

Lotte Lenya

LOTTE LENYA COMPETITION

A Program of The Kurt Weill Foundation for Music

2015 LOTTE LENYA COMPETITION FINALS

Daytime Round | Saturday, 18 April 2015, 11 AM

Kilbourn Hall | Eastman School of Music

ABOUT THE LOTTE LENYA COMPETITION

In 1998, to celebrate the centenary of the birth 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.

The Lotte Lenya Competition recognizes talented young singer/actors ages 19-32 who are dramatically and musically convincing in wide-ranging theater repertoire, from opera/opera to contemporary Broadway musicals, with a focus on the works of Kurt Weill. More than a vocal competition, the Lenya Competition emphasizes idiomatic performance and the acting of songs and arias within a dramatic context. Competition guidelines for 2015 require each contestant to prepare four selections: one theatrical selection by Kurt Weill; two songs from the American musical theater repertoire (one from the pre-1968 "Golden Age" and one from 1968 or later); and one aria from the operatic or opera repertoire. The Weill selection(s) and the opera/opera aria must be sung in their original theatrical versions and languages (with the exception of authorized English translations of *The Threepenny Opera* and *Happy End*).

For the preliminary round, contestants representing seventeen countries on four continents auditioned by submitting a video of their four repertoire selections or participating in live auditions. Twenty-eight semi-finalists then auditioned for adjudicator/coaches Judy Blazer and Andy Einhorn in New York on 13-14 March, and fourteen finalists were invited to compete in today's finals. Following the preliminary round, the Kurt Weill Foundation presented Emerging Talent Awards of \$500 to eleven young singers and the Grace Keagy Award for Outstanding Vocal Promise to Lesley Baird of Los Angeles.

The 2015 finalists are competing for top prizes of \$15,000, \$10,000 and \$7,500. Each finalist will receive a prize of at least \$1,000 and an honorarium to defray the cost 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, as well as the Carolyn Weber Award, inaugurated this year in honor of Weber for her dedication to the growth and success of the Competition during her sixteen years as Kurt Weill Foundation Director.

In awarding more than \$600,000 in prizes and awards since the Competition began, the Kurt Weill Foundation has recognized the talents of dozens of rising stars. Since 2012, the Foundation has supported the career advancement of previous prizewinners through Professional Development Grants, which winners have used for voice lessons, acting classes, repertoire coaching, language studies, travel to auditions, and more. Learn more about the Lotte Lenya Competition at www.kwf.org/LLC.

Each finalist will have fifteen minutes in which to present a program of four contrasting selections. 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	Carter Lynch, 27	Shane Schag, piano
	"Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin'," from <i>Oklahoma!</i>	Rodgers/Hammerstein
	"When the Air Sings of Summer," from <i>The Old Maid and the Thief</i>	Menotti
	"It Never Was You," from <i>Knickerbocker Holiday</i>	Weill/Anderson
	"What Is It About Her?" from <i>The Wild Party</i>	Lippa
11:15	Katherine Riddle, 24	Lyndon Meyer, piano
	"Mister Snow," from <i>Carousel</i>	Rodgers/Hammerstein
	"What Good Would the Moon Be?" from <i>Street Scene</i>	Weill/Hughes
	"Mein Herr Marquis," from <i>Die Fledermaus</i>	J. Strauss/Haffner, Genée
	"Stars and the Moon," from <i>Songs for a New World</i>	Brown
11:30	Adam Fieldson, 26	Shane Schag, piano
	"Lotteriegang Tango," from <i>Der Silbersee</i>	Weill/Kaiser
	"Younger Than Springtime," from <i>South Pacific</i>	Rodgers/Hammerstein
	"Anges du paradis," from <i>Mireille</i>	Gounod/Carré
	"At the Fountain," from <i>Sweet Smell of Success</i>	Hamlisch/Carnelia
11:45	Talya Lieberman, 30	Lyndon Meyer, piano
	"I'm a Stranger Here Myself," from <i>One Touch of Venus</i>	Weill/Nash
	"When Did I Fall in Love?" from <i>Fiorello!</i>	Bock/Harnick
	"Non, monsieur mon mari," from <i>Les mamelles de Tirésias</i>	Poulenc
	"Children of the Wind," from <i>Rags</i>	Strouse/Schwartz
12:00	Jim Schubert, 25	Shane Schag, piano
	"Lonely House," from <i>Street Scene</i>	Weill/Hughes
	"Maria," from <i>West Side Story</i>	Bernstein/Sondheim
	"Johnny's Song," from <i>Johnny Johnson</i>	Weill/Green
	"Proud Lady," from <i>The Baker's Wife</i>	Schwartz
12:15	Annie Sherman, 24	Lyndon Meyer, piano
	"I Don't Know What I'd Do Without You,"	
	from <i>A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder</i>	Lutvak/Freedman
	"Nannas Lied"	Weill/Brecht
	"Je suis encore," from <i>Manon</i>	Massenet/Meilhac, Gille
	"My White Knight," from <i>The Music Man</i>	Willson
12:30	Michael Maliakel, 26	Shane Schag, piano
	"Love Song," from <i>Love Life</i>	Weill/Lerner
	"When the Air Sings of Summer," from <i>The Old Maid and the Thief</i>	Menotti
	"Deli," from <i>newyorkers</i>	Weiner/Slater
	"A New Town is a Blue Town" from <i>The Pajama Game</i>	Adler/Ross

