

2021-22 SEASON

# ROCKY MOUNTAIN

REGION AUDITIONS

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2022



LAFFONT  
COMPETITION

The Metropolitan Opera



For up to date auditions results, alumni news, and other general information, follow @metoperacompetition on Facebook and Instagram.

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#### **National Semifinals**

Sunday, April 24, 2022

#### **The Eric and Dominique**

**Laffont Grand Finals**

**Concert** Sunday, May

1, 2022

#### **THE METROPOLITAN OPERA ERIC AND DOMINIQUE LAFFONT COMPETITION**

The Met's Laffont Competition—previously known as the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions—is designed to discover promising young opera singers and assist in the development of their careers, and is sponsored by hundreds of donors and volunteers from across the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Some of today's greatest singers got their start in the competition, including Renée Fleming, Susan Graham, Stephanie Blythe, Eric Owens, Lawrence Brownlee, Lisette Oropesa, Nadine Sierra, Jamie Barton, Michael Fabiano, Ryan Speedo Green, and Anthony Roth Costanzo.

The competition is grateful to its donors for prizes at the national level and to the Tobin Endowment for the Mrs. Edgar Tobin Award, given to each first-place region winner.

Support for this program is generously provided by the Charles H. Dyson Endowment Fund at the Metropolitan Opera.

#### **SUPPORT OPERA'S FUTURE STARS**

When you make a gift to support the Laffont Competition, you make a statement about your commitment to the future of opera and to helping expand our work of identifying opera's brightest rising stars. This unique initiative is possible thanks to the generous support we receive from valued friends like you.

Please text LAFFONT to 44321 or visit [metopera.org/competitionsupport](https://metopera.org/competitionsupport) and make a gift to support the Laffont Competition today. Your contribution will make a truly meaningful difference.

# WELCOME TO THE METROPOLITAN OPERA ERIC AND DOMINIQUE LAFFONT COMPETITION.

*(Formerly Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions)*

## **ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION**

February 12, 2022

1:30 PM - 5:00 PM

Calvary Baptist Church

Karen Bruggenthies, Rocky Mountain District Chair  
Karen and Chris Mohr, Colorado-Wyoming District Co-Chairs  
Allan Armstrong, Accompanist  
Chris Mohr, Emcee

Each singer will begin with an aria of his or her choice. The judges may then request an additional aria from the three remaining pieces on the list of selections prepared by that singer.

Audience Choice Award - Complete and return the ballot you received with your program to the marked boxes in the lobby by the end of today's Competition. Please do so within 10 minutes of the completion of the final singer's performance to allow us time to tally the votes. A monetary award will be given to the singer who receives the most votes.

The announcement of this year's winner(s) and the presentation of awards will take place back in the Calvary Baptist Church Sanctuary directly following the completion of the judges' deliberations.

### **For our Audience: Please Remember . . .**

- For the health and safety of our singers, judges, volunteers, and audience members the Metropolitan Opera requires that all attendees show proof of vaccination or negative covid test taken within 72 hours of the event prior to entry, and all attendees must wear face coverings while in the building.
- No photography while in the auditorium.
- Turn off all cell phones and electronic devices.
- Enter and leave the hall only between singers and please do so quickly and quietly.
- Do not applaud singers between arias. When judges have dismissed the singer, please show your appreciation with enthusiasm! Please do not attempt to approach or attempt to speak to the judges privately.

*All recipients of awards are selected by the Auditions Judges.*

## **COLORADO/WYOMING DISTRICT AWARDS**

To be awarded at the judges' discretion: \$5000 (\$2000 Spencer Foundation/\$3000 Patron Awards)

## **ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL AWARDS**

### **First Place Awards**

Patron Award	\$2700
The Spencer Foundation Award	\$2000
The Mrs. Edgar Tobin Award from the Tobin Endowment	\$800

### **Second Place Awards**

The Arthur & Miriam Bender Memorial Award	\$200
Colorado/Wyoming Patron Award	\$2300

### **Third Place Awards**

Colorado/Wyoming Patron Award	\$1500
Erna D. Butler Award	\$600

### **Special Awards**

Erna D. Butler Young Singer's Encouragement Award	\$600
Father Diamond Wendelboe Memorial Scholarship	\$500

