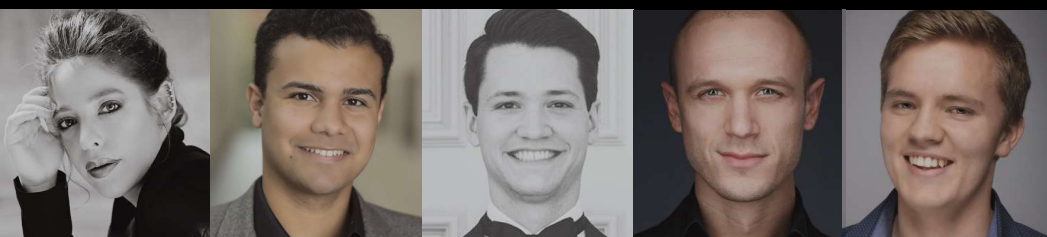


# Lotte Lenya

## LOTTE LENYA COMPETITION

A Program of The Kurt Weill Foundation for Music



### DOWN TO 12:

#### THE 2020 LOTTE LENYA COMPETITION FINALISTS



Scheduled for 2 May, the 2020 Finals were canceled due to COVID-19. Twelve finalists were selected at the Semifinals, 11-12 March.

### Semifinals Judge/Adjudicators

Wednesday, 11 March 2020

From Broadway to classics, on stage and in concert, **LISA VROMAN** has established herself as one of America's most versatile voices. Ms. Vroman starred on Broadway, in San Francisco, and Los Angeles as Christine Daaé in *The Phantom of the Opera*. Her many other major roles include: Rosalinda (*Die Fledermaus*); both Fantine and Cosette (*Les Misérables*); Rosabella (*The Most Happy Fella*); Marion Paroo (*The Music Man*); Lili Vanessi (*Kiss Me Kate*); Anna Leonowens (*The King and I*); and Maria Callas (*Masterclass*). For PBS she played Johanna in *Sweeney Todd* in Concert and as Christine Daaé in *Hey Mr. Producer!* Symphonic guest appearances include San Francisco, Hong Kong, Philadelphia, as well as the Boston, Philly, and New York Pops, and in Disney's 75th singing and dancing opposite Dick Van Dyke. Ms. Vroman is currently on the faculty of AMDA Los Angeles. In addition to acting as a judge and coach in the Kurt Weill Foundation's Lotte Lenya Competition on numerous occasions, she has performed Weill's music with symphonies and in master classes throughout the country. [www.lisavroman.com](http://www.lisavroman.com)

Thursday, 12 March 2020

**REBECCA LUKER** has appeared on Broadway in *Fun Home*, *Cinderella*, *Mary Poppins* (Tony nom.), *Nine*, *The Music Man* (Tony nom.), *The Sound of Music*, *Showboat* (Tony nom.), *The Secret Garden*, *The Phantom of the Opera*. Off Broadway: *Indian Blood*, *The Vagina Monologues*, *X (Life of Malcolm X)* and *Brigadoon*. Concerts: *The American Songbook Series*, *The Boys from Syracuse* and *Where's Charlie?* (Encores!), *No, No Nanette*, *Gay Divorce* (Carnegie Hall). Television: *NCIS: New Orleans*, *Elementary*, *Boardwalk Empire*, *Cupid and Cate*, *Law & Order: SVU*, *The Good Wife*. Film: *The Rewrite* and *Not Fade Away*. Recordings: *I Got Love*, *Greenwich Time*, *Leaving Home*, *Anything Goes: Rebecca Luker Sings Cole Porter*, and original cast recordings of *The Secret Garden* and the revivals of *Showboat*, *The Sound of Music* and *The Music Man*. Born and raised in Birmingham, Alabama, Rebecca received an honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts from The University of Montevallo, and now resides in New York City with her husband, actor Danny Burstein.