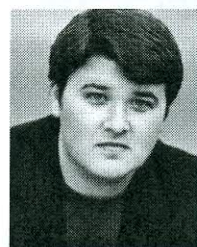
— INTERMISSION —

1:45	Florian Peters, 27	Lyndon Meyer, piano
	"Ich bin nur ein armer Wandergesell," from <i>Der Vetter aus Dingsda</i>	Künneke/Holler, Oliven
	"Bilbao Song," from <i>Happy End</i>	Weill/Brecht
	"Maria," from <i>West Side Story</i>	Bernstein/Sondheim
	"Heaven on Their Minds," from <i>Jesus Christ Superstar</i>	Webber/Rice
2:00	Christine Cornish Smith, 24	Shane Schag, piano
	"Will He Like Me?" from <i>She Loves Me</i>	Bock/Harnick
	"Mistress of the Senator," from <i>Hello Again</i>	LaChiusa
	"Kiss Me Again," from <i>Mlle. Modiste</i>	Herbert/Blossom
	"That's Him," from <i>One Touch of Venus</i>	Weill/Nash
2:15	Anthony Heinemann, 27	Lyndon Meyer, piano
	"The Streets of Dublin," from <i>A Man of No Importance</i>	Flaherty/Ahrens
	"Dies Bildnis," from <i>Die Zauberflöte</i>	Mozart/Schikaneder
	"Epitaph," from <i>The Threepenny Opera</i>	Weill/Brecht (trans. Feingold)
	"She Loves Me," from <i>She Loves Me</i>	Bock/Harnick
2:30	Briana Silvie Gantsweg, 24	Shane Schag, piano
	"Non so più cosa son," from <i>Le nozze di Figaro</i>	Mozart/Da Ponte
	"Mister Snow," from <i>Carousel</i>	Rodgers/Hammerstein
	"Perfect," from <i>Edges</i>	Pasek, Paul
	"Je ne t'aime pas"	Weill/Magre
2:45	Jordan Davidson, 24	Lyndon Meyer, piano
	"She Loves Me," from <i>She Loves Me</i>	Bock/Harnick
	"It Never Was You," from <i>Knickerbocker Holiday</i>	Weill/Anderson
	"Drinking Song (A Flagon of Wine)," from <i>The Vagabond King</i>	Friml/Hooker, Post
	"Taking Flight," from <i>Allison Under the Stars</i>	Goldrich/Heisler
3:00	Lauren Michelle, 31	Shane Schag, piano
	"My Own Morning," from <i>Hallelujah, Baby</i>	Styne/Green, Comden
	"Denn wie mann sich bettet, so liegt man," from <i>Aufstieg und Fall der Stadt Mahagonny</i>	Weill/Brecht
	"I'll Be Here," from <i>Ordinary Days</i>	Gwon
	"My Man's Gone Now," from <i>Porgy and Bess</i>	G. Gershwin/Heyward, I. Gershwin
3:15	Robin Bailey, 29	Lyndon Meyer, piano
	"Maria," from <i>West Side Story</i>	Bernstein/Sondheim
	"Prologue," from <i>The Rape of Lucretia</i>	Britten/Duncan
	"Lonely House," from <i>Street Scene</i>	Weill/Hughes
	"What Is It About Her?" from <i>The Wild Party</i>	Lippa

