



# PARTNERS for the Arts

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## NEWSLETTER

2016

**PARTNERS 5th Opera Competition 2017**

Semifinal round: Friday, April 8 - 1:30 pm

Final round: Saturday, April 9 - 1:30 pm

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

Free and open to the public

**We started with a dream, YOU made it possible!**

**PARTNERS** began the year with its 4th annual vocal competition on April 16 and 17 at the Lyceum in Alexandria. It was a success. The **Young Singers Awards** went to two very talented singers. Besides the three major prizewinners, a **Special Award**, determined by our judges, went to a 4th singer. No doubt a great future is ahead for all these singers.

For the second year in a row, **PARTNERS** celebrated its anniversary at **Twin Oaks** on April 18, at the elegant residence of Taipei's Economic and Cultural Representative to the United States (TECRO), thanks to the graciousness of **His Excellency Dr. Lyushun Shen and Mrs. Shen**. Winners of the vocal competition of 2016 delighted the audience. We also were very pleased to have baritone **Norman Garrett** - our 2013 first prizewinner - who made time in his busy schedule to sing for us again. The residence was filled to capacity. At the end of the musicale, we deviated slightly from opera and led by Ambassador Shen, we all joined in singing musical tunes. We could not have commemorated our anniversary on a happier note.

**The Bulgarian Music Society**, in cooperation with **PARTNERS**, presented our 2016 competition winners on April 22, in a recital at the **Bulgarian Embassy**. In so doing, one more platform was presented for our stars to perform.

**Our next competition will be on April 7 and 8, 2017** at the Lyceum in Alexandria. **We are happy to announce that the prize awards will be increased thanks to our members and the generosity of our prize award donors.** Save the date and come to hear the future stars of tomorrow.

**Dear friends, it is your continued support that enables our mission to be a reality. THANK YOU.**

Please visit our web site to learn more about **PARTNERS** events: www: [partners4thearts.org](http://partners4thearts.org). Furthermore, please continue your support by attending **PARTNERS'** partners productions.

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**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 that nurture audience development and love of classical music and the arts.

# 2016 - ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AT TWIN OAKS



Mezzo-soprano **Sam Jew Kim** - Judges Special Award 2016, counter-tenor **Matthew Reese** – second prizewinner 2015, **Mrs. Shen and His Excellency Ambassador Lyshun Shen** , baritone **Norman Garrett**, 1st prizewinner 2013, and accompanist **Frank Conlon**



We could have sung all night! 🎵🎵🎵🎵🎵🎵🎵🎵🎵

## HIGHLIGHTS



## MUSICALE AT THE BULGARIAN EMBASSY



Accompanist **Frank Conlon**, 1st prizewinner mezzo-soprano **Olivia Vote**, Her Excellency Ambassador **Elena Poptodorova**, 2nd prizewinner bass **Timothy Bruno**, 2nd prizewinner 2015 counter-tenor **Matthew Reese**, 2015 finalist, soprano **Coleen Daly**, **Leilane Grimaldi Mehler**, and **Dr. Ivo Kaltchev** Bulgarian Music Society Music Director.



# YOU made it possible! Our most sincere THANK YOU!

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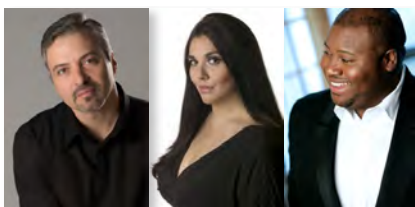
\*deceased

Our most sincere thanks to  
Tomm Sibert, web site  
designer, - Whole-Tech  
Solutions, LLC

Photo credit for the  
anniversary celebration  
and the final round of  
the competition:  
Neshan H. Nailtchayan  
Photography

Can you believe we have already given close to \$40,000 in prizes (competitions and musicales). **PARTNERS** made a difference in the lives of fifty-two singers! This would not be possible without your generosity and support. **BIG THANK YOU** to all!

### 2013 Inaugural Musicale



Baritone **Gustavo Ahualli**, soprano **Fabiana Bravo**, tenor **Issachah Savage**

### 2013 Musicale at the Bulgarian Residence



Mezzo-soprano **Leah Hawkins**



Soprano **Yeji Yoon**



Pianists **Ivo Kaltchev** and **Ralitza Patcheva**



### 2013 First Competition



**Finalists:** baritone **Kihyun Moon**, baritone **Jonathan McCullough**, counter-tenor **Matthew Reese**, soprano **Meredith Marano**, soprano **Laura Stuart**, 1st prizewinner baritone **Norman Garrett**, 2nd prizewinner tenor **Joshua Baumgardner**, and 3rd prizewinner baritone **Jeffrey Gates**

### 2014 Second Competition



The winners and finalists from left to right: Finalist baritone **Andrew T. Pardini**, 2nd prizewinner soprano **Emily Casey**, 3rd prizewinner bass **Joseph Chee**, finalist tenor **Brendan Sliger**, 1st prizewinner soprano **Jennifer Cherest**, and finalists soprano **Grace Gilday**, soprano **Callie Wohletz**, and tenor **Brent R. Turner**

### 2014 Musicale at the Bulgarian Embassy



Accompanist **Frank Conlon**, soprano **Meredith Marano**, tenor **Joshua Baumgardner** and baritone **Norman Garrett**

### 2014 Anniversary Celebration



Soprano **Meredith Marano**, baritone **Jeffrey Gates**, and tenor **Joshua Baumgardner**

