

Gala Alumni Concert

THE LENYA COMPETITION
CELEBRATING 25 YEARS



Eastman School of Music, Rochester, NY



Welcome to the Lotte Lenya Competition's 25th Anniversary Gala Alumni Concert, and to Kilbourn Hall at the Eastman School of Music—the host for 22 years of the Competition's 25-year history.

For a quarter century now, the Competition has provided young artists with a platform to demonstrate their versatility and creativity and to push the field forward. In fact, the emphasis on musical versatility has been a bellwether of the changing landscape of the musical theater industry, where performers are expected to have a broad range of skills and be able to adapt to different styles and genres.

We are thrilled to welcome back to the stage numerous Eastman alumni—whether in person or by video—who were Lotte Lenya prize winners since 1998. Their impressive careers serve as examples for recent contestants and form the foundation of this Competition's continuing legacy. Tonight, we also honor Steven Daigle, Artistic Director of Eastman Opera Theatre and Professor of Opera for the last 25 years, who retires at the end of this semester and who has supported countless students who have competed in the Lotte Lenya Competition over the years. And finally, we offer our sincere congratulations to Kim Kowalke, President and CEO of the Kurt Weill Foundation, for his vision, passion, commitment, and tenacity in creating and sustaining this remarkable annual event. We look forward with excitement to the next 25 years.

- Jamal J. Rossi
Joan and Martin Messinger Dean
Eastman School of Music

Gala Alumni Concert

25th Anniversary Celebration of THE LENYA COMPETITION

Eastman School of Music, Kilbourn Hall
Saturday, 29 April 2023

I like to think of this weekend's celebration as a "reunion," with all the multiple meanings of that word. Today the Competition reunites with its origins here in Kilbourn Hall and across the street, where Sibley Music Library exhibits Weill's manuscript scores and correspondence, just as in November 1998, during the "Relocating Weill" weekend. And, after a three-year hiatus because of COVID, the Competition reconnects with its loyal and appreciative audience in Rochester. The reunion also brings together previous prizewinners, some of whom competed or won in the same years, some who have subsequently appeared on stages together, others who are meeting in person tonight for the first time. Half are Eastman alumni, among the record-holding 69 ESM prizewinners in the Competition's history, who are returning also to honor Eastman's longtime Artistic Director of Opera, Steven Daigle, on the occasion of his retirement.

But perhaps the idea behind this event is most akin to a "family reunion," as we like to imagine that the community of performers who have participated in

the Competition during the last quarter century is Foundation family. And not just contestants, but judges, coaches, mentors, producers who have engaged Lenya prizewinners, and, not least, several returning longtime KWF staff members.

And even some songs! Eight of tonight's singers will encore one of the numbers that helped them win a prize "back then," sonic "ghosts" taking the stage anew. This afternoon two finalists sang one of two songs first introduced to the Competition by Richard Todd Adams: "Taking Flight" and "I Can Hold You," in 2003 and 2004, respectively. Like old friends, these proven "winners" returned to Kilbourn. So does the top prizewinner of the first Competition, Brian Mulligan, who will sing one of the numbers he sang in 1998. He's also agreed to present the 25th Anniversary Competition's first prize of \$25,000. Now that is certainly a reunion worth celebrating!

- Kim H. Kowalke
Founder, The Lenya Competition
CEO, The Kurt Weill Foundation

Tonight's Program

Hosted by Erik Liberman

Amy Justman

"I Think I May Want to Remember Today"

from *Starting Here, Starting Now*

Maltby/Shire

Thomas Rosenkranz, piano

Richard Todd Adams

"Stars" from *Les Misérables*

Schönberg/Boublil/Kretzmer

Thomas Rosenkranz, piano

Lauren Pastorek

"I'm a Stranger Here Myself"

from *One Touch of Venus*

Weill/Nash

Zachary Peterson, piano

Brian Mulligan

"Come Up from the Fields, Father"

