



**North Shore Choral Society**

***Donald Chen  
Young Artist Award***

***2014 Competition***

**April 12, 2014, 7:30 p.m.**

**Trinity United Methodist Church  
1024 Lake Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois**

## WELCOME!

The North Shore Choral Society welcomes you to the Donald Chen Young Artist Award competition.

**Dr. Donald Chen** retired in 2008 after twenty-four years as the Music Director of the North Shore Choral Society. Donald patiently led the chorus from singing choppy notes to shaping melodic lines; challenged us with repertoire from Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* to Fanshawe's *African Sanctus*; gave us fresh perspective by comparing Brahms to wool and Duruflé to silk; and above all embodied for us the truth that music, learning and joy are intertwined. In his honor, the North Shore Choral Society established the **Donald Chen Young Artist Award**, which rewards a talented young singer with a solo role in one of our concerts each season. Thank you, Donald, for your inspired teaching and superb musicianship.

This year, eight finalists have been selected from applications by singers, ranging in age from 19 to 26, who reside in the Chicago area. Each of the finalists will sing an operatic aria and a contrasting art song or oratorio aria of his or her choice. At the conclusion of tonight's competition, a panel of judges will give monetary awards for first, second, and third place. The first-prize winner will also be awarded a solo performance in an upcoming North Shore Choral Society concert.

You are invited to partake of some light refreshments after tonight's recital, while the judges are reaching their decision.

## PREVIOUS WINNERS

Chris Albanese, tenor  
Sammi Block, mezzo soprano  
Corey Grigg, baritone  
Elizabeth Jankowski, mezzo soprano  
Michael Orlinsky, baritone  
Simonetta Pacek, soprano  
Rebecca Robinson, mezzo soprano  
Anne Slovin, soprano  
Rachel Sparrow, soprano  
Sean Stanton, baritone  
Alan Taylor, tenor  
Alison Wahl, soprano



The North Shore Choral Society is supported in part by grants from the Evanston Arts Council and the Illinois Arts Council, an agency of the State of Illinois.

**For further information about**

**North Shore Choral Society,**

**please visit our website, [www.northshorechoral.org](http://www.northshorechoral.org).**

## PROGRAM

**Welcome** Anne Harkonen, North Shore Choral Society President

**Marisa Buchheit, soprano**

“Caro nome” from *Rigoletto* Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901)

“Oh, had I Jubal’s lyre” from *Joshua*  
George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

**Benjamin Howard, baritone**

“Bella siccome un angelo” from *Don Pasquale*  
Gaetano Donizetti (1797-1848)

“It was a lover and his lass” Gerald Finzi (1901-56)

**Stephanie Feigenbaum, mezzo soprano**

*Der Tod, das ist die kühle Nacht* Johannes Brahms (1833-97)

“Things change” from *Little Women* Mark Adamo (b.1962)

**Ashley Nicole Johnson, soprano**

“Quando men vo” from *La bohème* Giacomo Puccini (1858-1924)

“Preist des Erlösers Güte” from *Christus am Ölberge*  
Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

**Christian Ketter, tenor**

“Sound an alarm!” from *Judas Maccabeus* G.F. Handel

“Che gelida manina” from *La bohème* G. Puccini

**Emma Bonanno, mezzo soprano**

“Why do they shut me out of heaven?” Aaron Copland (1900-90)

“Smanie implacabili” from *Così fan tutte*  
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-91)

**Leo Rado, baritone**

“Das irdische Leben” from *Des Knaben Wunderhorn*  
Gustav Mahler (1860-1911)

“Se vuol ballare” from *Le nozze di Figaro* W. A. Mozart

**Kelsey Betzelberger, soprano**

“Tacea la note placida” from *Il trovatore* G. Verdi

“No word from Tom” from *The Rake’s Progress*  
Igor Stravinsky (1882-1971)

**Closing Remarks**

Julia Davids,  
North Shore Choral Society Music Director

**Awards**

Donald Chen

**Our Thanks**

North Shore Choral Society would like to thank the distinguished panel of judges for tonight's competition: Dr. Donald Chen, Dr. Julia Davids, and Dr. Anne Heider. The Society is grateful to Sharon Rich Peterson, our accompanist for many years, for providing piano accompaniment for all of the competitors. Thanks also to Marcia Bollo, Susan Demaree, Anne Harkonen, Karen Rigotti and Steve Warner for their assistance in producing tonight's event. We are grateful to Trinity United Methodist Church for the use of their sanctuary.