### 2015 Musicale at the Bulgarian Embassy



Soprano **Grace Gilday**, soprano **Emily Case**, and bass **Joseph Chee**

### 2015 Anniversary Celebration



Baritone **Jonathan McCullough**, soprano **Jennifer Cherest**, soprano **Emily Casey**, baritone **Andrew Pardini**, and accompanist **Joy Schreier**

### 2015 Third Competition



1st prizewinner baritone **Christopher Magiera**, 2nd prizewinner counter-tenor **Matthew Reese**, 3rd prizewinner bass **Anthony Schneider**



# 4TH VOCAL AWARDS COMPETITION 2016



**1st prizewinner** mezzo-soprano **Olivia Vote** and **Victoria Tresansky**



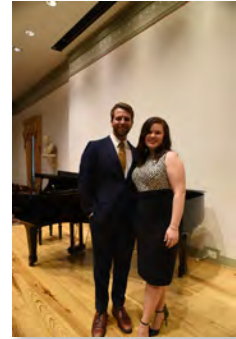
**2nd prizewinner** bass **Timothy Bruno** and **Dr. Elaine Walter**

**ACCOMPANIST**  
**SEMIFINALS &**  
**FINALS**



**Eileen Cornett**

## YOUNG ARTIST AWARDS



**1st prizewinner** - baritone - **Johnathan McCullough** and **2nd prizewinner** soprano **Alexis Aimé**



## JUDGES FINALS

Maestro **Teri Murai** - Music Director of the Peabody Symphony and Peabody Concert Orchestra, **Judges Special Award** - mezzo-soprano **Sam Jew Kim**, maestro **Robert Wood** - artistic director Urban Arias, and **Brendan Cooke** -artistic director of the Baltimore Concert Opera and OperaDelaware



**Leilane Grimaldi Mehler**, **2nd prizewinner**- bass - **Timothy Bruno**, **Victoria Tresansky**, **1st prizewinner** - mezzo-soprano - **Olivia Vote**, **3rd prizewinner** - soprano **Lara Lynn McGill**, and **Cynthia Bianchi**



Competition Finalists - first row: soprano **Diana Thompson**, **Dr. Wanda O. Trefil**, and soprano **Cortney Ruckman**; back row: baritone **Andrew Paulson**, **Dr. James Trefil**, and tenor **Brent Turner**

## JUDGES SEMIFINALS

**Joe Banno** director and classical music critic, **Maestro John Edward Niles** program director of the Institute for Young Dramatic Voices/The American Wagner Project, and **Maestro Stan Engebretson** artistic director of the National Philharmonic Chorale



**Young Artists Awards**  
**The Misbin Family Memorial Awards**  
donated by **Dr. Robert Misbin**



**1st Prize**  
donated by **Victoria Tresansky** and **PARTNERS**



**2nd Prize**  
**The Vincent P. Walter Jr. Memorial Award**  
donated by **Dr. Elaine Walter**



**3rd Prize**  
**The Holly Bianchi Memorial Award**  
donated by **Cynthia Bianchi**



**Encouragement Awards**  
donated by **Drs. James and Wanda O. Trefil**

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



**Baltimore Concert Opera**  
[baltimoreconcertopera.com](http://baltimoreconcertopera.com)



**Lyric Opera Baltimore**  
[lyricoperahouse.com](http://lyricoperahouse.com)



**Opera Delaware**  
[operade.org](http://operade.org)



**Opera Lafayette**  
[operalafayette.org](http://operalafayette.org)



**Maryland Lyric Opera**  
[marylandlyricopera.org](http://marylandlyricopera.org)



**Urban Arias**  
[urbanarias.org](http://urbanarias.org)



**Virginia Opera**  
[vaopera.org](http://vaopera.org)



**Washington Concert Opera**  
[concertopera.org](http://concertopera.org)



**The National Philharmonic at Strathmore**  
[nationalphilharmonic.org](http://nationalphilharmonic.org)



**Bulgarian Music Society**  
[bulgarianmusicsociety.org](http://bulgarianmusicsociety.org)

Our 2017 prize awards were raised thanks to our members and the generosity of our prize award donors.

**Emerging Artist Awards** – ages 25 to 35

First Prize: \$7,000 donated by Victoria Tresansky and **PARTNERS**;

Second Prize: \$3,000 *The Vincent P. Walter, Jr. Memorial Award* donated by Dr. Elaine Walter and **PARTNERS**

Third Prize: \$1,500 *The Holly Bianchi Memorial Award* donated by Cynthia Bianchi and **PARTNERS**

Honorable Mention: \$1,000 *The Sylvia Trefil Honorable Mention Award* donated by Dr. James Trefil

Encouragement Award to the other finalists: \$300 each donated by Drs. James and Wanda Trefil

**Promising Young Artist Awards** – ages 21 to 24

First Prize: \$1,500; Second Prize: \$1,000 *The Misbin Family Memorial Award* donated by Dr. Robert Misbin

## **PARTNERS 5th Opera Competition 2017**

**Semifinal round: Friday, April 7 - 1:30 pm**

**Final round: Saturday, April 8 - 1:30 pm**

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

**Free and open to the public**

**PARTNERS for the Arts, Inc.**

E-mail: [partners4thearts@aol.com](mailto:partners4thearts@aol.com) - Web site: [partners4thearts.org](http://partners4thearts.org)  
Tel: 703/241-5496 - Fax: 703/241-0584

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