

2014 LOTTE LENYA COMPETITION

Finals - Daytime Round

11:00 am



Kilbourn Hall

Eastman School of Music

Saturday, 12 April 2014

The Lotte Lenya Competition
is sponsored by



Each finalist will have fifteen minutes in which to present a program of four contrasting selections, as listed in the program below. To ensure that each contestant has the opportunity to sing his/her entire program, PLEASE WITHHOLD APPLAUSE UNTIL THE CONCLUSION OF THE FINAL SELECTION OF EACH CONTESTANT.

11:00 Jim Schubin, 24; Shane Schag, piano

"Run Away With Me"
from *The Unauthorized Biography of Samantha Brown* Lowdermilk/Kerrigan
"The Drinking Song" from *The Student Prince* Romberg/Donnelly
"Younger Than Springtime" from *South Pacific* Rodgers/Hammerstein
"Oh, the Rio Grande" from *Johnny Johnson* Weill/Green

11:15 Natalie Ballenger, 24; Thomas Rosenkranz, piano

"Je ne t'aime pas" Weill/Magre
"The Secret Service" from *Mr. President* Berlin
"I Want Magic!" from *A Streetcar Named Desire* Previn/Littell
"See, I'm Smiling" from *The Last Five Years* Brown

11:30 Arlo Hill, 27; Eric Svejcar, piano

"I am a pirate king" from *The Pirates of Penzance* Sullivan/Gilbert
"This is New" from *Lady in the Dark* Weill/Gershwin
"Put on Your Sunday Clothes" from *Hello, Dolly!* Herman
"Buddy's Blues" from *Follies* Sondheim

11:45 Heather Phillips, 29; Thomas Rosenkranz, piano

"O mio babbino caro" from *Gianni Schicchi* Puccini/Forzano
"Mr. Snow" from *Carousel* Rodgers/Hammerstein
"Gimme, Gimme" from *Thoroughly Modern Millie* Tesori/Scanlan
"Le train du ciel" from *Marie Galante* Weill/Deval

12:00 Carter Lynch, 26; Shane Schag, piano

"Oh, is there not one maiden breast?" from *The Pirates of Penzance* Sullivan/Gilbert
"Lonely House" from *Street Scene* Weill/Hughes
"She Loves Me" from *She Loves Me* Bock/Harnick
"What Is It About Her?" from *The Wild Party* Lipppa

12:15 Diana Rose Becker, 28; Thomas Rosenkranz, piano

"Emily's Goodbye Aria" from *Our Town* Rorem/McClatchy
"Moments in the Woods" from *Into the Woods* Sondheim
"Le train du ciel" from *Marie Galante* Weill/Deval
"Gorgeous" from *The Apple Tree* Bock/Harnick

12:30 Mikalai Znaharchuk, 25; Shane Schag, piano

"This Nearly Was Mine" from *South Pacific* Rodgers/Hammerstein
"Pilate's Dream" from *Jesus Christ Superstar* Webber/Rice
"This is New" from *Lady in the Dark* Weill/Gershwin
"Yesli b milyye devitsy" from *Pikovaya Dama* P. Tchaikovsky/M. Tchaikovsky

-intermission-

1:45 Lauren Michelle, 30; Shane Schag, piano

"Quando m'en vo" from *La bohème* Puccini/Giacosa, Illica
"Denn wie man sich bettet, so liegt man"
from *Aufstieg und Fall der Stadt Mahagonny* Weill/Brecht
"Summertime" from *Porgy and Bess* G. Gershwin/I. Gershwin, Heyward
"I'll Be Here" from *Ordinary Days* Gwon

2:00 Robert Ariza, 24; Thomas Rosenkranz, piano

"A wand'ring minstrel I" from *The Mikado* Sullivan/Gilbert
"How Much I Love You" from *One Touch of Venus* Weill/Nash
"Something's Coming" from *West Side Story* Bernstein/Sondheim
"She's a Woman" from *Kiss of the Spider Woman* Kander/Ebb