Competition Finalists



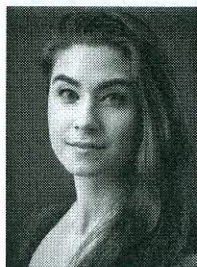
Robin Bailey (London, UK): Roles include Rodolpho in the Olivier Award-winning OperaUpClose production of *La bohème*, Don Ottavio in *Don Giovanni*, Tony in *West Side Story* (Grange Park Opera), Chevalier (cover) in *Dialogues des Carmélites* (Grange Park Opera), and Fenton in *Falstaff* (Iford Opera Festival). Robin has appeared with Polyphony, BBC singers, the Gabrieli consort, and was a founding member of the award-winning Voces8. The recipient of the Young Artist's Prize at France's Les Azuriales Competition, Robin can also be heard on film track recordings of *Dracula Untold*, *The Great Gatsby*, *Prometheus*, and *Dark Shadows*. He completed his Bachelor of Music degree at the Royal Academy of Music and is working toward a Masters of Music/Opera at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Future engagements include extracts from Bellini's *I Capuleti e I Montecchi* at the Royal Albert Hall, Marco in *The Gondoliers* and Nanki-Poo in *The Mikado* for Buxton Festival Opera this summer.



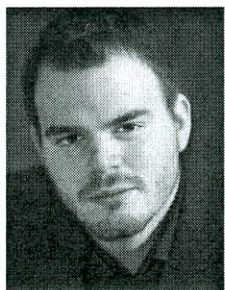
Jordan Davidson (New York, USA): The 2012 First Prize winner in Syracuse's Civic Morning Musicals Competition just completed a term as a Young Artist at Utah Festival Opera and was also a 2013 Studio Artist at Saratoga Opera. While a 2011 College Light Opera Resident Artist, Jordan appeared as The Conductor in *On the Twentieth Century*, Andrew Carnes in *Oklahoma!*, and Harrison Howell in *Kiss Me, Kate*. While a student at the Crane School of Music, SUNY Potsdam, Jordan performed with the Crane Opera Ensemble. Credits include: Dema (*L'Egisto*), Albert (*Albert Herring*), Gabey (*On The Town*), Ferrando (*Così fan tutte*), King Kaspar (*Amahl and the Night Visitors*), and Florville (*Il signor Bruschino*). The New Yorker is finishing his studies toward a Masters of Music in Vocal Performance at James Madison University this semester and will continue with his DMA in Vocal Performance, Pedagogy, and Literature in the Fall.



Adam Fieldson (Nebraska, USA): The Nebraskan's credits include performances as Nicely Nicely in *Guys and Dolls* and Galahad in *A Connecticut Yankee* at Ohio Light Opera Company, Eisenstein in *Die Fledermaus* at New York Opera Exchange and Jack in *Into the Woods* at Cedar Rapids Opera Theatre. Other performances include his Carnegie Hall debut in 2013 as the tenor soloist in Schubert's Mass in G presented by Manhattan Concert Productions. Adam is the 2012 winner of the Musical Theatre division of the Hal Leonard Vocal Competition. He holds both a Bachelors and Masters of Music from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where he performed the title role in *Candide*, Nerone in *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, Ly-sander in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Romeo in *Roméo et Juliette* in UNL productions. Adam currently lives in NYC, but is planning a move to Minneapolis this summer to be closer to friends and family and join the city's thriving arts community.



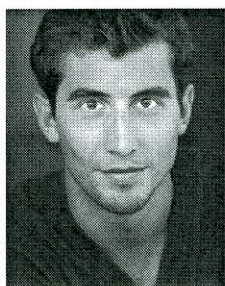
Briana Silvie Gantsweg (California, USA): Originally from the San Francisco Bay Area, Briana now calls Brooklyn home. Briana recently completed her undergraduate degree in Music at UCLA, where she performed Lillian Holiday in *Happy End*, Valletto in *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, and L'enfant in *L'enfant et les sortilèges*. She graduated as a theater major from the Interlochen Arts Academy, where she played Gertrude McFuzz in *Seussical* and Meg March in *Little Women*. Equally at home in musical and dramatic repertoire, Briana has been the recipient of the "Fine Arts Award" and "Maddy Summer Artist Award" from the Interlochen Center for the Arts, a "National YoungArts Foundation Award," and the second-place prize of the Walter Jurmann Vocal Competition. Briana's voice can be heard on video-game, musical, and feature-film soundtrack recordings for companies including Sony Music Entertainment Japan, Hal Leonard, MTI Broadway Jr., Skywalker Sound, and Universal Pictures.