Weill/Whitman

Timothy Long, piano

Laura Corina Sanders

"Chacun le sait" from *La fille du régiment*

Donizetti/Saint-Georges/Bayard

Thomas Rosenkranz, piano

Andrew Polec

"Bat Out of Hell" from *Bat Out of Hell*

Steinman

Zachary Peterson, piano

VIDEO GREETINGS

From Lenya Competition/Eastman School Alumni

Ruth Acheampong

"Mister Snow" from *Carousel*

Rodgers/Hammerstein

Zachary Peterson, piano

John Brancy

"Awaiting You" from *Myths & Hymns*

Guettel

Thomas Rosenkranz, piano

Natalie Ballenger

"The Secret Service" from *Mr. President*

Berlin

Zachary Peterson, piano

Reilly Nelson

"Youkali"

Weill/Fernay

Thomas Rosenkranz, piano

Brian Mulligan

"Abendlich strahlt der Sonne Auge" from *Das Rheingold*

Wagner

Timothy Long, piano

Richard Todd Adams, Natalie Ballenger, Amy Justman

"Getting Married Today" from *Company*

Sondheim

Zachary Peterson, piano

Justin Hopkins

"Ol' Man River" from *Show Boat*

Kern/Hammerstein

Thomas Rosenkranz, piano

10-MINUTE INTERMISSION

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS FOR THE 2023 LENYA COMPETITION

Hosted by Kim H. Kowalke

2023 FINALISTS

Taylor-Alexis DuPont

Rebekah Howell

Ryan Johnson

Stavros Koumbaros

Midori Marsh

Celeste Rose

Alicia Russell Tagert

Jeremiah Sanders

Lucie St. Martin

Juliane Stolzenbach Ramos

Nyla Watson

Ian Williams

2023 COMPETITION JUDGES

Dame Josephine Barstow CBE, DBE

Ted Chapin

James Holmes

Kyle Scatliffe

COMPETITION ACCOMPANISTS

Lyndon Meyer

Shane Schag

TONIGHT'S ALUMNI PERFORMERS



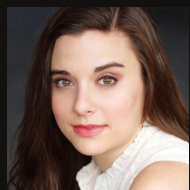
Ruth Acheampong ('22), was born and raised in Toronto, Canada. Her recent credits include Jeannette in Bologna's *L'amant anonyme* with Voicebox Opera in Concert in Toronto, Amor in Gluck's *Orfeo*, and a soloist in the Kander and Ebb musical revue, *The World Goes 'Round*, at Opera McGill. In 2022, when making her professional and US debut with Annapolis Opera in its production of *Lost in the Stars*, Ruth sang the role of Irina, with *DC Theater Arts* praising her voice as "clear as a bell." She also sang the role of Sara in a short film version of Parisa

Sabet and Nika Khanjani's new opera, *Vanishing Point*, a role she workshoped in 2021. <https://www.ruthacheampong.com/>



Richard Todd Adams ('04) was seen on Broadway in *The Woman in White*, *The Pirate Queen*, and *Cats*. He is one of the few actors to have played both The Phantom and Raoul in *Phantom of the Opera*, and Jean Valjean and Javert in *Les Misérables*. In 2008, he won the Jeff Award for his portrayal of Javert in the Chicago production of *Les Misérables*, before leading the national tour of the show for two years. Off-Broadway he appeared in *Berlin to Broadway*, *Little Fish*,

and *Listen to My Heart*. Regionally, he starred in *Jekyll and Hyde*, *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, *Ragtime*, *Show Boat*, *1776*, *Man of La Mancha*, and *Billy Bishop Goes to War*. He has appeared as both Ted and Richard in *2 Pianos, 4 Hands*, and sung with symphonies across North America. Richard holds degrees from Trinity University and The Juilliard School. He is an active voice teacher and coach.



Natalie Ballenger (LLC '14; ESM '11) is a Santa Cruz, California native currently based in NYC. Known as a true crossover performer, Natalie was recently seen as Maria Shriver, opposite Andy Karl as Arnold Schwarzenegger, in the industry reading of *Arnold! Da Schwarzenegger Musical Parody* in NYC. Other credits include the Centennial World Tour of *West Side Story* (Maria), *South Pacific* (Nellie Forbush), *Beauty & The Beast* (World Tour), *Aleko/Pagliacci* (New York City Opera), *8th Light* Podcast Season 1 (Audrey Pendleton), *My Fair Lady* (Eliza Doolittle), *Guys and Dolls* (Sarah Brown), *HMS Pinafore* (Josephine), and *Dialogues of the Carmelites* (Blanche). Follow her at: www.natalieballenger.com & IG: @natalieballenger