2:15 Rachel Cordeiro, 27; Shane Schag, piano

"Oh! la pitoyable aventure!" from *L'heure espagnole* Ravel/Franc-Nohain
"Your Daddy's Son" from *Ragtime* Flaherty/Ahrens
"Pirate Jenny" from *The Threepenny Opera* Weill/Brecht (Blitzstein)
"I Had Myself a True Love" from *St. Louis Woman* Arlen/Mercer

2:30 Ben Edquist, 23; Thomas Rosenkranz, piano

"Me" from *Beauty and the Beast* Menken/Ashman, Rice
"Lonely Town" from *On the Town* Bernstein/Comden, Green
"This is New" from *Lady in the Dark* Weill/Gershwin
"She Called Him 'Curt'" from *Three Decembers* Heggie/Scheer

2:45 Katie Travis, 27; Shane Schag, piano

"Baby Moon" Guettel
"I'll Show Him" from *Plain and Fancy* Hague/Horwitt
"That's Him" from *One Touch of Venus* Weill/Nash
"Laurie's Song" from *The Tender Land* Copland/Everett

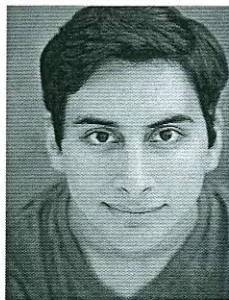
3:00 Norman Garrett, 31; Thomas Rosenkranz, piano

"È sogno? O realtà" from *Falstaff* Verdi/Boito
"Joey, Joey, Joey" from *The Most Happy Fella* Loesser
"Make Them Hear You" from *Ragtime* Flaherty/Ahrens
"Lost in the Stars" from *Lost in the Stars* Weill/Anderson

3:15 Briana Hunter, 28; Shane Schag, piano

"Seguidilla" from *Carmen* Bizet/Halévy, Meilhac
"Trouble Man" from *Lost in the Stars* Weill/Anderson
"You're Not Perfect Anymore" from *Living Room OCD* Blumenkrantz
"I Never Has Seen Snow" from *House of Flowers* Arlen/Capote

Competition Finalists



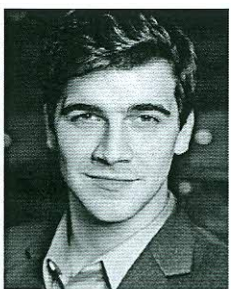
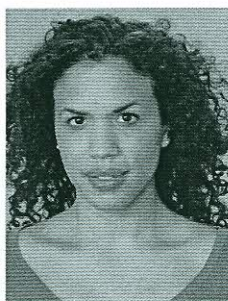
Robert Ariza is a senior musical theatre major at The University of Michigan. Originally from Queens, New York, Robert has been very active while at Michigan. UM credits include: *Carner & Gregor Live* (Featured Singer), *Dance With Me* (Featured Singer), Disney's Workshop of *Bedknobs and Broomsticks* (Radio Singer), *Crazy for You* (Bela Zangler), *Sunday in the Park with George* (Mr./Lee Randolph), and *Spring Awakening* (Hanschen). Robert has been a member of the resident company at Music Theatre of Wichita for the past two summers, performing in the US Premiere of *Betty Blue Eyes* (Francis Lockwood), *Mary Poppins* (Northbrook/Valentine), *Les Misérables* (Courfeyrac/Montparnasse), and *Legally Blonde* (Padamadan/Carlos). Robert was the recipient of the 2013 Roger Sturtevant Musical Theatre Award from the Actors' Equity Association. In 2012, he received the Emerging Talent Award from the Lotte Lenya Competition and is thrilled to participate in the finals this year.

A native of Santa Cruz, California, **Natalie Ballenger** earned a BM from the Eastman School of Music and a MM from the University of Southern California. In the 2012 Lenya Competition, Natalie was awarded the Lys Symonette Award for her performance of Weill's "Le train du ciel." Highlights from past productions include: Josephine in *HMS Pinafore*, Susie Trevor in *Lady Be Good*, Sarah Brown in *Guys and Dolls*, Blanche in *Dialogues of the Carmelites*, and most recently a debut at Avery Fisher Hall in NYC with National Chorale. Upcoming roles include: Kitty in *Orange Blossoms* (Light Opera of New York, April 2014) and Eliza in *My Fair Lady* (Ohio Light Opera, Summer 2014.) www.natalieballenger.com.