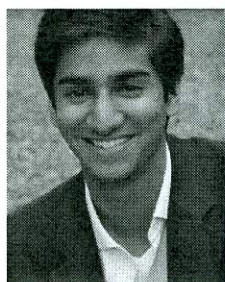
Anthony Heinemann (Missouri, USA): Anthony is a graduate of Washington University in St. Louis (Master of Music – Vocal Performance). He has sung throughout the Midwest with The St. Louis Symphony, Union Avenue Opera, Winter Opera, The Bach Society of St. Louis, Muddy River Opera, Gateway Opera, Opera for the Young, and Dance St. Louis. His operatic roles include Nanki-Poo in *The Mikado*, Don Ottavio in *Don Giovanni*, Count Almaviva in *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, Albert in *Albert Herring*, and Gastone in *La traviata*. Upcoming opera engagements include the title role in *The Impresario* with Gateway Opera, Borsa in *Rigoletto* with Union Avenue Opera, and Tamino in *The Magic Flute* with Opera for the Young. Currently a Young Artist with the Bach Society of St. Louis, he recently performed as soloist in Théodore Dubois' *Seven Last Words of Christ* with First Presbyterian of Kirkwood, MO.



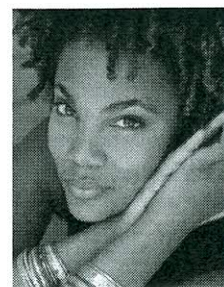
Talya Lieberman (Ohio, USA): An alumna of San Francisco's 2014 Merola Opera Program, Talya returns this spring to the San Francisco Opera Center to make her recital debut as part of the Schwabacher Debut Recital series. This summer she will perform Susanna in *Le nozze di Figaro* as a Filene Young Artist with Wolf Trap Opera. She is currently pursuing her Artist Diploma at Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, where she has been a two-time award winner in the Corbett Scholarship Competition. She recently appeared as Gretel in *Hansel and Gretel* at CCM and again with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. Before studying voice, Talya completed a Master of Music degree in Trumpet Performance at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts and a Bachelor of Arts degree with Highest Distinction in Linguistics at Duke University. She was born and raised in Queens.



Carter Lynch (Maryland, USA): A leading artist at College Light Opera Company, Carter has performed Tommy in *Brigadoon*, Giuseppe in *The Most Happy Fella*, Bill Snibson in *Me and My Girl*, Mr. Andrews in *Titanic* and the title role(s) in *Jekyll & Hyde*. In demand for Gilbert & Sullivan productions, Carter has performed Frederic in *The Pirates of Penzance* at New York's Symphony Space and Richard Dauntless in *Ruddigore* at the 2014 G&S Festival in Harrogate, England. The Maryland native is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he majored in Dramatic Arts with minors in Music and History. Upon graduation, Carter joined the National Tour of *Beauty and the Beast*, covering the roles of the Beast and Gaston and performing both roles on numerous occasions. Carter was a Finalist in the 2014 Lotte Lenya Competition.



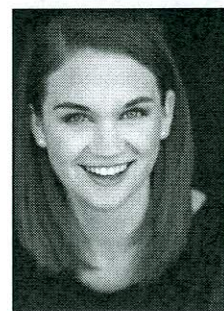
Michael Maliakel (New Jersey, USA): The First Place Winner of the 2014 National Music Theater Competition has appeared on the musical theater stage as Roger in *A New Brain*, Sky Masterson in *Guys and Dolls*, Man 2 in *Songs for a New World*, and Curtis Ricks in *Wisconsin Death Trip*. While an undergraduate at the Peabody Conservatory of Music, the singer-actor appeared in productions of Dominick Argento's *Postcard from Morocco* (Shoe Salesman), *Manon* (De Brétigny), *Les mamelles de Tirésias* (Presto), and *L'enfant et les sortilèges* (Le chat). The New Jersey native also performed the baritone in Phillip Glass' *Hydrogen Jukebox* with the American Opera Theatre at Georgetown University. Michael's concert appearances have included the baritone solos in Handel's *Messiah*, Vaughan Williams' *Five Mystical Songs*, Beethoven's Symphony No. 9, Rossini's *Petite messe solenne*, and Fauré's *Requiem*. Michael currently lives in New York City.



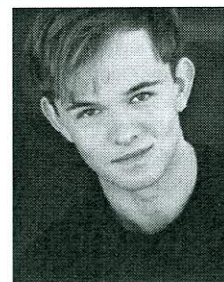
Lauren Michelle (California, USA): A finalist in the 2014 Lotte Lenya Competition, Lauren will make her Carnegie Hall debut this spring performing in the US Premiere of Kurt Weill's *The Road of Promise* with The Collegiate Chorale. A graduate of both The Juilliard School and UCLA, she has appeared internationally as Musetta in *La bohème* in Tel Aviv, Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at The Banff Center in Canada, and both Lauretta in *Gianni Schicchi* at Teatro Romano di Fiesole and Papagena in *Die Zauberflöte* at Teatro Malibran in Italy. As a participant in the Britten-Pears Programme, Lauren performed at Aldeburgh Music in England. The Californian is honored to represent the United States in the 2015 BBC Cardiff Singer of the World contest.



