



PARTNERS for the Arts

President: Leilane G. Mehler
Vice President: Robert Misbin, MD
Secretary: F. Victoria Tresansky
Treasurer: Audrey Pendergast
Artistic Advisor: Elaine Walter, PhD
Membership: Cyd Everett

Winter 2013
Vol. 1, No. 2

NEWSLETTER

PARTNERS' First Vocal Competition was a great success!

PARTNERS for the Arts' first vocal awards competition drew nearly 70 contestants from the mid-Atlantic region and some of the most prestigious schools of music in the country. These applicants were narrowed to 22 semifinalists, heard on October 26 by Dr. Henriette Lund, Maestro John Edward Niles, and Dr. Stan Engebretson (their affiliations are on page 3). These judges selected eight finalists who competed the next day in front of an audience.

The judges for the final round—Maestros Ryan Brown, Joseph Walsh, and Robert Wood (see page 3)—chose Norman Garrett, baritone, to receive the first prize of \$2,500, *The Misbin Family Memorial Award*; Joshua Baumgardner, tenor, the second prize of \$1,500, *The Robin Kranich Phillips Award*; and Jeffrey Grayson Gates, baritone, the third prize of \$750, *The Annie Totah Award*. The judges of both rounds commented on the high caliber of the voices of all the competitors. What a pleasure to hear the stars of tomorrow! Thanks to the generosity of Christian Amonson, of Arts Laureate, our competition was recorded and photographed professionally. Please visit our web site, enjoy the pictures, and hear our three winners.

We are delighted to report that, as a direct result of our competition, two finalists were invited to audition for a production that will be presented by one of our partners next year.

In November, **PARTNERS** celebrated the bicentennial of Verdi's birth with a talk given by our artistic advisor, Dr. Elaine Walter, entitled *Marrying Italian Bel Canto with German Music Drama*, at the elegant residence of Graham Down.

PARTNERS' partners have been busy too! We congratulate them on their recent productions, highlighted in the **Spotlight** column on our web site, and invite you to attend their performances.

Robin Phillips, who kindly hosted **PARTNERS'** inaugural event this year, has made a generous gift of stock to our partner, Opera Lafayette, in honor of **PARTNERS for the Arts**. We hope others will be able to offer such a gesture to our other partners.

Planning for our second vocal competition in 2014 is under way. The costs of mounting this competition are high: hall rental, judges' and accompanist's fees, piano and tuning expenses, and prizes for the top three contestants being some of them. That is why your donations to support this core event are so crucial. In addition, plans are afoot for 2014, with musicales, talks, and dinners in the mix. To help us carry out our ambitious programs, please consider renewing your membership contribution for 2014 or becoming a member for the first time by returning the enclosed membership form.

As we grow, more activities needing volunteers' assistance will take place. If you would like to photograph our events, help with our musicales and lectures, host the tables to register the singers in our vocal competition, or offer your Excel or Publisher computer skills, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Leilane at partners4thearts.com.

Thank you for your continued encouragement and extraordinary support.

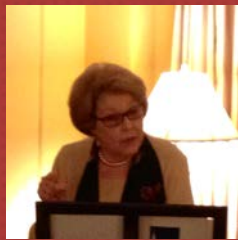
Happy Holidays!

Partners for the Arts encourage and promote the careers of emerging vocal artists not under professional management, interact with arts organizations and schools of music in mutually beneficial activities, and nurture audience development.

COMPETITION HIGHLIGHTS



NOVEMBER LECTURE



THE COMPETITION WINNERS!



The male voices carried the day, with baritone **Norman Garrett** garnering the first prize of \$2,500—*The Misbin Family Memorial Award*.



Tenor **Joshua Baumgardner** won the second prize of \$1,500—*The Robin Kranich Phillips Award*.



Baritone **Jeffrey Grayson Gates** took the third prize of \$750—*The Annie Totah Award*.

JUDGES FOR THE VOCAL AWARDS COMPETITION FINAL ROUND



Maestro and artistic director of Opera Lafayette
Ryan Brown



Maestro and artistic director of Lyric Opera Virginia
Joseph Walsh



Maestro and artistic director of UrbanArias
Robert Wood

JUDGES FOR THE VOCAL AWARDS COMPETITION SEMIFINAL ROUND



Dr. Stan Engebretson, artistic director of the National Philharmonic Chorale



Dr. Henriette Lund, artistic director of Maryland Lyric Opera (launching in 2014)



Maestro John Edward Niles, director of The American Wagner Project of The Wagner Society of Washington DC

Norman Garrett earned a bachelor's degree in vocal performance from Texas Tech University and a master's of music degree from College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati. He has participated in the Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program of Washington National Opera, the Filene Young Artist Program of Wolf Trap Opera Company, and the Young Artist Program of the Glimmerglass Summer Festival, among others.