John Brancy ('18): During the 22/23 season, Grammy Award-winning baritone John Brancy debuts with the Festival d'Aix-en-Provence in a world premiere by Sir George Benjamin, at the Café Carlyle, and with the Cleveland Orchestra. In 2022, Brancy played Escamillo in *Carmen* with MasterVoices at Lincoln Center in a new English translation by Sheldon Harnick, and Franz Wolff-Metternich in the world premiere of *La Beauté du monde* at Opéra de Montréal. Brancy portrayed Guglielmo in two new productions of *Così fan tutte* at San

Francisco Opera and San Diego Opera to great critical acclaim in the 21/22 season. He joined forces with Tony Award-winning Adam Guettel to create a short film "Medusa" as part of *Myths & Hymns*, produced by MasterVoices. He has sung repertoire spanning J.S. Bach to George Benjamin in headlining performances with leading orchestras and opera companies around the world. He regularly sings the national anthem at Rangers' hockey games at Madison Square Garden.



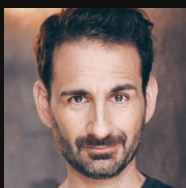
Justin Hopkins ('12) was hailed by Mark Swed of the *L.A. Times* for his "commanding presence" and "beautifully focused bass-baritone" for his portrayal of Stephen Kumalo in *Lost in the Stars*. The 22/23 season marked his return to the role of Krishna in *Satyagraha* with Opera Vlaanderen, as well as Narumov in *Pikovaya Dama* at Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie. This season also saw his return to Walt Disney Hall in Haydn's *Die Schöpfung* with the Los Angeles Master Chorale. Mr. Hopkins has been a soloist company member at Grand Théâtre de

Genève and the Konzert und Theater St. Gallen. Mr. Hopkins made his house and role debut at the Glimmerglass Festival in 2019 as Joe in *Show Boat*, for which he was hailed as "the soul of the production" by *DC Theatre Scene*. He has been a frequent soloist with the Boston Pops under Keith Lockhart.



Amy Justman ('04) is thrilled to continue her 20-year collaboration with the KWF. A veteran of six Broadway shows, she played Susan in the 2006 revival of *Company* (also for PBS Great Performances) and understudied both Jessie Mueller (Julie) and Renée Fleming (Nettie) in the recent revival of *Carousel*. Other Broadway credits include *White Christmas*, *A Gentleman's Guide... In Transit*, as well as the Broadway and national tour of *The Phantom of the Opera*, and Clara in the off-Broadway revival of *Passion*. This year she will originate the role of

Adrienne in *Double Helix* at Bay Street Theater. Concert credits include appearances as a soloist at Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, New York City Ballet, and several American orchestras. She can be seen on the Great Performances' broadcast of Bernstein's *Mass*. Amy teaches musical Theater at Yale University and Marymount Manhattan College.



Erik Liberman ('05) made his Broadway debut in Harold Prince's *LoveMusik*, about Weill and Lenya. He has originated roles on and Off-Broadway, including Telephone Guy in *The Band's Visit*, Charles Revson in *War Paint* with Patti LuPone, and Clopin in Disney's *Hunchback of Notre Dame*. A "perfect Sondheim tenor," he appeared in revivals of *Marilyn...* and *Into the Woods*, and *Fiddler* with Topol and Harvey Fierstein, directing the show's 50th anniversary at Town Hall.

He has received Helen Hayes, CT Critics' Circle, Ovation, Garland, and YoungArts honors, and The Actors Fund's Encore Award for creating the masterclass series, *Bridge to Broadway*. TV and film credits include *Transparent*, *Modern Family*, and Martin Scorsese's *Vinyl*. Erik is a member of the National Association of Acting Teachers and is currently writing a book, podcast, and TV series.