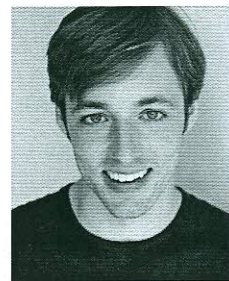
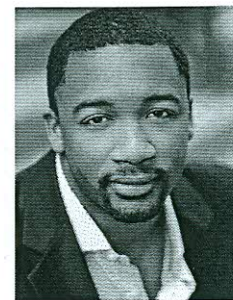
Diana Rose Becker, a native of Long Island, NY, studied Vocal Performance and Music Education at the Eastman School of Music. Diana made her European debut at the Deutsche Oper Berlin playing Maria in the International Tour of *West Side Story*. Regional credits include April in *Company*, Marianne Beaunoir in *The New Moon*, Princess Margaret in *The Student Prince*, Laurey Williams in *Oklahoma!*, Missy in *The Marvelous Wonderettes*, Dinah in *South Pacific*, and Olive in *The 25th... Spelling Bee*, among others. She has also been a part of multiple productions of Sheldon Harnick and Joe Raposo's *A Wonderful Life* (Mary Hatch) and Lerner and Loewe's *My Fair Lady* (Eliza Doolittle). Diana most recently performed in the Al Hirschfeld Theater in *Broadway Backwards*, an annual performance produced by Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. Diana currently lives in New York City. For more information, please visit www.DianaRoseBecker.com.

Mezzo-soprano **Rachel Cordeiro** is an opera singer with a theater background and a passion for dramatic performance. She has appeared in both music theater and drama productions as well as concerts and recitals. Highlights include being a featured vocalist at Carnegie Hall, Symphony Space, and Brooklyn Academy of Music's BAMCafé. Recent projects include *Masks*—a solo performance art piece, and recital featuring danzas, the classical music of Puerto Rico. A member of Actors' Equity and a Latin Grammy-nominated musician, Rachel holds a Master of Music in Classical Voice from Manhattan School of Music and a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Performance from Marymount Manhattan College. She is a student of Patricia McCaffrey, under whose guidance she recently made the transition to mezzo. This welcome change has afforded Rachel a new perspective and opened a brand new horizon of opportunities, the first of which is her move and subsequent start of an European career. www.rachelcordeiro.com



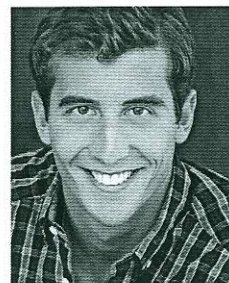
Ben Edquist is a first year graduate student at Rice University. Originally from Lake Jackson, Texas, Ben received his Bachelor of Music degree from Vanderbilt University last spring. Mr. Edquist's operatic roles include Sid in *Albert Herring*, Charlie in *Three Decembers*, Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte*, Him-Baritone in *Trouble in Tahiti*, and Sir John Falstaff in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Ben was a member of the Wolf Trap Opera Studio this past summer and performed the role of Antonio while also covering the role of Baron di Trombonok in *Il viaggio a Reims* with the Wolf Trap Opera Company. He has performed many musical theater roles with Light Opera Oklahoma and Brazosport Center Stages, including Gaston in *Beauty and the Beast*, Roy in *The Light in the Piazza*, Barnaby Tucker in *Hello, Dolly!*, and Nathan Detroit in *Guys and Dolls*. This summer, he will play the role of Jigger in *Carousel* with the Glimmerglass Festival.

Baritone **Norman Garrett** is a Domingo-Cafritz Artist at Washington National Opera, where this season he sings in *Tristan und Isolde* (Steuermann), *Moby-Dick* (Captain Gardiner), *Die Zauberflöte* (Papageno), and in the world premiere of Jeanine Tesori's *The Lion, the Unicorn and Me*. He recently performed with the Glimmerglass Festival and Opera Santa Barbara (*Amonasro/Aida*) and Kentucky Opera (*Moralès/Carmen*). A winner of the 2014 George London Foundation Competition, in the past three years he has garnered prizes in more than a dozen international vocal competitions including the Gerda Lissner, Sullivan, Jensen, Giulio Gari, Fort Worth Opera's McCammon, and Licia Albanese-Puccini Competitions. He is a graduate of the Academy of Vocal Arts, the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, and Texas Tech University. At Wolf Trap Opera, Norman sang Ford in *Falstaff* and Baron von Trombonok in Rossini's *Il viaggio a Reims* in 2013. He returns in 2014 for *Carmen* (Escamillo) and Milhaud's *Le pauvre matelot* (Son Ami).