Joshua Baumgardner graduated from James Madison University with a bachelor's degree in vocal performance and from Florida State University with a master's degree in vocal performance. A participant in the young artists programs of Opera North Studio and CoOPERative, he was a regional finalist in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions.

Jeffrey Grayson Gates obtained a bachelor's degree in vocal performance from Oklahoma City University and a graduate performance diploma in voice from The Peabody Institute of The Johns Hopkins University. He participated in the young artist program of Central City Opera Studio and Des Moines Metro Opera Apprentice Artist Program and was a winner in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions in Tulsa, Oklahoma and Washington, DC and the Vocal Arts Young Artists Competition in Washington, DC and the Naftzger Young Artists Auditions of the Wichita Symphony, Kansas.

The Other Finalists of the Vocal Awards Competition

Merideth Marano, soprano



Johnathan McCullough, baritone



Kihyun Moon, baritone



Matthew Reese, counter-tenor



Laura C. Stuart, soprano



Dr. Francis Conlon was the accompanist for both rounds of the competition.

PARTNERS' PARTNERS



OPERA DELAWARE

OPERA Lafayette

Lyric OPERA VIRGINIA

Virginia Opera

WASHINGTON CONCERT OPERA

PATRICIA & ARTHUR MODELL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

THE LYRIC



WITH GRATITUDE



Addy Bassin's
MacArthur Beverages
Fine Wine and Spirits Since 1957

Arts Laureate
AUDIO+VISUAL

Come with us to our Partners' events!

December 2013

- Fri. 6 **Virginia Opera** *The Magic Flute*
Sun. 8 **Virginia Opera** *The Magic Flute*
Sat. 14 **National Philharmonic** *Handel's Messiah*
Sun. 15 **National Philharmonic** *Handel's Messiah*
Sun. 22 **National Philharmonic** Washington
Symphonic Brass

January 2014

- Sat. 4 **National Philharmonic** *Sounds of Central Europe*
Sun. 5 **National Philharmonic** *Sounds of Central Europe*
Fri. 17 **Opera Lafayette** *Les Femmes Vengées*
Sat. 18 **National Philharmonic** *Three Great Classics*
Sun. 26 **Lyric Opera Virginia** *Cabaret*
Fri. 31 **Lyric Opera Virginia** *Master Class*

February

- Sat. 1 **Lyric Opera Virginia** *Master Class*
Sun. 2 **Lyric Opera Virginia** *Master Class*
Fri. 14 **Virginia Opera** *Ariadne auf Naxos*
Sun. 16 **Virginia Opera** *Ariadne auf Naxos*
Sat. 22 **National Philharmonic** *Chopin, the Storyteller*
Fri. 28 **Baltimore Concert Opera** *Les Pêcheurs de Perles*

March

- Sun. 2 **Baltimore Concert Opera** *Les Pêcheurs de Perles*
Fri. 7 **OperaDelaware** *Les Pêcheurs de Perles*
Sat. 8 **National Philharmonic** *Chopin, Moniuszko, Mozart*
Sun. 9 **National Philharmonic** *Chopin, Moniuszko, Mozart*

March (cont'd)

- Sun. 9 **OperaDelaware** *Les Pêcheurs de Perles*
Sun. 9 **Washington Concert Opera**
Il Corsaro
Sat. 22 **Partners' Anniversary Celebration**
Fri. 28 **Bulgarian Music Society Partners'**
Competition Winners

April

- Fri. 11 **Virginia Opera** *Carmen*
Fri. 11 **Baltimore Concert Opera** *Il Trovatore*
Sat. 12 **National Philharmonic** *Bach Mass in B minor*
Sun. 13 **National Philharmonic** *Bach Mass in B minor*
Sun. 13 **Virginia Opera** *Carmen*
Sun. 13 **Baltimore Concert Opera** *Il Trovatore*
Wed. 30 **Opera Lafayette** *The Salon*

May

- TBA **Partners' Event**
Fri. 2 **Opera Delaware** *Il Trovatore*
Sun. 4 **Opera Delaware** *Il Trovatore*
Sat. 17 **National Philharmonic** *Strauss and Vivaldi*
Sun. 18 **National Philharmonic** *Strauss and Vivaldi*
Sun. 18 **Lyric Opera Baltimore** *Nabucco*
Sat. 31 **National Philharmonic** *Strauss Masterpieces*

Partners' dates are subject to change. Please check our web site close to the event.

Partners for the Arts, Inc.

6858 Grande Lane, Falls Church, VA 22043 - Tel: 703/241-5496 - Fax: 703/241-0584

E-mail: partners4thearts@aol.com - Web site: www.partners4thearts.org

Partners for the Arts, Inc. is a nonprofit organization qualified under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3). Contributions to **Partners** for the Arts, Inc. are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.