Brian Mulligan ('98), American baritone, performs throughout the United States and Europe. Recent appearances include the Metropolitan Opera, Opéra National de Paris, Salzburger Festspiele, San Francisco Opera, Wiener Staatsoper, Dutch National Opera, Opernhaus Zürich, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Canadian Opera Company, and the Wexford Opera Festival. A graduate of the Juilliard School, Mulligan has recorded for Deutsche Grammophon, Naxos, and Warner. His third solo disc, *Alburnum*, was released in November 2022 to great

acclaim. Career highlights include Jack Torrance in the world premiere of *The Shining* with Minnesota Opera, *Sweeney Todd* at San Francisco Opera, Faninal in *Der Rosenkavalier* at the Met, Golaud/*Pelléas et Mélisande* in Frankfurt, Jochanaan/*Salome* in Amsterdam, Amfortas/*Parsifal* in Paris, Balstrode/*Peter Grimes* in Vienna, Yeletsky/*Pique Dame* in Zürich, Wotan/*Das Rheingold* in Bregenz, Wotan/*Die Walküre* in Stuttgart, Pizarro/*Fidelio* in Dublin, and Mandryka/*Arabella* in San Francisco.



Reilly Nelson (LLC '18; ESM '11) was described by *Opera News* as "a revelation." She brings her "distinctly warm and burnished" sound to stages across North America and Europe. She made her Glimmerglass Festival debut in 2022 to great acclaim as Gianna in the world premiere of *Tenor Overboard*. She has established herself in Toronto as a recitalist performing with the JoM Collective and the Kingston Road United Church concert series, also winning the Toronto Mozart Vocal Competition. She has performed with the Rochester Philharmonic,

Reno Philharmonic, Phoenix Symphony, Cincinnati Opera, and Tiroler Festspiele Erl. She was a 2018 district winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council auditions. Reilly has completed Young Artist programs with Cincinnati Opera, Kentucky Opera, Tanglewood Music Center, and Glimmerglass. She holds Master's and Doctoral degrees in Vocal Pedagogy from the University of Cincinnati.



Lauren Pastorek (LLC '98; ESM '00) received a 2020 Grammy as a vocalist for *Durufié: Complete Choral Works*. She starred Off-Broadway in *The Marvelous Wonderettes* and in national tours of *Oklahoma!*, *The Will Rogers Follies*, and *My Fair Lady*. Favorite roles include Rosalie (u/s) in *Carnival!* (Kennedy Center), Ulla in *The Producers* (Flatrock Playhouse), Gloria in *Boeing-Boeing* (Arts Center of Coastal Carolina), Fastrada in *Pippin* (TUTS), and Gymnasia in *...Forum* (Denver

Center). Also active as a director and choreographer, Lauren holds a Master's of Music from Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. Her proudest accomplishment is her 3-year-old son, Bodhi.



Andrew Polec (LLC, '21; UR, '12) is a multi-award-winning actor and singer. He is best known for originating the role of Strat in the international hit, *Jim Steinman's Bat Out of Hell, The Musical*, for which he won the Joe Allen Best West End Debut Award. He led the show in London, Manchester, Toronto, and at the New York City Center. Other favorite roles include Berger in *Hair* (Broadway World Award), the Grinch in *Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas!* (The

Old Globe), Matt in *The Fantasticks* (Theatre Center), *Legacy of Love* (Bucks County Playhouse) and television appearances in *Katy Keene*, *Prodigal Son*, and *The Today Show*. Upcoming projects include *The Beautiful Lady* and his debut EP *Disillusioned Funk*. Andrew holds an MFA from Brown University.



Laura Corina Sanders (LLC '18; ESM '18) is a native of San Francisco and currently resides in Houston, Texas. Her accolades include 1st place in the 2023 Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Houston Career Grant Competition, and an Encouragement Award in the 2019 Metropolitan Opera National Council auditions. She has been a Studio Artist at Wolf Trap Opera, an Apprentice Artist at Central City Opera, and a Resident Artist at Shreveport Opera. Laura has

appeared in leading roles with Hawaii Opera Theatre, Shreveport Opera, Baltimore Concert Opera, Oswego Opera Theatre, and Minnesota Opera in the world premiere of *The Song Poet*. She will debut this summer at Painted Sky Opera as Zerlina in *Don Giovanni*, and will join Opera Orlando as a Studio Artist this fall.



TONIGHT'S ACCOMPANISTS



Timothy Long is a pianist and conductor of Muscogee Creek and Choctaw descent who is Music Director of Opera at Eastman School of Music. He has conducted at Boston Lyric Opera, Wolf Trap, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, and many other companies across North America. In 2017 he led the world premiere of Marie Clements and Brian Current's opera, *Missing*, at City Opera Vancouver and Pacific Opera Victoria. As a pianist and harpsichordist, he has performed at such venues as Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, Wigmore Hall (London), and Dvořák Hall (Prague). As a concerto soloist he has appeared with the Oklahoma Symphony Orchestra, Lawton Philharmonic, and the Sociedad Filarmónica de Conciertos of Mexico City. Tim is a long-time collaborator of Brian Mulligan's, with whom he has released two albums.