Regional Finalists Patron Awards and Colorado/Wyoming Patron Awards to non-placing regional finalists \$500 each - *Lauren Gunderson*

Regional Winners will be brought to New York for the National Semi-Finals on Sunday, April 24. There they will receive musical preparation under the guidance of the Met staff. From the National Semi-Finalists, all of whom will compete on the Met stage with piano accompaniment, eight to ten will be selected by a jury as National Finalists and will compete in the Grand National Finals Concert on Sunday, May 1, 2022 on the Met stage accompanied by the Met Orchestra. A jury will award \$15,000 each to 4 - 6 National Grand Winners. Each National Finalist not selected as a National Grand Winner will receive \$7500. National Semi-Finalists who do not advance will be awarded \$2500 each.

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION JUDGES



**BRUCE DONNELL** studied at Friedelind Wagner's Bayreuth Festival Master Classes before joining the Metropolitan Opera as a stage director in 1975. He has staged productions for San Francisco, Austin, the Boston Lyric Opera, New York City Opera, the Santa Fe opera, among others, as well as the Chicago Lyric Opera. Internationally, he has worked in Toronto, Paris, Amsterdam, Buenos Aires and in Japan on tour with the Metropolitan Opera. He also has worked at the Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara and the Shepherd School of Music (Rice University) in Houston. He is a frequent judge for Metropolitan Opera National Council auditions.



**MICHAEL EGEL** of Indianola, Iowa, was appointed General and Artistic Director of Des Moines Metro Opera in 2013 and Artistic Director in September of 2010. He previously served the company as the Artistic Administrator/Director of Education from 1999-2010. He joined the Summer Festival staff in 1994 and marks 29 consecutive seasons with the organization in 2022. Egel's responsibilities include both artistic direction and overall management—specifically, the areas of strategic planning, opera production, fiscal stewardship and community, donor and board relations. During his tenure, the company launched the 2nd Stages Series, a new performance initiative designed to engage new audiences and create a platform for innovation by focusing on new works and contemporary subject matter.



**MELISSA WEGNER, Melissa Wegner** is the Executive Director of the Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artist Development Program and the Laffont Competition. She is responsible for identifying, awarding, and developing the world's most promising operatic talent. Having joined the artistic staff of the Met in 2011, she hears artists in stage and screening auditions at the Met and is additionally responsible for casting the Met's New Opera Commissions workshops. She is a casting consultant for the upcoming Ricky Ian Gordon/Lynn Nottage opera INTIMATE APPAREL at Lincoln Center Theater. Recognized for her leadership in the industry, Ms. Wegner was an official ambassador for Opera America's 50th Anniversary in 2020, was one of the 2019 Musical America Top 30 Professionals of the Year, and is the 2019 recipient of the Maria Callas Prize of New York from Melos International. In addition to the District, Regional and National rounds of the Laffont Competition, Ms. Wegner has adjudicated the Belvedere Competition, the SAI Vocal Competition, the McCammon Voice Competition, NATSAA Competition, and the inaugural Nicola Martinucci Competition in Italy. A faculty member of Ravinia's Steans Music Institute, Ms. Wegner has also been visiting faculty for Bard College's Graduate Vocal Arts Program and is a frequent guest speaker at academic institutions, professional companies, and digital media outlets. She is an active member of Opera America and has presented at the NATS Winter Workshop. Ms. Wegner is a member of Families of FANA WNY, which supports the orphanage in Colombia from which she was adopted. She has served as a Trustee of the Foundation Board of SUNY Potsdam, an Advisory Board Member of the Bard College Conservatory of Music, and is on the team of advisors for Turn The Spotlight, a mentoring organization for exceptional women, people of color, and other equity-seeking groups. Ms. Wegner holds degrees from Bard College, The Manhattan School of Music, and The Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam.



