LAUREN SENDEN will begin her senior year this fall at Baldwin Wallace University in Berea, OH. She began her training in her hometown of North Mankato, MN and continued with the Prelude: Singer/Actor Performance Lab at the MacPhail Center for Music in Minneapolis. At Baldwin Wallace, she studies voice with Cynthia O'Connell and Ben Malkevitch and acting with Victoria Bussert. After graduation, she plans to move to New York to begin her career as a music theater artist. Lauren was a 2019 *Jimmy Award* Nominee and 2018 Triple Threat Winner from the Hennepin Theatre Trust's *Spotlight Education* Program. She loves writing and spending time with her boyfriend. She is currently writing a book to serve as a guide for young artists training in music theater.

She would like to thank her family for their love, support, and prayers. www.laurensenden.com

Delaware-based soprano **AMANDA SHERIFF** recently sang with Opera Delaware as Norina (*Don Pasquale*), and with Baltimore Concert Opera as Monica (*The Medium*). This summer, Amanda will perform concerted works with various companies, including Penn Square Music Festival and Wilmington Concert Opera. In 2021, Amanda was an Apprentice Artist at Des Moines Metro Opera where she performed Miss Lightfoot (*Fellow Travelers*) and covered Clarine and L'amour (*Platée*). Amanda was also a Studio Artist at Florida Grand Opera where she performed the roles of Beatrice (*Three Decembers*), 1st Trio member (*Trouble in Tahiti*), Célie (*Signor Deluso*) and Babs (*New York Stories*). During the 2019/2020 season, Amanda sang Pamina (*Die Zauberflöte*) and Little Red (*Little Red's Most Unusual Day*) with Opera Iowa, and participated in DMMO's virtual season. She was also an Emerging Artist at the Seagle Festival where she sang Susanna in *Le Nozze di Figaro* in 2019.



TRISTAN TOURNAUD is a Nashville, TN native. Currently a senior at Vanderbilt University's Blair School of Music, he is completing his Bachelors of Music in Vocal Performance. Tristan has recently performed Ferrando in *Così fan tutte*, Jupiter in Handel's *Semele*, and Sid in Britten's *Albert Herring*. Upcoming engagements include performances of Handel's *Messiah* and Beethoven's 9th Symphony with the Nashville Symphony, as well as *Rigoletto* with Nashville Opera. This summer Tristan will be performing the role of Tamino in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* with Trentino Music Festival in Italy. Tristan has also been studying organ for most of his undergraduate career.



JEREMY WEISS is an American-born, Berlin-based baritone and actor praised for his sensitivity and intelligence in opera, musical theater, and art song. His recent performances of Schubert songs in *The Wandering* were described by *Opera News* as “full of a languid, indigo-tinged sensuousness that breaks through dimensions and depths of these songs that few performers ever manage to uncover.” In 2019, Jeremy performed on PBS *Great Performances’* Bernstein’s *Mass* with the CSO under Marin Alsop. Weiss has also recently been seen in operatic roles as diverse as the title characters of *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs* and Belli’s *Orfeo Dolente*. In music theater, Weiss has performed as Curly (*Oklahoma!*), Freddy (*My Fair Lady*), and Wolf/Prince (*Into the Woods*). Weiss completed an MM at Indiana University studying with Dr. Brian Gill, and a BA from Yale University. He is thrilled to be back at the Lotte Lenya Competition where he has twice been a finalist and award winner (2019, 2020). jeremyweissperformer.com

A native of Atlanta, GA, **RONALD WILBUR** graduated from the University of Kentucky with a degree in Vocal Music Education. While studying there, he broadened his knowledge in many areas of music, ranging from classroom management to effective stylings of vocal jazz. Ron has recently performed a variety of leading roles including Sweeney Todd, Colehouse Walker, Jr. (*Ragtime*), and The Lion (*The Wiz*). He was a featured vocalist on NBC’s hit television series *The Sing-Off* (Season 4) with the University of Kentucky “acoUstiKats”. In addition to performing, Ron regularly leads workshops in the US and abroad, covering the pedagogy of the singer’s body, stage presence, and acting techniques. Ron is proud to serve as an educator and arts facilitator for many organizations in Central Kentucky.