Florian Peters (Köln, Germany): Born in the German Rhineland, Florian studied at the Bayerische Theaterakademie August Everding in Munich, receiving the equivalent of a master's degree in Music Theater. He has performed the role of Mark in *Rent* in Berlin, Claude in *Hair* at Theater Trier and at the Nordharzer Städtebundtheater, and Peter in *Jesus Christ Superstar* at the Staatstheater am Gärtnerplatz in Munich. He is currently performing Chevalier Danceny in a new musical version of *Dangerous Liaisons* in Munich. Florian has also performed Egon von Wildehausen in the operetta *Der Vetter aus Dingsda* in Berlin and created the role of Nahino in the opera *Der Flaschengeist* by Wilfried Hiller for the Munich world premiere.



Katherine Riddle (Maryland, USA): Katherine has performed in theaters, opera houses and concert halls across the United States and abroad. Recent credits include: Laurey Williams in *Oklahoma!* (Broadwayworld Columbus nomination for Best Actress), Mary Ingalls in *Laura Ingalls Wilder* (National Tour), Cosette in *Les Misérables*, Sarah Brown in *Guys and Dolls* and Liesl in *The Sound of Music*. Katherine has also been featured as a soloist with the Fairfax Symphony and West Virginia Symphony as well as the Vladimir Symphony Orchestra and B-A-C-H Orchestra in Yekaterinburg, Russia. She is a member and frequent soloist with the National Broadway Chorus based in Washington, DC. Katherine graduated magna cum laude from American University and studied abroad at Kings College London and the Royal Academy of Music.



Jim Schubin (Colorado, USA): A finalist in the 2014 Lotte Lenya Competition, Jim Schubin appeared as The Boy in the long-running production of *The Fantasticks* at the Snapple Theatre in NYC. Originally from Colorado Springs, he performed the Beast in *Beauty and the Beast*, Freddie in *Chess*, and Rusty Charlie in *Guys and Dolls* with Rocky Mountain Repertory Theatre. Since moving east, he has appeared as The Courier in *1776* at the Cape Playhouse and The Intruder in *See How They Run* at Barrington Stage. With West Virginia Public Theatre, he performed Jesus in *Godspell*. Most recently, Jim wrote and performed his NYC solo cabaret debut, *Life Is A Highway*, at the award-winning Metropolitan Room. Jim holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theater from Emerson College. Much love to Paul, Michael, Mom, Dad, Sven, and Joan. I wouldn't be here without you!



Annie Sherman (Maryland, USA): Born in Maryland, Annie headed west for her training and to launch her performing career. She completed a Bachelor of Arts in Music at Stanford University, receiving a Golden Medal for Excellence. While an undergraduate, she performed the leading role of the Boy in Kurt Weill's *Der Jasager*, as well as Luisa in *The Fantasticks*, Cathy in *The Last Five Years*, and Maxine in the world premiere of Giancarlo Aquilanti's *Oxford Companions*. In 2013 Annie also performed the title role of Poppea in *L'incoronazione di Poppea* with Opera NEO. Crown City Theatre's production of *Cabaret*, in which she played Frenchie, received an Eddon Award for "The Best in LA Theatre for 2014." Currently at UCLA completing her Masters of Music in Vocal Performance, Annie was the winner of the UCLA Concerto Competition performing Barber's *Knoxville: Summer of 1915*. This spring she performed Inez in the West Coast premiere of *due Figaro* at UCLA.



Christine Cornish Smith (Texas, USA): A graduate of University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Music Theater, Christine performed Polly Peachum in Robin Guarino's production of *The Threepenny Opera*, which was part of a year-long Kurt Weill Festival on campus. She also appeared in *Into the Woods*, *Oklahoma!*, *Evita* and *Anything Goes*. Upon graduation in 2013, she landed the all-new National Tour of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Christine is currently performing in *Guys and Dolls* at the Goodspeed Opera House (CT). The singer-actor-dancer made her Lyric Opera of Chicago debut in *Oklahoma!* In her native Texas, she was a principal dancer with the Dallas Metropolitan Ballet, dancing numerous leading roles in many traditional and original ballets. Christine was a recipient of an Emerging Talent Award in the 2014 Lotte Lenya Competition.