Arlo Hill is an actor and singer on Broadway, Off-Broadway, and in cabarets and theaters throughout New York City. A graduate of Harvard University, Arlo appears in the Broadway cast of *The Phantom of the Opera* and in the cabaret *Jacques Brel Returns!* at the Triad. He was recently seen in the *Encores!* production of *The Most Happy Fella* at City Center. Other credits include *Little Me*, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, *Where's Charley?* (*Encores!*), and the televised, Emmy-nominated *Carousel* with the New York Philharmonic. A resident artist with Sightline Theater, Arlo has devised and performed in *Hold Music* (Ars Nova; Culture Project), *One Arm and a Leg* (HERE), and *that time...* (Dixon Place). Regional work includes *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* (Henry Spofford) and *Fiddler on the Roof* (Fyedka). Arlo's solo cabaret, *Asking for Trouble: Frank Loesser's Life in Songs*, premiered in New York in 2013.

Briana Elyse Hunter, born in Baltimore, MD, received her BA from Davidson College (NC) and MM at Manhattan School of Music. Previous credits include *Cendrillon* (*Cendrillon*), *Die Fledermaus* (Ida/Prince Orlofsky), *Iolantha* (Laura), *Summer and Smoke* (Rosa Gonzales), *Ragtime* (Sarah), and *The Ghosts of Versailles* (Woman w/ baby). She has worked under the direction of the Royal Shakespeare Company as both actress and vocal soloist in an original production *For Every Passion Something* that premiered at the Fringe Festival in Scotland. In addition to being awarded 2nd Alternate in MSM's Eisenberg-Fried Concerto Competition, she was a semi-finalist in Opera Theater Pittsburgh's Mildred Miller Competition, and a Finalist in the 2012 Lotte Lenya Competition. She has been on the rosters of I SING BEIJING and Sarasota Opera, and looks forward to joining Music Academy of the West this summer as the title character in its production of *Carmen*.



Carter Lynch is proud to be a Finalist in the 2014 Lotte Lenya Competition. Recently, he performed as Frederic in *The Pirates of Penzance* at Symphony Space in New York and at the historic Southern Theatre in Columbus, Ohio. Last fall, Carter toured the U.S. with *All Hands On Deck!* playing the lead tenor, John Handley. Other favorite credits include the National Tour of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* (u/s Beast, Gaston), *Jekyll & Hyde* (Jekyll/Hyde) and *Leave it to Jane* (Billy) with Musicals Tonight! Special thanks to Kim, Vicki, and Carolyn. And thank you, as always, to my wonderful parents, John and Peggy, for their constant love and support. BA Dramatic Arts 2010 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. www.carterplynch.com.

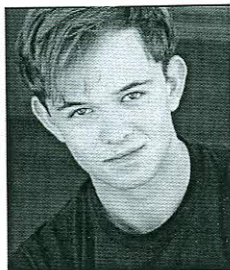
Acclaimed by the British Theatre Guide as a "luminous-voiced soprano" for her multidisciplinary theater work, Los Angeles native **Lauren Michelle** recently made her Aspen Music Festival debut as Nella in *Gianni Schicchi*. She has sung Susanna in *Le nozze di Figaro* for Opera UCLA and The Juilliard School, Helena in Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Banff, and Lauretta in *Gianni Schicchi* at Teatro Romano di Fiesole. In concert, Lauren made her European debut singing Villa-Lobos' *Bachianas Brasileiras Nº 5*, lied and chanson with Rencontres Musicales Internationales des Graves. She appeared with the Southeast Symphony singing Handel's *Messiah*, Poulenc's *Gloria*, and Rutter's *Requiem*. She was a 3rd Place Regional Finalist in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. She has been a young artist at Chautauqua Music Festival, Fall Island Vocal Arts Festival, and the Britten-Pears Programme. Lauren received a Master of Music from UCLA and a Bachelor of Music from The Juilliard School.