Hailing from Fort Wayne, IN, **IAN WILLIAMS** is thrilled to be a first-time LLC finalist! Since graduating from the University of Michigan (BMA/BTA ‘15), Ian has performed as the bass soloist in Handel’s *Messiah* and the Fauré and Mozart *Requiems*, hosted educational concerts with the Fort Wayne Philharmonic, and appeared onstage with Broadway veteran J. Mark McVey (*Les Misérables*). Ian’s recent roles include Coalhouse Walker, Jr in *Ragtime* and Jason in *Ordinary Days* with the theater company Art 4 in South Bend, IN. He is a co-founder of the Fort Wayne chapter of Opera on Tap, which presents casual operatic performances in bars. This past February, Ian performed the recital *Deep River: The Music of Black Composers* in honor of Black History Month. In addition

to singing, Ian is passionate about education and serves as a Unit Director at the Boys and Girls Club of Northeast Indiana.

Judges may choose to award any combination of the following prizes:

1st (\$20,000); 2nd (\$15,000); 3rd (\$10,000)

This year, discretionary awards have increased to \$4,000, and finalist awards to \$2,000.

All finalists receive travel stipends.

Today’s Judges

PHILLIP BOYKIN is a 2012 Tony Award, Drama Desk Award and Outer Critics Circle Award nominee for his portrayal of Crown in *The Gershwins’ Porgy and Bess* on Broadway. He is the winner of a 2012 Theatre World Award, as well as the 2012 International Reviewers of New England Award and the Distinguished Alumni Award from The Hartt School of Music. Recent film roles include Big Hand in *Freedom* starring Cuba Gooding Jr. and Sharon Leal, The Driver in *Top Five*, starring, written and directed by Chris Rock, and Caiaphas in John O’Boyle’s *Easter Mysteries*. A native of Greenville, SC, Phillip is a graduate of the Hartt School of Music. He also studied Jazz and Vocal Performance at South Carolina State University, Howard University and the North Carolina School of the Arts. He has toured throughout Europe, Asia, Australia, Russia, and North America. Notable roles include Joe in the National Tour of *Show Boat* and at several regional theaters; The Pirate King in *Pirates of Penzance*, Ken in *Ain’t Misbehavin’*, Crown/Jake in *Porgy and Bess*, Tarquinius in *The Rape of Lucretia*, Caiaphas in *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Jesus Christ Superstar Gospel*, Fred in *Smokey Joe’s Cafe*, and Don Alfonso in *Così fan tutte*. Phillip performed in the 15th anniversary concert of *Ragtime* at Lincoln Center, and made his Carnegie Hall debut in *Broadway Classics* in 2013. He is the Director and Manager of the NY Gospel Brothers, and is currently appearing on Broadway in *The Music Man*.

ROBIN GUARINO is a theater, opera and film director. She has directed over 90 original productions for such institutions as the Metropolitan Opera, The San Francisco Opera, The Houston Grand Opera, Canadian Opera Company, The Cincinnati Opera, Seattle Opera, Opera Theater of St. Louis, The Glimmerglass Opera Festival, The Bard Summer Festival, Avery Fisher Hall, Alice Tully Hall, and the BAM Next Wave Festival. She has directed over a dozen productions for the Met, including *Così fan tutte* with James Levine and *Der Rosenkavalier* with Edo de Waart, both for Live in HD. Robin’s films have been shown throughout the United States and Europe, and her film, *Crossing the Atlantic* was broadcast on PBS. Robin is the Co-Artistic Director of Opera Fusion: New Works and has developed 20 world premieres for companies including The Metropolitan Opera, LA Opera, and Santa Fe Opera. Her recent production of the world premiere of *Blind Injustice* for Cincinnati Opera garnered national acclaim and was described by *Opera News* as “opera as activism.” Robin has served as the Dramatic Advisor to the Juilliard Opera Theater and the J. Ralph Corbett Distinguished Chair of Opera and Artistic Director at CCM. She has been an artist-in-residence at the San Francisco Opera Center, Merola Program since 2002. She has held artistic residencies at The Glimmerglass Festival, The Wolf Trap Opera Festival, The Lindemann Program, The Houston Grand Opera Young Artists program, and Hamburg Hochschule für Musik and Theater. She is professor of opera at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.