Staff Accompanists

Lyndon Meyer is chorus master, assistant conductor, principal pianist and vocal coach for the Tulsa Opera. In the 2013-2014 season he was rehearsal pianist, harpsichordist and assistant conductor for the Tulsa Opera, and staff pianist for the OK Mozart International Festival. He serves on the faculty of the intensive musical and language training program, *Si parla, si canta*, in Urbania, Italy. Previous positions include assistant conductor and young artist coach for the Florida Grand Opera; guest faculty coach at Michigan State University; and staff accompanist and vocal coach at the Eastman School of Music. He won 1st prize in the Jesse Kneisel Lieder competition, and has performed twice at the Kennedy Center.

Shane Schag has performed in recital both as soloist and ensemble member throughout the US and Europe, including a concerto performance with the Ashland Symphony Orchestra. He is a recipient of the Gwendolyn Koldofsky Memorial Award. He has been a vocal coach for Centro Studi Italiani Opera Festival and an assistant conductor for the Gotham Chamber Opera. In 2007, he made his debut at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall, and now serves as staff pianist for Carnegie Hall's Muscular Explorers and Link Up concert series. He is a member of the recital coaching faculty and resident musical director for the American Musical Theater Ensemble at the Manhattan School of Music. During the summer he is on the faculty of Operaworks in Los Angeles and the International Vocal Arts Institute in Virginia and Tel Aviv.

Acknowledgements

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; Nana Stotz, Operations Coordinator, Technology and Media Production; and Valerie Alhart, University of Rochester Press Officer for Humanities and Broadcast Media.

Judges of the Competition

Theodore S. Chapin

Theodore S. Chapin is President of Rodgers & Hammerstein, a position he has held for many years. They are currently represented on Broadway with the Lincoln Center Theater production of *The King and I*, and Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Cinderella* is currently touring the country. Chapin serves on several boards including The American Theatre Wing (where he was Chairman for four years), Goodspeed Musicals, and New York City Center, where he was part of the creation of the *Encores!* series. He served as a Tony Awards nominator for two seasons, and is currently a member of the Tony Administration Committee. His career began as production or directorial assistant for the Broadway productions of *Follies*, *The Rothschilds* and *The Unknown Soldier and His Wife*, as well as Bernstein's *Mass* at the Kennedy Center and *Candide* in San Francisco. As Associate to Alan Arkin, he worked on the original Broadway production of Neil Simon's *The Sunshine Boys* and the CBS-TV special of George Furth's *Twigs* starring Carol Burnett. He has been a visiting lecturer at several universities and colleges, including Yale, NYU, Lawrence University, and St. Catherine's College in Oxford. His book *Everything Was Possible: The Birth of the Musical "Follies"*, was published by Alfred A. Knopf in 2003, and is currently in print in paperback by Applause Books. He is honored to be making his ninth appearance as a judge of the Lotte Lenya Competition.

James Holmes

Equally at home in the fields of opera and musical theater, James Holmes enjoys a wide-ranging musical life as conductor, pianist, and arranger. In addition to extended experience at English National Opera and time spent as Head of Music at Opera North, he has been Simon Rattle's assistant for productions at the Metropolitan Opera, the Aix and Salzburg Festivals, and at Glyndebourne—including the much praised *Porgy and Bess*. Classic musical theater includes productions of *Sweeney Todd*, *Of Thee I Sing*, *Paradise Moscow* (Opera North), *Candide* (Manchester RNCM), *Into the Woods* (Royal Opera House), *Pacific Overtures* (ENO and a Grammy-nominated recording), *Carousel* (Royal National Theatre/Opera North) and recently, an acclaimed production of *The King and I* at the Théâtre du Châtelet, Paris. His association with the work of Kurt Weill is as wide as anyone in the world, and includes *Street Scene* (ENO, Berlin and recordings for BBC TV and arte DVD); *Mahagonny* (ENO); *The Seven Deadly Sins*, *Arms and the Cow* (*Der Kuhhandel*), *One Touch of Venus* (all Opera North); *One Touch of Venus*, *Down in the Valley* (Kurt Weill Fest); *Songs From A Hotel Bedroom*, *Zaubernacht* (British premiere, ROH), as well as concerts with the London Sinfonietta, Symphony Silicon Valley, and Ensemble Modern. He was conductor for *I'm a Stranger Here Myself*, a BBC TV documentary on Weill in America, and the first complete recording of *One Touch of Venus*, released in the fall of 2013. That same year he appeared at New York's Symphony Space to lead a cast of eight previous Lenya Competition winners alongside Broadway stars in a program titled *Kurt Weill on Broadway*.