## COLORADO-WYOMING DISTRICT AND ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION ACCOMPANIST

Pianist and vocal coach Allan Armstrong is assistant professor of music in voice at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, where he specializes in art song literature and opera coaching. From 2017-2020, Armstrong was a visiting assistant professor/post-doctoral scholar in the collaborative piano and chamber music department at the Jacobs School of Music. Before joining Jacobs, he was a member of the applied piano faculty at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, where he codirected Bravo Opera Company. Armstrong has been a principal production pianist and coach at Eugene Opera, Opera Colorado, St. Petersburg Opera, Opera on the Avalon, Sugar Creek Opera, Tel Aviv Summer Opera Program and Opera Tampa. He has taught on the faculty of the Sherrill Milnes Savannah Voice Festival and the International Vocal Arts Institute in

**A very special thank you to our amazing group of backstage and lobby volunteers without whose help this would not be possible:**

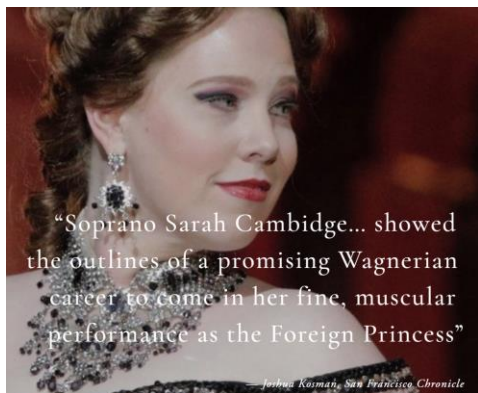
Marleen Diamond  
Becky Gantner

Maria Shanley  
Greg Phillips

Jackie Writz  
Rodney Paz

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW . . .

### ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION PAST WINNERS



“Soprano Sarah Cambidge... showed the outlines of a promising Wagnerian career to come in her fine, muscular performance as the Foreign Princess”

Joshua Kosman, San Francisco Chronicle

### Ryan Speedo Green



“I predict this artist, already mightily impressive, will soon be so essential he’ll be anchoring a Gesamtkunstwerk of his very own.”

James Jorden | *Observer*



Operalia Winners Beverley D'Angelo, Samantha Hankey and Jonah Hoskins (2021) are part of the great cast starring in Cinderella at the Metropolitan Opera.

Ms. D'Angelo and Ms. Hankey star as Prince Charming and Mr. Hoskins performs the role of the Dean.

Congratulations to Mr. Hoskins for his house debut!



“Alek Shrader sang Ferdinand with sweetness, and with a characteristic metallic sheen in the high notes.”

*The Tempest – Metropolitan Opera 2021*

# REPERTOIRE | FEBRUARY 12, 2022 IN PERFORMANCE ORDER

## JORDAN BOWMAN, SOPRANO, 29 POCATELLO, ID - Utah District



Stridono lassù (Ballatalla)  
Senza mamma  
Deh vieni, non tardar  
Je dis que rien ne m'épouvante

PAGLIACCI  
SUOR ANGELICA  
LE NOZZE DI FIGARO  
CARMEN

Leoncavallo  
Puccini  
Mozart  
Bizet

## PHILLIP LOPEZ, BASS-BARITONE, 27 AVON, IL - Colorado-Wyoming District



Madamina! il catalago è questo  
Deh, ti ferma... Que' numi furenti  
Riez! Allez!  
Come, master, observe the host of mankind  
Amazonas de este rio!

DON GIOVANNI  
SEMIRAMIDE  
DON QUICHOTTE  
THE RAKE'S PROGRESS  
FLORENCIA EN EL AMAZONAS

Mozart  
Rossini  
Massenet  
Stravinsky  
Catán

## SAHEL SALAM, TENOR, 28 HOUSTON, TX - Arizona District



È la solita storia del pastore  
Angelo casto e bel  
Ella mi fu rapita... Parmi veder le lagrime  
Salut! demeure chaste et pure

L'ARLESIANA  
IL DUCA D'ALBA  
RIGOLETTO  
FAUST

Cilèa  
Donizetti  
Verdi  
Gounod

## WINONA MARTIN, MEZZO-SOPRANO, 25 DALLAS, TX - Arizona District



Parto, parto, ma tu, ben mio  
Simple Child  
Que fais-tu, blanche tourterelle  
Wie du warst

LA CLEMENZA DI TITO  
THE GRAPES OF WRATH  
ROMÉO ET JULIETTE  
DER ROSENKAVALIER

Mozart  
Gordon  
Gounod  
Strauss

## MARY HOSKINS, SOPRANO, 29 SARATOGA SPRINGS, UT - Utah District



Vissi d'arte, vissi d'amore  
Pleurez! Pleurez, mes yeux!  
Non mi dir  
Marietta's Lied