JEANINE TESORI is a composer of musical theater, opera, television and film. She won the Tony Award for Best Score (with bookwriter & lyricist, Lisa Kron) for the musical *Fun Home*. Her other musicals include *Kimberly Akimbo* (with David Lindsay-Abaire), *Caroline, or Change* (with Tony Kushner), *Shrek the Musical* (with Lindsay-Abaire), *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (with Dick Scanlan), *Violet* (with Brian Crawley), and *Soft Power* (with David Henry Hwang) which was her second work after *Fun Home* to be a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in Drama. Along with Missy Mazzoli, she is one of the first women to be commissioned by the Metropolitan Opera. Her operas include *A Blizzard on Marblehead Neck* (Tony Kushner, libretto), *Blue* (Tazewell Thompson, libretto) which received the MCANA Award for Best New Opera, and the upcoming *Grounded* (George Brant, libretto) at the Met. In addition to her work as a composer, Jeanine is the Founding Artistic Director of New York City Center’s *Encores! Off-Center* series, Supervising Vocal Producer of Steven Spielberg’s *West Side Story*, and lecturer in music at Yale University.

Today's Staff Accompanists

LYNDON MEYER is a Tulsa-based pianist and conductor. He has served as chorusmaster, assistant conductor, principal pianist and vocal coach for the Tulsa Opera since 2014. As a vocal coach, Meyer has held positions at the University of Oklahoma, Michigan State University, and the Eastman School of Music, as well as at the Florida Grand Opera and the OK Mozart International Festival. In February 2019, he made his professional conducting debut for Heartland Opera's production of *La bohème*. He has served as staff accompanist for the Lotte Lenya Competition since 2009. Meyer appears frequently as a recitalist and chamber musician. In Tulsa, he holds the post of Director of Music at the Church of Saint Mary and appears as a guest choral conductor and clinician, in addition to maintaining an active coaching studio. Meyer is a graduate of the University of Arkansas (BM) and the Eastman School (MM).

SHANE SCHAG is a member of the Artistic Staff of the Vocal Arts and Musical Theater Depts. at the Manhattan School of Music, where he has served as the musical director for *And the World Goes 'Round*, *Godspell*, *Ragtime* and *A Little Night Music*, as well as original revues including *Moving Right Along: The Music of Jeff Blumenkrantz*, *Defying Gravity: The Magical World of Stephen Schwartz* and *September Songs: The Musical Legacy of Kurt Weill*. Schag served as an associate conductor on *Nine*, *Cabaret*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, and *The Drowsy Chaperone*. He has served on the faculty of OperaWorks in Los Angeles, International Vocal Arts Institute in Tel Aviv and Virginia, and the Chautauqua Opera Company. Schag was an inaugural faculty member of Vocal Coach Asia (Singapore) and the Creative Voice Institute (Taiwan). He is an enthusiastic proponent of new works, and collaborated with Lisa Vroman and William Sharp in the original cabaret *Change the World, It Needs It!: The Music of Kurt Weill and Marc Blitzstein*, presented at the Brevard Festival, Depauw University, and UNC Chapel Hill. Upcoming performances: *Love Finds Judy Garland*, a cabaret with renowned Garland interpreter Joan Ellison; and an evening with Yanni's featured vocalist Lauren Jelencovich (LLC Lys Symonette Award 2008).

Awards Presented Before the Finals

Non-Advancing Semifinalists (\$500)

Hana Abrams (USA)
Danielle Beckvermit (USA)*
Valeria Bibliowicz (Colombia)
Ruby Dibble (USA)
Taylor-Alexis DuPont (USA)*
Jonathan Heller (USA)*
Matthew Hill (USA)
Elena Howard-Scott (Canada)*
Rebekah Howell (USA)*
Angela Lee (USA)
Gaby Manuell (Mexico)
Conor Murphy (Canada)
Michael Pandolfo (USA)
Christine Price (USA)
Piero Regis (USA)
Pepita Salim (Indonesia)
Ryan Wolfe (USA)

Emerging Talents (\$500)

Nick Capodilupo
Grace Craig
Victoria Hill
Tess Levine
Zach Simpson
Layla Vafiadis
Gillian Weatherford

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

Valeria Gorbunova
Hallie Schmidt

2022 Semifinals Coach/Adjudicators were past LLC winner Lauren Worsham and Tony Award Winner Victoria Clark.

*Finalist in a previous competition year

Lenya Competition Winners in the Spotlight

Competition alumni continue to collect accolades and "do it all" on stages around the world. Recent highlights include:

Michael Maliakel (2015) made his Broadway debut as the title role in *Aladdin* when the production re-opened on 28 September.