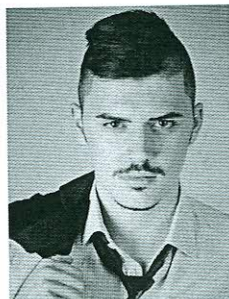
Born in North Canton, Ohio, soprano **Heather Phillips'** recent performances of Micaëla in *Carmen* at the Kentucky Opera were described as "simply glorious" and "glistening" by *Louisville-arts.com* and *Journal & Courier News* respectively. This past fall she was seen with Opera Southwest, New Mexico, as Zerlina in *Don Giovanni* and will be returning to New Mexico this upcoming summer as an apprentice artist with The Santa Fe Opera. She has received awards from the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, Gerda Lissner Foundation, the Irma M. Cooper Vocal Competition, and the Marcello Giordani Foundation, was a 2013 Lotte Lenya Competition Finalist, and recently made her Weill Recital Hall debut at Carnegie Hall as a finalist in the Nico Castel Master Singer Competition. In addition she has performed at the Cincinnati Opera, Lyric Opera of Kansas City, Aspen Opera Theater, Spivey Recital Hall, and internationally at the Opera Theatre of Lucca, Italy.

Jim Schubin is currently starring Off-Broadway as Matt in *The Fantasticks*, the longest running musical of all time. Previous regional credits include: *See How They Run* (The Intruder), *The Mudge Boy* (Scotty), *Beauty and the Beast* (Beast), *Chess* (Freddie), *Godspell* (Jesus), *Titanic* (Barrett), *Guys and Dolls* (Rusty Charlie), and *Almost Heaven* (Featured Soloist). Recent TV: *Boardwalk Empire* (Recurring). He holds a BFA in Musical Theatre from Emerson College. Huge thanks to my family for their love and support, Michael Kreutz for putting me on this path, Paul Lincoln for all of the guidance, and my wife, Joan, for her unending patience and love.



Originally from Michigan, **Katie Travis** is a versatile soprano equally at home in operetta and contemporary musical theater. Most recently, she was seen as Cosette in *Les Misérables* at the St. Louis MUNY with Norm Lewis and Hugh Panaro. She has performed principal roles with The Fireside Theater and Leiderkranz Opera Theater. Favorite roles include: Hope Cladwell in *Urinetown*, Eileen Sherwood in *Wonderful Town*, Emma Carew in *Jekyll and Hyde*, Rosabella in *The Most Happy Fella*, Lily Craven in *The Secret Garden*, Yum-Yum in *The Mikado*, and Elsie Maynard in *The Yeomen of the Guard*. She cares deeply about global music education and has taught music throughout the world. Proud member of Actors Equity. Love and thanks to her family, friends, Morgan, and the Kurt Weill Foundation for this amazing opportunity. For Grandma and the beauty of believing in each other!

Bass-baritone **Mikalai Znaharchuk** is a recent graduate of the Belarussian State Academy of Music (opera/vocal department), where he played the roles of Frank in *Die Fledermaus* by Johann Strauss and Guglielmo in *Così fan Tutte*. Mikalai is comfortable in many different performance styles, ranging from ballad opera to rock-opera. In 2012 he played the role of Stacey Jaxx in the musical *Rock of Ages* in Malaysia, Thailand, and Singapore. During three years of singing in the classical vocal art band "Belarusy" he played in the rock-opera *Guslyar* of Janka Kupala and gave hundreds of concerts in Belarus, Russia, Poland, and Lithuania. Vocalist, songwriter, and producer of the band Prosspekt, Mikalai won the National Music Award as "Debut of the Year" in Belarus in late 2011.