TOSCA  
LE CID  
DON GIOVANNI  
DIE TOTE STADT

Puccini  
Massenet  
Mozart  
Korngold

**SCHYLER VARGAS, BARITONE, 27 DENVER, CO - Colorado-Wyoming District**

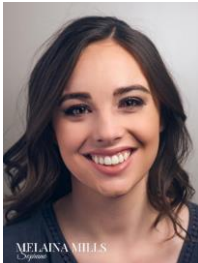


Audebert's Aria  
Hai già vinta la causa!  
Largo al factotum dell città  
She called him Curt

SILENT NIGHT  
LE NOZZE DI FIGARO  
IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA  
THREE DECEMBERS

Puts  
Mozart  
Rossini  
Heggie

**MELAINA MILLS, SOPRANO, 26 HIGHLANDS RANCH, CO - Colorado-Wyoming District**



The Tower: How beautiful it is  
Padre germani addio  
Me voilà seule... Comme autrefois  
Oh! quante volte

THE TURN OF THE SCREW  
IDOMENEO  
LES PÊCHEURS DE PERLES  
I CAPULETI E I MONTECCHI

Britten  
Mozart  
Bizet  
Bellini

**DANIEL O'HEARN, TENOR, 25 CHICAGO, IL - Utah District**



La donna è mobile  
Dies Bildnis ist bezaubernd schön  
Di rigori armato il seno  
I See

RIGOLETTO  
DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE  
DER ROSENKAVALIER  
MOBY-DICK

Verdi  
Mozart  
Richard Strauss  
Jake Heggie

**KAYLA NANTO, MEZZO-SOPRANO, 28 LOVELAND, CO - Colorado-Wyoming District**



Nobles seigneurs, salut!  
Va! laisse couler mes larmes  
Elizabeth Cree's Aria  
Una voce poco fa

LES HUGUENOTS  
WERTHER  
ELIZABETH CREE  
IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA

Meyerbeer  
Massenet  
Putts  
Rossini

**SAMUEL WEISER, BASS-BARITONE, 30 PRINCETON JUNCTION, NJ - Utah District**



Bin ich nun frei? Wirklich frei?!  
I'm fixin' to tell ya 'bout a feller I knowed  
Madamina! il catalago è questo  
Riez! Allez!

DAS RHEINGOLD  
SUSANNAH  
DON GIOVANNI  
DON QUICHOTTE

Wagner  
Floyd  
Mozart  
Massenet



## Donors of Special Awards

The Galen & Ada Belle Spencer Foundation  
Myra Louise Bender: *The Arthur & Miriam Bender Memorial Award*  
Erna D. Butler Award Fund

### The following Rocky Mountain Patrons generously make these auditions possible:

#### Benefactor (\$1000 & up)

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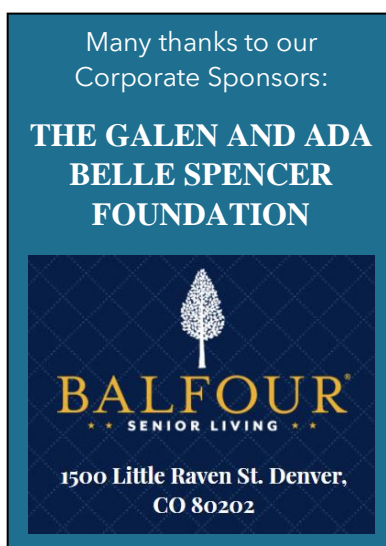
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John Mapoles



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# LEARN ABOUT THE METROPOLITAN OPERA ERIC AND DOMINIQUE LAFFONT COMPETITION.

*(Formerly Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions)*

Young singers from around the United States, Puerto Rico, Canada, and Mexico will compete for \$15,000 cash prizes and the chance to perform in the Grand Finals Concert on the nation's most prestigious opera stage, as the Metropolitan Opera Eric and Dominique Laffont Competition (formerly the MONC Auditions) launches its 67th annual auditions program. Typically, over 1200 singers between the ages of 20 and 30 participate in the Met Competition, the longest-running singing competition in the country.

Each season over one hundred MONC audition alumni appear on the Met stage, many in starring roles. These singers include Renee Fleming, Angela Meade, Michelle DeYoung, Susan Graham, Susan Phillips, Sondra Radvanosky, Lawrence Brownlee, Eric Owens, and recently our 2011 winner Ryan Speedo Green.

