



PARTNERS for the Arts

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NEWSLETTER

2017

PARTNERS 6th Opera Competition 2018

Semifinal round: Saturday, April 14 - 1:30 pm

Final round: Sunday, April 15 - 2:00 pm

The Lyceum: 201 S. Washington Street, Alexandria, VA

Free and open to the public

Dear friends,

PARTNERS has successfully completed its fourth year of operations with five Vocal Competitions. Thanks to our donors and members, its events have been successful, and its mission accomplished. We began as a Competition open to regional mid-Atlantic residents, it has now become national, and its applicants come from around the country. More importantly, many of our Competition winners are doing very well, actively performing major roles with a number of nationally respected opera companies as well as overseas companies.

PARTNERS looks forward confidently to its future as a major player in the professional opera world. Its competition prizes have increased considerably thanks to the predictable donors and members. We are so grateful to those of you who have supported our competitions. **Dr. Robert Misbin** for the *Young Artists Award*, **Cynthia Bianchi** for the *3rd prize Award in memory of her sister Holly Bianchi*, **Dr. James Trefil** for the *Honorable Mention Award in honor of his mother Sylvia Trefil*, **Drs. James and Wanda Trefil** for the *Encouragement Awards* given to the finalists, **Dr. Elaine R. Walter**, **Victoria Tresansky**, **The Savada-Stevenson Family** and **You** who made possible for us to raise the first and second prize awards. It is important to stress that **there are no administrative costs**. All your contributions go to further the career of our singers through the competition and the musicales. **Without all of you all this would not have been possible** – our most sincere **THANK YOU**.

We look forward to your renewal and commitment for 2018 so that we can start our new year in good financial standing and perhaps even raising our prizes more!

Partners for the Arts encourages and promotes emerging performing artists

by sponsoring competitions and public presentations, promotes and interacts with performing arts organizations and schools of music in mutually beneficial activities and awards, and collaborates with others to develop educational programs

FEBRUARY 2017 - MUSICALE AT THE BULGARIAN EMBASSY

HIGHLIGHTS



Pianist Frank Conlon, 3rd prizewinner soprano Lara Lynn McGill, Promising Young Artist 2nd prizewinner soprano Alexis Aimé, Catholic University School of Music graduate student Jennifer Dunn, and 2nd prizewinner bass Timothy Bruno.



Bass Timothy Bruno and donors Dr. Wanda O'Brian Trefil and Dr. James Trefil.



Leilane Grimaldi Mehler, Dr. Ivo Kaltchev, Dr. Elaine Walter, Ambassador Tihomir Stoychev and his wife Dr. Lupka Stoychev.



The Gala Musicale at the Bulgarian Embassy by the Bulgarian Music Society in a co-presentation with **PARTNERS** for the Arts was a great success in a room more than filled to capacity. Ambassador Tihomir Stoychev made the comment that *"the embassy will have to put an addition in their building to have **PARTNERS** musicales in the future"*.

Our most sincere thank you to **Ambassador Tihomir Stoychev**, his wife **Dr. Lupka Stoychev**, and **Dr. Ivo Kaltchev**, Artistic Director of the Bulgarian Music Society

Most satisfying to us are the multiple comments received over the years from applicants, semifinalists, finalists and winners as to what this competition has meant to them.

[2017 Vocal Competition - Singers' testimonials](#)

- [Rose Antoinette Bellino -2017 - Promising Young Artist - 2nd prizewinner](#) “- I wanted to thank you, the donors, and everyone behind the scenes at Partners for the Arts for everything you do! What a phenomenal organization rewarding artists for their hard work and helping propel them forward. I feel so honored to have performed yesterday! Thank you so so much!! “

- [Colleen Daly - 2017 - 3rd prizewinner](#) -“I just wanted to send a note to thank you from the bottom of my heart for everything you do for the Arts community here in the Washington area. I had a wonderful time on Saturday communing with my incredibly talented colleagues and I am humbled to receive recognition from your organization! Thank you, thank you, thank you!!”-

- [Mizuho Takeshita - 2017 - 1st prizewinner](#) - “I would like to express my huge thank to Partners for the Art. I cannot still believe I actually received this big award. There were many wonderful singers in the competition. I listened them and learned a lot from them.

Thank you so much for this opportunity. Thank you so much again.

I hope the competition would expand more and wider, and many more talented singers could get encouraged through this great opportunity.”

[Her second email](#) “I am writing to you because I would like to say again thank you so much for the support for the Partners for the Arts competition.

Even though it passed a week after the competition, I still cannot believe that I could actually received this huge honor.