Rebecca Luker

Rebecca Luker most recently starred in the Kennedy Center production of the world premiere of Ahrens and Flaherty's critically acclaimed new musical, *Little Dancer*, directed by Susan Stroman. Her Broadway credits are—Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella*, *Mary Poppins*, *Nine*, *The Music Man*, *The Sound of Music*, *Show Boat*, *The Secret Garden*, and *The Phantom of the Opera*. Other New York productions include Maury Yeston's *Death Takes a Holiday*, *X*, *The Life and Times of Malcolm X*, and *Brigadoon* with New York City Opera. Off-Broadway: *Indian Blood* (Primary Stages), *Can't Let Go* (Keen Company) and *The Vagina Monologues*. Regional theater: *Passion* (Clara, Kennedy Center), *Time and Again* (Old Globe), *Harmony* (La Jolla Playhouse) and *She Loves Me* (Reprise! series, LA). Concert: *Boys From Syracuse* and *Where's Charley?* (Encores!). Film credits include *Not Fade Away* (dir. David Chase) and *The Rewrite*, starring Hugh Grant (dir. Marc Lawrence). Television appearances include: *Boardwalk Empire*, *The Good Wife*, *Law and Order-SVU*, CBS TV Movie *Cupid and Cate*, *An Evening with the Pops*, *An Oscar Hammerstein Celebration*, *A Tribute to Rodgers and Hart* (PBS), *The Kennedy Center Honors* honoring Julie Andrews and also Barbara Cook, and a Richard Rodgers celebration with the Boston Pops (PBS). Recordings: *I Got Love*, *Greenwich Time*, *Leaving Home*, *Anything Goes: Rebecca Luker Sings Cole Porter*, the *Aria* series, and original cast recordings of *The Secret Garden* and the revivals of *Show Boat*, *The Sound of Music* and *The Music Man*. Ms. Luker resides in New York City with her husband, actor Danny Burstein.

Lenya Competition News

Lotte Lenya Competition Winners on Stage

Lauren Worsham (2nd Prize, 2009) won a Drama Desk Award and was nominated for a Tony Award for her portrayal of Pheobe D'Ysquith in *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* on Broadway; she will play Lisa in *Dog Days* at Los Angeles Opera • **Analisa Leaming** (2nd Prize, 2007; Eastman graduate) is making her Broadway debut in *On The Twentieth Century* • **Katie Travis** (Lys Symonette Award, 2014) is starring as Christine in the National Tour of *The Phantom of the Opera*; before she joined the tour, **Cooper Grodin** (Lys Symonette Award, 2010), played the The Phantom and **Amy Justman** (1st Prize, 2004) was the Confidante • **Jacob Keith Watson** (2nd Prize, 2012) is playing Amos Hart in the National Tour of *Chicago* • **Doug Carpenter** (1st Prize, 2013) is playing Billy Kostecki in the National Tour of *Dirty Dancing* • **Erik Liberman** (2nd Prize, 2005) played Clopin in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* at La Jolla Playhouse and Paper Mill Playhouse • **Ben Edquist** (1st Prize, 2014) played Jigger in *Carousel* at the Glimmerglass Festival in 2014 and this season will sing Papageno in *The Magic Flute* there, with **Maren Weinberger** (2nd Prize, 2013) covering Papagena • **Jonathan Michie** (1st Prize, 2005; Eastman graduate) played Papageno in *Die Zauberflöte*, conducted by James Conlon, at Oper Leipzig, where he is an ensemble member • **Noah Stewart** (Lys Symonette Award, 2001) played Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly* at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, and Don Pedro de Alvarado in *The Indian Queen*, at English National Opera, directed by Peter Sellars • **Liam Bonner** (2nd Prize, 2005) played Aeneas in *Dido & Aeneas* and **Lucas Meachem** (Lys Symonette Award, 2002) played Figaro in *The Ghosts of Versailles* at Los Angeles Opera • **Matthew Grills** (1st Prize, 2012; Eastman graduate) will play Tobias in *Sweeney Todd* at San Francisco Opera in 2016 • **David Arnsperger** (2nd Prize, 2010) has been cast in the title role of *Sweeney Todd* at Welsh National Opera, conducted by James Holmes.