Today the Met sponsors Competitions throughout the U.S., Puerto Rico, Canada, and Mexico in 12 Regions which are subdivided into 40 Districts, making access easy and inexpensive for participants. Qualified applicants may choose to enter any District audition across the country regardless of whether they are a resident of the area. District winners must compete in the Region Finals of the Region in which they were District winners. The Rocky Mountain Region includes the Colorado/Wyoming, Utah, and Arizona Districts. A singer may audition for the Competition only once per season. There is no limit as to how many seasons they may audition, depending on their previous advancement in the competition. Winners in each Region receive cash prizes and travel to New York to compete for more prize money at the National Semi Finals. If successful in the Semi Finals, they will have an opportunity to perform on stage at the Met in the Grand Finals Concert with the Met Orchestra. Typically, 4-6 Grand Finals winners are selected at that concert.

Even though prize money is given, the real value to these auditions is what a singer learns from them.

Our District and Region auditions require four operatic arias in two or more languages of varying styles that best represent the singer at their current stage of vocal development. An in-depth knowledge of language, style, and musicianship is essential for a successful operatic audition.

Other unique benefits of the Competition are:

1. **To hear from professionals in the business.** There are three judges at every level (with the exception of the Qualifying Round) of the Competition, chosen from a selected list of professionals in the business. We make them available to the singers following the competition for feedback, so that they might ask questions and hear first-hand their thoughts about the singer's presentation that day.
2. **To assess the singer's vocal development.** The best way to improve at auditioning is to do more auditions. This is a chance to sing a professional audition and get a better idea of how a singer's audition skills compare to the other singers of the day. We encourage singers to sit in and observe the auditions to get a full picture of the vocal talent that day.
3. **To advance professionally.** The judges for the Met Competition are part of a larger network of industry professionals. Many of them are in a position to recommend singers for work, advanced study or an apprenticeship. The Competition can go beyond one day of singing and open doors for the future.

The Met in New York financially sponsors regional finalists for the New York Competition, but the Districts and Regions depend totally on local donations for all our expenses. The Rocky Mountain Region generously gives special awards to our Colorado-Wyoming District winners. Your patron membership dollars also help us meet our audition expenses: judges' travel expenses, audition hall rental, official accompanist, piano tuners, piano movers, printing and postage. If you are not currently a Patron, we encourage you to seriously consider joining. Our membership year runs from March 1 to February 28. Any donation which you care to give to the Rocky Mountain Region Laffont Competition is gratefully appreciated. **We would like to express a heart-felt thank you to our judges. They voluntarily give of their time and expertise to help develop the careers of our singers. We wish to express our appreciation to the media and our sincere thanks to the schools of music, voice teachers, coaches and accompanists for their cooperation and support.**



Dear friends in music,

Thank you for joining us to witness Colorado’s aspiring young singers when they audition for the Metropolitan Opera. The Competition is designed to discover promising young opera singers and assist in the development of their careers. Many of today’s opera stars got their start in this Competition, including Renee Fleming, Stephanie Blythe, Eric Owens, Lisette Oropesa, Michael Fabiano and Ryan Speedo Green.

Donations to our organization provide prize monies for award winners and support the costs incurred in hosting both the Colorado-Wyoming District and Rocky Mountain Region rounds of the Competition. It is important to note that even though the Colorado-Wyoming District and Rocky Mountain Region are officially sanctioned by The Metropolitan Opera and feed the national competition finals, we do not receive any funding from the national office. All funds needed for the Colorado based competitions must be raised locally through the generous donations of individual opera lovers like you.

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If you would like to make a contribution to the Rocky Mountain Met Competition, please either submit your donation online at <http://metoperaauditionsrockies.org/donate/> or mail your check payable to Met Competition-Rocky Mountain Region along with this form to Karen Bruggenthies, 4692 S. Field St., Littleton, CO 80123.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Please specify how you would wish it to appear in our competition program.)*

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Other amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Any amount is appreciated, all contributors will be acknowledged in our program if received in time.

Membership privileges include program recognition. Membership requests must be received by December 15, 2022 to be recognized in the **2023** program. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.

**Questions?**

Contact Karen Bruggenthies at 303-550-1863 or [bruggenthies@comcast.net](mailto:bruggenthies@comcast.net).