Zachary A. Peterson enjoys a varied career as a collaborative pianist, educator, and higher education practitioner-scholar. As a collaborative pianist, he has performed with instrumentalists and singers throughout the United States, most recently with trumpeter Jared Wallis, bassoonist Blaire K.S. Koerner, and soprano Paulina Swierczek. At the University of Rochester, Peterson is the Associate Director of Graduate Advising and Services for the Eastman School of Music and teaches undergraduate coursework in musical theater for the Arthur Satz Department of Music. He is pursuing a doctoral degree in higher education at the Warner Graduate School of Education and Human Development and previously completed a Master of Music in piano accompanying and chamber music at the Eastman School under the guidance of Jean Barr. Zachary previously served as a pianist for the Lotte Lenya Competition (2020, 2021) and for two installments of the Lotte Lenya Competition Songbook (2020, 2022).

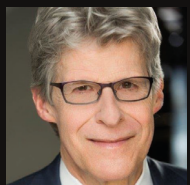


Thomas Rosenkranz has charted a career that breaks through the conventional notion of what a classical pianist is. Equally at home with the standard repertoire and the most recent developments in contemporary music and improvisation, he has established himself as one of the most innovative pianists of his generation. Since being named a recipient of the Classical Fellowship Award from the American Pianists Association, he has performed throughout the world. He has twice served as a Cultural Ambassador on behalf of the United States Department of State, traveling to the Middle East and North Africa promoting diplomacy through artistic collaboration. In 2022, he was named a Senior Fulbright Scholar to Taiwan where he served as artist-in-residence at Tunghai University. He currently serves as Professor of Piano and Keyboard Area Coordinator at the UMKC Conservatory and as honorary guest professor at the Sichuan Conservatory of Music in China.

JUDGES OF THE 2023 LENYA COMPETITION



Dame Josephine Barstow CBE, DBE is recognized as one of the world's leading singing actresses. She has performed in most of the world's major opera houses and with many of the great conductors, singing a wide variety of repertoire. She has performed on stages around the world, including a historic trip in 1986 to the Soviet Union singing Tosca and Lady Macbeth. Herbert von Karajan invited her to sing the title role in *Tosca* with Pavarotti, and Amelia in *Un ballo in maschera* with Plácido Domingo. Recent and forthcoming engagements include Bernstein's Symphony No. 3 with Antonio Pappano and the Orchestra Nazionale di Santa Cecilia Roma; Heidi Schiller in *Follies* (National Theatre), Countess in *Queen of Spades* (The Grange Festival), and Mme Armfeldt in *A Little Night Music* (Opera North). Josephine Barstow was awarded a CBE in 1985, promoted to DBE in 1995.



Ted Chapin was chosen by the Rodgers and Hammerstein families to run their office. He expanded it into the Rodgers & Hammerstein Organization, which manages the copyrights of Rodgers and/or Hammerstein. He was the co-founder of the Encores! series at City Center and was the producer of the 92nd Street Y's Lyrics and Lyricists series with programs saluting Bobby Darin, Sammy Davis Jr., and Irving Berlin, among others. In addition to his chairmanship of the Kurt Weill Foundation, Ted serves on the boards of the American Theatre Wing where he is co-chairman, New York City Center, and Goodspeed Musicals. His book *Everything Was Possible: The Birth of the Musical 'Follies,'* won both an ASCAP/Deems Taylor Award and a Special Jury Prize for Distinguished Achievement by the Theatre Library Association.

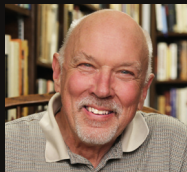


James Holmes is a British musical director, editor, and arranger. A former staff conductor at English National Opera and Head of Music at Opera North, his long-time interest in classic American musical theater has contributed to its emergence as a staple in the repertoire of those houses. While at ENO, he conducted the first production by a British opera company of a Sondheim work, *Pacific Overtures*, the recording of which earned a Grammy nomination. James has conducted as wide a range of Kurt Weill's work as anyone in the world, including multiple productions of *Street Scene*, as well as *Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny*, *One Touch of Venus*, *Arms and the Cow*, *Lady in the Dark*, and *The Seven Deadly Sins*. The Kurt Weill Foundation honored James with a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2018.