**Rivers Hawkins, 30**

"Sorge infausta una procella" from <i>Orlando</i>	Handel
"Lonely Room" from <i>Oklahoma!</i>	Rodgers/Hammerstein
"If I Sing" from <i>Closer than Ever</i>	Maltby/Shire
"Let Things Be Like They Always Was" from <i>Street Scene</i>	Weill/Hughes

**Elena Howard-Scott, 23**

"Somebody, Somewhere" from <i>The Most Happy Fella</i>	Loesser
"Je veux vivre" from <i>Roméo et Juliette</i>	Gounod/Barbier, Carré
"Nannas Lied"	Weill/Brecht
"Changing My Major" from <i>Fun Home</i>	Tesori/Kron

**Ronald Wilbur, 29**

"Pierrot's Tanzlied" from <i>Die tote Stadt</i>	Korngold/Schott
"She Loves Me" from <i>She Loves Me</i>	Bock/Harnick
"This is New" from <i>Lady in the Dark</i>	Weill/Gershwin
"Make Them Hear You" from <i>Ragtime</i>	Ahrens/Flaherty

**Lauren Senden, 19**

"Ah tardai troppo, O Luce di quest'anima"	<b>Ben Malkevitch, piano</b>
from <i>Linda di Chamounix</i>	
"Foolish Heart" from <i>One Touch of Venus</i>	
"Je ne t'aime pas"	
"Astonishing" from <i>Little Women</i>	

**Jeremy Weiss, 27**

"Papagena! Papagena! Papagena!" from <i>Die Zauberflöte</i>	Mozart/Schikaneder
"A New Town is a Blue Town" from <i>The Pajama Game</i>	Adler/Ross
"It All Fades Away" from <i>The Bridges of Madison County</i>	Brown
"Ruf aus der Gruft/Grabschrift" from <i>Die Dreigroschenoper</i>	Weill/Brecht

**Gan-ya Ben-gur Akselrod, 32**

"Omar Sharif" from <i>The Band's Visit</i>	Yazbek
"Nannas Lied"	Weill/Brecht
"Vanilla Ice Cream" from <i>She Loves Me</i>	Bock/Harnick
"Gepopo's Aria" from <i>Le Grand Macabre</i>	Ligeti

**Anighya Crocker, 20**

"Nur die Nacht"	
from <i>Aufstieg und Fall der Stadt Mahagonny</i>	Weill/Brecht
"The Contest" from <i>Sweeney Todd</i>	Sondheim
"Kansas City" from <i>Oklahoma!</i>	Rodgers/Hammerstein
"I'll Be Here" from <i>The Wild Party</i>	Lippa

**Teresa Perrotta, 24**

"Krystyna Zywska's Aria" from <i>Out of Darkness</i>	Heggie/Scheer
"Denn wie man sich bettet"	
from <i>Aufstieg und Fall der Stadt Mahagonny</i>	Weill/Brecht
"Somebody, Somewhere" from <i>The Most Happy Fella</i>	Loesser
"Back to Before" from <i>Ragtime</i>	Ahrens/Flaherty

**Dylan Glenn, 26**

"Hélas . . . Être ou ne pas être" from <i>Hamlet</i>	Thomas/Berbier, Carré
"Tonight at Eight" from <i>She Loves Me</i>	Bock/Harnick
"Love Song" from <i>Love Life</i>	Weill/Lerner
"Stranger" from <i>Big Fish</i>	Lippa

**Gemma Nha, 19**

"O Dieu!... Ah! je ris" from <i>Faust</i>	Gounod/Barbier, Carré
"Denn wie man sich bettet"	
from <i>Aufstieg und Fall der Stadt Mahagonny</i>	Weill/Brecht
"A Quiet Thing" from <i>Flora the Red Menace</i>	Kander/Ebb
"Astonishing" from <i>Little Women</i>	Howland/Dickstein

**Jonah Hoskins, 23**

"Ah, mes amis" from <i>La fille du régiment</i>	Donizetti/Saint-Georges, Bayard
"Es regnet"	Weill/Cocteau
"On The Street Where You Live" from <i>My Fair Lady</i>	Loewe/Lerner
"People Carry On" from <i>The Story of My Life</i>	Bartram

**Marie Oppert, 22**

"Spiel ich die Unschuld" from <i>Die Fledermaus</i>	Strauss/Haffner, Genée
"Le Train du Ciel" from <i>Marie Galante</i>	Weill/Deval
"Yes, My Heart" from <i>Carnival</i>	Merrill
"The Life I Never Led" from <i>Sister Act</i>	Menken/Slater