My parents came to USA a day after the competition for sightseeing, and I was so happy to tell them about this great news. They intended to convince me to go back to Japan but the prize became a great reason to motivate them to let me stay and keep trying more instead.

I will work hard to be a great singer and expand my career. I really hope that I can share more of great news with you. Have a wonderful Holy week. Much appreciated. Respected submitted.”

But your help doesn't stop at the competition. Here are some of the comments, after the February event at the Bulgarian Embassy.

- [Lara Lynn McGill - 2016 - 3rd prizewinner](#) “Thank you so much for the wonderful singing opportunity at the Bulgarian Embassy back in February. I appreciate what you do and the organization does for us singers. Thank you so much for all that you do.”

- [Johnathan McCullough - 2016 Promising Young Artist - 1st prizewinner](#) “Thank you for everything that your corporation has done to promote my career. I am eternally grateful to you and everyone at Partners for the Arts!”

- [Alexis Aimé 2016 - Promising Young Artist - 2nd prizewinner](#) “Thank you so much for the wonderful opportunity of singing at the Bulgarian Embassy this past Friday. I had such a wonderful time and such a lovely experience singing for the amazing crowd that came.”

PARTNERS 6th Annual Opera Awards Competition
April 14 and, 15, 2018

Semifinal and Final rounds will take place at
The Lyceum
201 S. Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
free and open to the public.

Prizes for **PARTNERS** Competition have been
raised thanks to our members and donors:

First Prize: \$8,000
Second Prize: \$4,000

Cynthia Bianchi in honor of her sister Holly Bianchi
Dr. Robert Misbin
The Savada-Stevenson Family
F. Victoria Tresansky
Dr. Elaine R. Walter
and Members of **PARTNERS** for the Arts

Honorable Mention: \$1,000
Dr. James Trefil in honor of his mother Sylvia Trefil

Finalists' Encouragement Award: \$300 each
Drs. James and Wanda Trefil


To all, our most sincere THANK YOU!


5TH VOCAL AWARDS COMPETITION 2017



1st prizewinner
soprano
Mizuho Takeshita



2nd prizewinner soprano
Meroë Khalia Adeeb



3rd prizewinner soprano
Colleen Daly

PROMISING YOUNG ARTIST AWARDS



1st prizewinner
mezzo-soprano **Siena**
Licht Miller



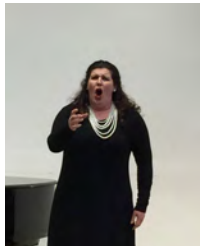
2nd prizewinner soprano
Rose-Antionette Bellino

HONORABLE MENTION



Soprano
Ariana Wehr

FINALISTS



Soprano **Elizabeth Baldwin**, baritone **Andrew Paulson**, and soprano **Rachel Blaustein**

JUDGES FOR THE SEMIFINAL ROUND



Director Joe Banno



Maestro Thomas Colohan
Washington Master Chorale



Maestro Adam Turner
Virginia Opera

ACCOMPANIST SEMIFINALS & FINALS



Frank Conlon

JUDGES FOR THE FINAL ROUND



Maestro Stan Engebretson
National Philharmonic of Strathmore



Maestro James Harp
Baltimore Lyric Opera



Peter Russell
Vocal Arts DC



DON'T MISS **PARTNERS'** PARTNERS PRODUCTIONS



Baltimore Concert Opera
baltimoreconcertopera.com



Lyric Opera Baltimore
lyricoperahouse.com

OPERA DELAWARE

Opera Delaware
operade.org



Opera Lafayette
operalafayette.org



Maryland Lyric Opera
marylandlyricopera.org



Bulgarian Music Society



Alan Savada - travel agent



Urban Arias
urbanarias.org



Virginia Opera
vaopera.org



Washington Concert Opera
concertopera.org

The National Philharmonic at Strathmore
nationalphilharmonic.org

Bulgarian Music Society
bulgarianmusicsociety.org

SAVE THE DATES - 2018

In a co-presentation with **PARTNERS**, **Bulgarian Music Society Musicale**
featuring **PARTNERS** 2017 Competition prizewinners
Friday, February 23 - 7:00 pm at the Bulgarian Embassy
1621 22nd St NW, Washington, DC 20008
Free and open to the public

2018 **PARTNERS** 6th Annual Opera Competition
Semifinal round: Saturday, April 14 - 1:30 pm
Final round: Sunday, April 15 - 2:00 pm
The Lyceum: 201 S. Washington Street, Alexandria, VA
Free and open to the public

Saturday, May 12 **Informance**

Saturday, June 9 **Potluck**

September, Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, November 3 **Informance**

PARTNERS for the Arts, Inc.

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PARTNERS for the Arts, Inc. is a nonprofit organization qualified under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3).