U.S. Premiere of Kurt Weill's *Road of Promise* at Carnegie Hall

At Carnegie Hall on 6-7 May 2015, The Collegiate Chorale presents the U.S. premiere of *The Road of Promise*, a new oratorio of Kurt Weill and Franz Werfel's 1937 epic musical spectacle, *The Eternal Road*, adapted by Ed Harsh. Conductor/director Ted Sperling leads the Orchestra of St. Luke's, a 200-voice chorus, and a cast that features Anthony Dean Griffey, Mark Delavan, Philip Cutlip, Ron Rifkin, AJ Glueckert, and Lotte Lenya Competition finalist Lauren Michelle (2014, 2015) and winners Megan Marino (2012 Third Prize), and Justin Hopkins (2012 Second Prize). The performances will be recorded live at Carnegie Hall for release on the Navona Records label, distributed by Naxos Records. Griffey, who was Jimmy in the 2006 LA Opera production of *Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny*, played his first Weill role in 1991 as Lippo in Eastman Opera's *Street Scene*, conducted by Kim Kowalke.

Kurt Weill/Lotte Lenya Glimmerglass Young Artists

The Kurt Weill Foundation and the Glimmerglass Festival in Cooperstown, NY, launched an exciting collaboration last summer: The Foundation is providing an annual sponsorship for a talented singer who has previously reached the finals of the Lotte Lenya Competition to be the Kurt Weill/Lotte Lenya Glimmerglass Young Artist. Last year's 1st Prize winner, **Ben Edquist**, was the first to receive the sponsorship, and we are pleased to announce that **Maren Weinberger**, who won 2nd Prize in 2013, will be this summer's recipient.

Carolyn Weber Award Inaugurated

New this year, the Carolyn Weber Award (\$3,500) recognizes outstanding creativity in crafting a dramatically compelling and diverse program as well as exceptional sensitivity to text/music relationships. It was established in honor of Carolyn Weber on the occasion of her retirement in 2014 after sixteen years of dedication to the advancement and administration of the Competition.

2015 AWARDS PRESENTED BEFORE THE FINALS

Emerging Talents (\$500)

Alicia Ault, 21 (Ontario, Canada)
Alaysha Fox, 23 (North Carolina, USA)
Theo Hoffman, 21 (New York, USA)
Noel Houle-von Behren, 21 (Colorado, USA)
Arica Jackson, 20 (Michigan, USA)
Julian Kazenas, 19 (Florida, USA)
Jennifer Kennedy, 23 (Maine, USA)
Christian Magby, 20 (Georgia, USA)
Ben Odom, 21 (Virginia, USA)
Jameelah Leaundra Robinson, 23 (Indiana, USA)
Bill Townsend, 23 (New Jersey, USA)

Grace Keagy Award for

Outstanding Vocal Promise (\$500)

Lesley Baird, 26 (California, USA)

Non-Advancing Semi-Finalists (\$500)

Stephanie Bacastow, 20 (Georgia, USA)
Andrea Carroll, 25 (Maryland, USA)
Kellie Cundiff, 30 (Illinois, USA)
Robert Farruggia, 27 (New York, USA)
Hannah Fuerst, 29 (New York, USA)
Tamar Greene, 28 (New York, USA)
Jasmine Habersham, 25 (Georgia, USA)
Michael Kuhn, 26 (Maryland, USA)
Larisa Martinez, 27 (San Juan, Puerto Rico)
Reilly Nelson, 25 (Ontario, Canada)
Christina Pecce, 25 (Massachusetts, USA)
Zachary Read, 24 (Nova Scotia, Canada)
Kyle Torrence, 25 (Maryland, USA)
Pien van Gerven, 26 (Amsterdam, The Netherlands)

COMPETITION ADMINISTRATION FOR THE KURT WEILL FOUNDATION FOR MUSIC

Kim H. Kowalke, President and Founder of the Competition
Janice L. Mayer, Director of Programs and Promotion
Brady Sansone, Associate Director of Business Affairs & Record Management
Kate Chisholm, Manager of Promotion & Special Projects
Natasha Nelson, Administrative Assistant

THE LOTTE LENYA COMPETITION IS A PROGRAM OF THE KURT WEILL FOUNDATION FOR MUSIC.

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.

***"No vocal contest better targets
today's total package talents."***

—OPERA NEWS 2014



SINGING THE STORY

The Lotte Lenya Competition

Watch at [YouTube.com/KurtWeillFoundation](https://www.youtube.com/KurtWeillFoundation)

This 18-minute high-definition film traces the journey of the 2013 Lotte Lenya Competition, on stage and off, through the semi-finals, finals, and a star-studded 15th anniversary celebration concert at New York's Symphony Space. Through live footage and interviews, *Singing the Story* reveals the rigorous and unique nature of this prestigious international contest for singer-actors.

Kurt Weill

THE KURT WEILL FOUNDATION FOR MUSIC

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