## 2020 Lotte Lenya Competition Finalists



**GAN-YA BEN-GURAKSELROD** began her musical education playing cello, piano and clarinet. After winning the 1st prize at the Hilde Zadek Competition in Vienna she was invited to join the Young Ensemble of Theater an der Wien in Vienna, Austria. Since then, Gan-ya has performed at Staatsoper Stuttgart, Théâtre du Capitole, Deutsche Oper Berlin, the Neue Oper Wien, Staatsoper Oldenburg, Glyndebourne Festival, Aix-en-Provence Festival, Ravinia Festival, Carnegie Hall in NYC, the Israeli Opera and more. She also sings the Soprano solo part in “The World of Hans Zimmer – a Symphonic Celebration” tour. Gan-ya is the recipient of a Lys Symonette Award in the 2018

Lotte Lenya Competition, a 2nd Prize Winner of the Güzin Gürel International Voice Competition, a recipient of numerous awards from Brooklyn Conservatory of Music, the Paul Ben-Haim Competition, the Aviv Competition (best performance of an Israeli piece), the America-Israel Cultural Foundation and the Ronen Foundation.

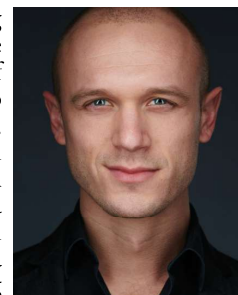
**ANIGHYA H.D. CROCKER** is a conductor, tenor, and keyboardist living in Nashville. A native Tennessean, his diverse set of talents has provided him with numerous opportunities and solidified his status as one of America's most promising young musicians. Referred to as a “musical genius” by the *Tennessean*, Anighya has appeared in a variety of leading roles, such as Brack Weaver in Kurt Weill's *Down in the Valley*, The Governor in Leonard Bernstein's *Candide*, and Henry Crawford in Jonathan Dove's *Mansfield Park*, to name a few. Some of Anighya's awards include 1st place in the Orpheus Vocal Competition (2016), Finalist in the Vann Vocal Institute's National Voice Competition, and winning the Delene Laubenheim McClure Memorial Prize in Opera. As a conductor, Anighya is equally active. He currently serves as the director of the Willow Oak Chorale and Orchestra in his native Springfield TN, where he also serves as the Minister of Music at Ebenezer Baptist Church. Upcoming engagements for Anighya include a solo recital, entitled “Songs of my Soul”, scheduled for the summer of 2020 in Nashville and a Carnegie Hall debut conducting the Schubert *Mass in G*, presented by MidAmerica Productions on June 5, 2021. In his free time, Anighya enjoys playing jazz and being outdoors. Any day he can get away from a podium or the crook of a piano and find himself on a creek bank is a very good day.



Touted as “distinguished” and “the whole package”, lyric baritone **DYLAN GLENN** is a second-year Master of Music student at the Cleveland Institute of Music. Professional credits include Dancaire in *Carmen* (Utah Lyric Opera), Will in *The Divorce Box* (Cleveland Opera Theater NowFest), and Pinellino in *Gianni Schicchi* (Utah Opera). Concert appearances include Vaughan Williams' *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* (Cleveland Philharmonic) and Handel's *Messiah* (Witness Music). Past roles include Papageno in *Die Zauberflöte* (CIM Opera Theater), Figaro in *Il barbiere di Siviglia* (BYU Opera Theater), and Marcello in *La bohème* (BYU Opera Theater). In addition

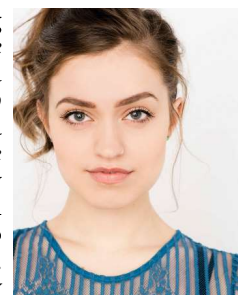
to placing 1st at the Central Utah NATS Competition (2015-2016), he was named Male Singer of the Year in the Nancy Peery Marriott Young Artist Competition. In 2017, he was selected as the baritone fellow at the Atlantic Music Festival.