The 2022 Grammy for Best Opera Recording was awarded to The Metropolitan Opera's production of Philip Glass' *Akhnaten*. **Zachary James** (2009) leads the cast as Amenhotep III, and accepted the Grammy onstage.

Lauren Michelle (2015) appears as Mimi in the 2022 Spoleto Festival's production of *La bohème*, directed by Yuval Sharon.

Jacob Keith Watson (2012) and **Cooper Grodin** (2010) are currently sharing the stage as The Baker and The Wolf, respectively, (along with the voice of Hillary Clinton, as the Giant!) in Arkansas Repertory Theatre's production of *Into the Woods*.



Nicole Cabell (2002) and **John Brancy** (2018) starred as Fiordiligi and Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte* at San Francisco Opera in Fall 2021.

Brian Vu (2016) starred in Opera Columbus' production of *Fellow Travellers*, the cast of which also included **Victoria Okafor** (2021).

Alen Hodzovic (2009) returns to *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* as Draco Malfoy at the Mehr! Theater am Großmarkt in Hamburg.

Tom Schimon (2016) will star in Komische Oper Berlin's presentation of *Tom Sawyer*, a new musical that utilizes more than a dozen Weill songs as its score.

Trevor Martin (2019) plays Captain Von Trapp throughout Asia in the upcoming tour of *The Sound of Music*.

If you've been to the Met lately, there's a good chance you've seen a Lenya Competition prizewinner onstage. Alumni dating back to 1998 take the stage in the current and forthcoming seasons:

2021/22: Megan Marino (2012) as Feodor in *Boris Godunov*, with **Rebecca Jo Loeb** (2008) covering the role; **Lucas Meachem** (2002) as Marcello in *La bohème*; **Briana Elyse Hunter** (2014) as Ruby and current Finalist **Cierra Byrd** as Bertha in *Fire Shut Up in My Bones*; **Zachary James** (2009) as Amenhotep III in *Akhnaten*.

2022/23: Meredith Arwady (2006) as Kathy Hagan in *Champion*; **Jonah Hoskins** (2020) as Nemorino in *L'elisir d'Amore*; **Brian Mulligan** (1998) as Herald in *Lohengrin*; **Rodell Rosell** (2006) as Monostatos in *The Magic Flute*.

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

About the Competition

The Lenya Competition was founded by the KWF 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 Competition invites singer/actors of all nationalities, ages 19-32, to show they can “do it all” by bringing to life four contrasting theatrical selections. To date the Kurt Weill Foundation has awarded more than \$1.3 million in prize money to nearly 700 singing actors around the world.

Competition Administration

Kim H. Kowalke, President & CEO, Founder of the Competition
Brady Sansone, Director of Programs and Business Affairs
Veronica Chaffin, Manager of Programs and Business Affairs
Leni Kreienberg, Office Manager and Administrative Assistant

Publicity, Ed Harsh
Visual Media, Kingsbridge Media

Front Cover - Past Winners On Stage

Zachary James, 2009 (Amenhotep III, *Akhnaten*, Met Opera); Ben Edquist, 2014 (George, *She Loves Me*, Madison Opera); Lauren Michelle, 2015 (Tatyana, *Eugene Onegin*, Opera Omaha); Jacob Keith Watson, 2012 (*Annie Live!* on NBC); Kyle Scatliffe (R), 2010 (Marquis de Lafayette/Thomas Jefferson, *Hamilton*, Broadway); Briana Elyse Hunter, 2014 (Mother, *Blue, Glimmerglass*); Brian Vu, 2016 (L) (Timothy Laughlin, *Fellow Travelers*, Opera Columbus); Natalie Ballenger, 2014 (Nellie, *South Pacific*, Theatre Under the Stars)

The Kurt Weill Foundation for Music 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 subscribe to the Kurt Weill Newsletter and our E-News, please visit our website, **kwf.org**.



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