Judges of the Competition

Rob Berman is in his seventh season as music director of New York City Center's *Encores!* series, where he has conducted 17 productions including Kurt Weill's *Lost in the Stars* and most recently, Frank Loesser's *The Most Happy Fella*. He conducted the cast recordings of the *Encores!* productions of *Merrily We Roll Along*, *Pipe Dream*, and *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*. Mr. Berman's Broadway conducting credits include *Finian's Rainbow*, *Irving Berlin's White Christmas*, *The Pajama Game*, *The Apple Tree*, *Wonderful Town*, and *Promises, Promises*. He won an Emmy Award for his work as music director of the Kennedy Center Honors (CBS), and he won a Helen Hayes Award for his musical direction of the Kennedy Center's production of *Sunday in the Park with George*. He has conducted for Barbara Cook with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and he was also music director for the PBS presentation of *A Broadway Celebration: In Performance at the White House*. Other recent credits include *Passion* at Classic Stage Company and a new recording of Jerome Kern's *Roberta*. Upcoming projects include *Bright Star*, a new musical by Steve Martin and Edie Brickell. Mr. Berman is delighted to return as a judge for the Lotte Lenya Competition for the fifth time.

Judy Kaye is a two-time Tony Award winner for her performances as Carlotta in *The Phantom of the Opera* and Estonia Dulworth in *Nice Work If You Can Get It*. She has been nominated twice more for her performance in *Mamma Mia!* and as the vocally challenged Florence Foster Jenkins in *Souvenir*. She created the role of Emma Goldman in the Broadway production of *Ragtime*, after having played it in the Los Angeles production, where she won the Ovation Award for best featured actress in a musical. Other roles in a Broadway career spanning four decades include Lily Garland in *On the Twentieth Century*, Mrs. Lovett in *Sweeney Todd*, and Rizzo in *Grease*. Opera companies with which Ms. Kaye has appeared include the Santa Fe Opera (Musetta in *La Bohème*, Eurydice in *Orpheus in the Underworld*, and Lucy Lockett in *The Beggar's Opera*), New York City Opera, Canadian Opera, and Portland Opera. Stage appearances across the United States range from Sally in *Follies*, Maggie in *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, Penny in *You Can't Take It With You*, Kitty Dean in *The Royal Family* to Mama Rose in *Gypsy*. She has sung with symphony orchestras around the world and has performed at the White House twice; several of those performances were also televised. Weill appearances include *From Berlin to Broadway* and an all-Weill program with the Baltimore Symphony; she was featured in the TV documentary "Kurt Weill in America" produced by the Hessische Rundfunk in Germany. Most recently, she appeared in *Little Me* with New York City Center *Encores!* and in *Guys and Dolls* at Carnegie Hall. In addition to her busy schedule on stage, she has recorded numerous discs, and is the voice of Kinsey Millhone for the Sue Grafton/Random House Audio Book "Alphabet Mystery" series. For more information visit judykaye.com.

James Robinson is the Artistic Director of Opera Theatre of St. Louis, where he has directed Weill's *Street Scene*, Adams' *Nixon in China* and *The Death of Klinghoffer*, Chin's *Alice in Wonderland*, and the world premiere of Terence Blanchard's *Champion*. Last fall he directed the world premiere of Tobias Picker's *Dolores Claiborne* for the San Francisco Opera. His work has been seen at the Santa Fe Opera, Houston Grand Opera, New York City Opera, the Wexford Festival, Seattle Opera, Opera Australia, Royal Swedish Opera, Welsh National Opera, Glimmerglass Opera, Minnesota Opera, and the Canadian Opera Company. He has also directed Bernstein's *Mass* for the London Symphony and Honegger's *Jeanne d'Arc* for the Baltimore Symphony. This summer he will direct the world premieres of Ricky Ian Gordon's 27 for Opera Theatre of St. Louis and Huang Ruo's *Dr. Sun Yat-sen* for the Santa Fe Opera.