**RIVERS HAWKINS**, bass, is a South Carolina native residing in Bloomington, Indiana. He completed graduate studies while working as an Associate Instructor at IU's Jacobs School of Music, where he was seen as Cesare (*Giulio Cesare*), Leporello (*Don Giovanni*), and Capitán (*Florencia en el Amazonas*), and was a 2019 International Fellowship recipient from The Georgina Joshi Foundation, used to study French in Montpellier, France. This summer he joins the Santa Fe Opera as a member of the Apprentice Singer Program, where he will cover Basilio (*Il barbiere di Siviglia*). He spent spring 2018 as a Resident Young Artist with Hawaii Opera Theatre, performing Zaretsky and the Captain (*Eugene Onegin*), Corporal (*La fille du régiment*), and Beau (*Service Provider*). In 2017 Rivers joined Central City Opera's Bonfils-Stanton Foundation Artists Training Program, performing in *Carmen*, *Così fan tutte*, *The Burning Fiery Furnace*, and *Gallantry*. He earned his B.M. from NYU's Steinhardt School. [www.rivershawkins.com](http://www.rivershawkins.com)



**JONAH HOSKINS** is an up-and-coming tenor from Saratoga Springs, Utah. He was recently chosen as a winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council auditions. Other recent accolades include the Lys Symonette Award for Extraordinary Artistic Promise in the 2019 Lotte Lenya Competition, and first place in the NOA competition. His past roles include Tamino in *Die Zauberflöte*, Septimius in *Theodora*, and Rinuccio in *Gianni Schicchi* with BYU's Opera Theater. He has also performed with Utah Opera as Benvolio in *Roméo et Juliette*. Last summer, Jonah was a young artist with Des Moines Metro Opera, where he study-covered the role of Candide. He will return again this year to cover the title role in *Platée*, and to sing the Master of Ceremonies in *The Queen of Spades*. Previously he was a young artist with Ohio Light Opera and attended HGO's YAVA program. Jonah is currently a senior at Brigham Young University, where he will graduate this spring.

**ELENA HOWARD-SCOTT** is a crossover artist residing in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Stage credits include: *Strike! the Musical* (Rainbow Stage), *Kiss of the Spider Woman* (Dry Cold Productions) *Pippin* (Winnipeg Studio Theatre), *Chicago* (PizzaParty Productions), Pamina in *The Magic Flute* (Opera NUOVA), *Beauty and the Beast* (Rainbow Stage), *Evil Dead the Musical* (Wasteland Productions), *CASH: Ring of Fire* (Rainbow Stage), and *The Rocky Horror Show* (Wasteland Productions). A student of renowned coloratura soprano Tracy Dahl, she is also a regular performer in the classical music world of Winnipeg, frequently singing with different organizations. She recently won first place for the North Dakota/Manitoba District in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, and was the first place winner for Canadian Federation of Music Teachers' Association National Vocal Competition. Elena is delighted to be a finalist in the 2020 Lotte Lenya Competition.







**GEMMA NHA** is a 19-year-old soprano from Sydney, Australia. Her passion for performing started in New York City when she participated in the Young Actors Summer Course at the Lee Strasberg Film and Theater Institute in 2011. Since then, she graduated from The McDonald College performing arts school, and commenced a Bachelor of Music (Performance) majoring in Classical Voice at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. Gemma has performed as a soloist in Handel's *Messiah* (Fiori Musicali Chamber Choir) and *Dixit Dominus* (Sydney Conservatorium of Music). She also performed in the Wollongong Spiegeltent as a featured artist in a Kurt Weill

cabaret, and Meg in the new Australian musical *7 Little Australians* (Opera Carnivale). In 2018, she performed with Patti LuPone on her "Don't Monkey with Broadway" tour at the Sydney Opera House. Gemma is currently studying at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna under Peter Edelmann.