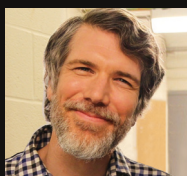
Kyle Scatliffe currently appears as Marquis de Lafayette/Thomas Jefferson in the Broadway production of *Hamilton*. His theatrical credits include Enjolras in the recent Broadway revival of *Les Misérables*, and Harpo (*The Color Purple*) on Broadway, Haywood Patterson in the London premiere production of *The Scottsboro Boys* (Olivier Award Nomination), Coalhouse in *Ragtime* (Zach Theatre), Jud Fry in *Oklahoma!* (5th Avenue Theatre), Marley in *A Christmas Carol: The Concert* (Baltimore Symphony Orchestra/PBS) and Mitch Mahoney in *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Alabama Shakespeare Festival). He has appeared in television roles on "Bull" (CBS) and "Chicago P.D." (NBC). He is a graduate of the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York. Kyle is a 2010 prizewinner of the Lenya Competition, and is the first Lenya alum to return to judge the Finals.

Lotte Lenya
THE LENYA COMPETITION
A Program of the Kurt Weill Foundation



Kim H. Kowalke: Having been asked by Lotte Lenya to succeed her as the president of the Kurt Weill Foundation for Music in 1981, Kowalke has held that position for more than four decades. In that capacity he founded the Kurt Weill Edition and the Lotte Lenya Competition. In 1998 he arranged for Weill's manuscripts to be housed at Sibley Music Library, with the first Competition part of a celebration of their arrival in Rochester. He has been a prominent scholar and conductor

of musical theater and opera for more than fifty years. His edition of the letters of Weill and Lenya has been the basis of two musicals, produced in New York, Vienna, and Berlin. His efforts resulted in his being honored in 2020 with the Erwin Piscator Honorary Award for his contributions to the international musical theater, and in 2021 with a conference in his honor about the Golden Age of the American Musical Theater.



Brady Sansone began working at the Kurt Weill Foundation in 2005, and was promoted to Director of Programs and Business Affairs in 2015. In this capacity, he administers the Foundation's charitable programs, including the Lenya Competition and Grants Program. He is also responsible for the Foundation's licensing and financial matters and copyright administration. Brady holds degrees in Music Business as well as Library and Information Science. He and his wife

Helen live in Connecticut with their two children – and aspiring Lenya Competition judges – Millie and Arlo.

Acknowledgements

The Kurt Weill Foundation is grateful to the University of Rochester's Eastman School of Music for hosting today's events in Kilbourn Hall. In particular, thanks to Jamal Rossi, Dean of the Eastman School of Music; Katherine Ciesinski, Lindsay Baker, and the rest of the Voice, Opera, and Vocal Coaching Department; Michael Stefiuk, Director of Concert Activities; Julia Ng, Assistant Director of Concert Activities; David Peter Coppen, Head of Special Collections, Sibley Music Library; Mark Wazowicz, Director, Technology & Media Production; Deirdre Graves, Kilbourn Hall Stage Manager; Dominick Fraczek, AV Tech; Joshua Lau, Production Stage Manager, Eastman Opera; Angela Rice, gala performers' facilitator; David Runzo, and all alumni of the Lenya Competition who joined us today, both in the hall and in spirit.

Competition Administration

Kim H. Kowalke, President & CEO, Founder of the Competition
Brady Sansone, Director of Programs, Competition Administrator
Leni Kreienberg, Administrative Assistant
Ed Harsh, Publicity

In Memoriam

With deep gratitude for their generous dedication to the Lenya Competition. Still greatly loved and missed. Their equal would be hard to find.

Lys Symonette
1914 - 2005

Julius Rudel
1921 - 2014

Harold Prince
1928 - 2019

Rebecca Luker
1961 - 2020

Lotte Lenya
THE LENYA COMPETITION

THE KURT WEILL FOUNDATION FOR MUSIC

7 East 20th Street New York, NY 10003

(212) 505 5240 kwf.org/LLC