Lenya Competition Winners in the Spotlight

In its first fifteen years, the Kurt Weill Foundation has awarded over a half-million dollars in prize money to young performers and continues to support previous winners with career development grants. Previous winners enjoy successful stage, concert, and recording careers around the globe. In the 2013-14 season alone, their credits range from Broadway (Morgan James, *Motown The Musical*; Kyle Scatliffe, *Les Misérables*; Jacob Keith Watson, *Violet*; Lauren Worsham, *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*), the West End (Kyle Scatliffe, *The Scottsboro Boys*), national tours (Cooper Grodin, Amy Justman, *The Phantom of the Opera*; Ariela Morgenstern, *Flashdance The Musical*), and regional theaters (Doug Carpenter, *The Most Happy Fella*, Goodspeed Musicals, and *South Pacific*, Paper Mill Playhouse; Analisa Leaming, *Arlington*, Magic Theatre San Francisco) to major opera houses including the Metropolitan Opera (Paul Corona, Ginger Costa-Jackson, Megan Marino), Houston Grand Opera (Liam Bonner, Rodell Rosel), Los Angeles Opera (Liam Bonner, Jonathan Michie, Rodell Rosel), Hamburg Staatsoper (Rebecca Jo Loeb), and Teatro Real Madrid (Noah Stewart).

About the Lotte Lenya Competition

In 1998, to celebrate the centenary of Lotte Lenya (1898-1981), an extraordinary singer/actress and one of the foremost interpreters of the music of her husband, Kurt Weill, the Board of Trustees of the Kurt Weill Foundation for Music approved President Kim Kowalke's proposal to establish an annual Lotte Lenya Competition with the inaugural contest coinciding with Sibley Music Library's receipt of Weill's holograph scores from Vienna. Even as the competition has grown into an international event, the Eastman School has continued to host the finals.

The Lotte Lenya Competition recognizes talented young singer/actors ages 19-32 who are dramatically and musically convincing in wide-ranging modes of theater music by Kurt Weill and other composers. More than a vocal competition, the Lenya Competition emphasizes idiomatic performance and the acting of songs within a dramatic context. Competition guidelines for 2014 require each contestant to prepare four selections: one aria from the operatic or operetta repertoire; one theatrical selection by Kurt Weill; and two songs from the American musical theater repertoire, one from the "Golden Age" (pre-1968) and one from 1968 or later. The Weill selection(s) and the opera/operetta aria must be sung in their original languages, keys, and arrangements.

For the first round, contestants submitted a preliminary audition video of their four repertoire selections. From these submissions, 29 semi-finalists auditioned live in New York for adjudicator/coaches Rebecca Luker and Jeanine Tesori. After the semi-finals, 14 finalists were invited to Rochester to compete in the finals. The Grace Keagy Award for Outstanding Vocal Promise was given to Brian Vu of New Haven, CT, and eight young singers received Emerging Talent Awards of \$500.

The 2014 finalists are competing for top prizes of \$15,000, \$10,000 and \$7,500. Each finalist receives a prize of at least \$1,000 and an honorarium to defray the costs of traveling to the finals. In addition to the top prizes, judges may give Lys Symonette Awards, named in honor of Weill's musical assistant on Broadway and Lenya's longtime accompanist and advisor. In awarding more than \$500,000 in prizes and awards since the competition began, the Kurt Weill Foundation has recognized the talent and supported the careers of dozens of rising stars. Learn more at www.kwf.org/LLC.



Singing the Story, a new documentary about the Lotte Lenya Competition, recently had its broadcast premiere on WXXI-TV. A shorter version is available for viewing at:

YouTube.com/KurtWeillFoundation

The Kurt Weill Foundation is grateful to the University of Rochester's Eastman School of Music for hosting today's competition in Kilbourn Hall. In particular, thanks to Keith C. Elder, Director of Concert Activities; Julia Ng, Assistant Director of Concert Operations; the Concert Office staff; Helene Snihur, Assistant Director of Public Relations; and Nana Stotz, Operations Coordinator, Technology and Media Production.

Competition Administration for the Kurt Weill Foundation:

*Kim H. Kowalke, President
Carolyn Weber, Director
Brady Sansone, Office Manager
Kate Chisholm, Promotion Manager*

The Kurt Weill Foundation for Music, 7 East 20th Street, New York, NY 10003. www.kwf.org

The Kurt Weill Foundation for Music, Inc., administers, promotes, and perpetuates the legacies of Kurt Weill and Lotte Lenya. It encourages broad dissemination and appreciation of Weill's music through support of performances, productions, recordings, and scholarship; it fosters understanding of Weill's and Lenya's lives and work within diverse cultural contexts; and, building upon the legacies of both, it nurtures talent, particularly in the creation, performance, and study of musical theater in its various manifestations and media.