**MARIE OPPERT** gained recognition on the French stage at age 17 by playing the lead role in *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg* (Théâtre du Châtelet, Paris) alongside Natalie Dessay and under Michel Legrand's musical direction. She was the youngest Fulbright grantee from the Franco-American commission for her studies at Marymount Manhattan College (BA in Musical Theatre) and a Special Award winner in the 2017 Lotte Lenya Competition. Recent roles include: Eliza Doolittle in *My Fair Lady* (Orléans Arena Hall, France), Peau d'Ane in Michel Legrand's *Peau d'Ane* (Theatre Marigny, Paris), Johanna in *Sweeney Todd* (Opera of Reims/Grand Theatre Calais, France), Hodel in *Fiddler on the Roof* (National Opera du Rhin, France), Chloe in *Wonderland* (York Theatre, New York). Her debut album *Enchantée* (Warner Classics) with Lille Symphonic Orchestra, conducted by Nicholas Skilbeck and with guests Natalie Dessay and Melissa Errico, was released this spring! [www.marieoppert.com](http://www.marieoppert.com)



Soprano **TERESA PERROTTA** recently made her international debut as Marie Antoinette in *The Ghosts of Versailles* at L'Opéra Royal in France. This summer, Ms. Perrotta will be performing Donna Elvira in *Don Giovanni* and Armida (cover) in *Rinaldo* with The Glimmerglass Festival. Recent Performances include: Donna Anna (cover) in *Don Giovanni* (Chautauqua Opera), Rose in Tobias Picker's *Awakenings* (Cincinnati Opera: Opera Fusion New Works), Soprano Soloist in *Carmina Burana* (Cincinnati Choral Society), Manja in *Countess Maritza* (Ohio Light Opera), Vitellia in *La clemenza di Tito*, and Lauretta in *Gianni Schicchi* (CCM). Ms. Perrotta has won numerous

competitions including two-time regional finalist of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, first place in the Corbett Opera competition, and third place in the National Opera Association competition. Ms. Perrotta holds degrees from the Eastman School of Music and The University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music (CCM), where she is currently pursuing her Artist Diploma in operatic performance. [www.teresaperrotta.com](http://www.teresaperrotta.com)

**LAUREN SENDEN** is currently a freshman Music Theatre major at Baldwin Wallace University. Recent credits include *The Light in the Piazza* (Clara, Minnetonka Theatre), *Into the Woods* (Baker's Wife, Hoffman Road Stage Company), and *Merrily We Roll Along* (Beth Spencer, Minnetonka Theatre). She recently received the honor of representing Minnesota and Spotlight Education at the National High School Musical Theatre Awards (Jimmy Awards). She would like to thank her team: Cynthia O'Connell, Victoria Bussert, Ben Marti, Ben Malkevitch, Will, and her parents Jim and Lynell for joining her on this adventure. [www.laurensenden.com](http://www.laurensenden.com)



**JEREMY WEISS** is thrilled to be back in the finals of the Lotte Lenya Competition after receiving the Carolyn Weber Award last year. In 2019, Jeremy performed as a Street Singer in Bernstein's *Mass* with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Marin Alsop, made his debut at National Sawdust in the premiere of *Dialogues of the Travelers*, and premiered the role of The Creature in *The Modern Prometheus*. Recent roles include: the title role in *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs*, *West Side Story* (Action), and *Rodelinda* (Garibaldo) at Indiana University Opera, *The Good Swimmer* (Lifeguard) at BAM, *Di Goldene Kale* (Berke) with the National Yiddish Theater Off-Broadway, Belli's *Orfeo Dolente* (Orfeo), Cavalli's *Erismena* (Erimante), *Oklahoma!* (Curly), *My Fair Lady* (Freddy), *Into the Woods* (Wolf/Prince). Jeremy completed his MM at Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music where he studied with Dr. Brian Gill, and graduated from Yale University with a double major in Humanities and Theater Studies. <http://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, diversely, in many areas of music, ranging from classroom management to effective stylings of vocal jazz. Mr. Wilbur has had the opportunity to perform several lead roles such as the title role in *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*, Coalhouse Walker, Jr. (*Ragtime*) and the Lion (*The Wiz*). Ron was also featured on NBC's hit television series, "The Sing-Off" (Season 4) with the University of Kentucky "acoUstiKats". In addition to performing, Mr. Wilbur leads many sessions and workshops here in the States and abroad, covering the pedagogy of the singer's body, stage presence, and acting techniques. Ronald is proud to serve as an arts facilitator for many organizations in Central Kentucky.