**Support for the Donald Chen Young Artist Award**

The Choral Society maintains a separate fund to support the Donald Chen Young Artist Award. Donations may be made directly to this fund and are acknowledged in our concert program booklets. You can help make future awards possible by putting cash or a check in the designated basket in the narthex, or by sending a contribution to North Shore Choral Society, P.O. Box 103, Evanston, Illinois 60204-0103. We appreciate your support!

## COMPETITORS

**Soprano Marisa Buchheit** has been recognized by the Chicago Tribune as a “Remarkable Woman,” and is known throughout the city as Miss Chicago (2012 and 2014). A graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Music, Ms. Buchheit earned her degree in vocal performance with academic honors and a minor in German in 2011. Since then, she has established herself as a top emerging artist in Chicago. In summer 2013, she traveled to Italy to sing the role of Susanna in *Le nozze di Figaro* with the Tuscia Opera Festival, and to southern France to perform private concerts in a French chateau with pianist Stefan Cassar. She has been invited to perform for the foreign ministry of Thailand in Bangkok, and most recently she portrayed the female lead, Ying-ying, in the national premier tour of *Romance of the Western Chamber*, a classical musical in Mandarin Chinese. As the first woman to hold the title of Miss Chicago twice, she will be going on to compete on the Miss Illinois stage this June. She hopes to achieve her dream of competing in the Miss America pageant this September in Atlantic City!

**Benjamin Howard, baritone**, is a senior at Northwestern University working towards a bachelor of music in voice and opera performance, in addition to a certificate in musical theater. Previously, Mr. Howard has been featured on the NU Opera Theatre stage as Mr. Dashwood in *Little Women*, Connie Rivers in the Chicago premiere production of Ricky Ian Gordon's *The Grapes of Wrath* and Luciano in the staged version premiere of John Musto's *Bastianello*. He also recently made his solo debut with the NU Symphony Orchestra and Chorale in a performance of Gerald Finzi's *In Terra Pax* at Pick-Staiger Concert Hall. A native of Los Angeles, Mr. Howard will be staying in Chicago this summer as a singer with the Grant Park Chorus.

**Stephanie Feigenbaum, mezzo-soprano**, is a first-year master's student at Northwestern University, studying with Theresa Brancaccio. She received her bachelor of music degree from Northwestern in June 2013. Her credits at Northwestern include Meg in *Little Women*, Valletto in *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, Mae in *The Grapes of Wrath* and Lucrezia in *Lucrezia*. Additional credits include Maestra and Zelatrice in *Suor Angelica* and First Witch in *Dido and Aeneas* at the Hawai'i Performing Arts Festival, as well as The Shepherd in *L'enfant et les sortilèges* and Midinette in *Il tabarro* at the Castleton Festival.

This summer Ms. Feigenbaum will perform with the Aspen Opera Theater Center in Aspen, Colorado.

**Ashley Nicole Johnson, soprano** (M.M., DePaul University), is an active performer in the Chicago area. A student of Jane Bunnell, her performances at DePaul include the Vixen in Janacek's *The Cunning Little Vixen*, Dido in *Dido and Aeneas*, Casilda in *The Gondoliers*, a solo performance with Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Yehudi Wyner and a solo with orchestra in Dvorak's *Te Deum*. Ms. Johnson has also performed the title role in Gilbert and Sullivan's *Patience* at Wheaton College. This past summer she sang the role of Beth in Adamo's *Little Women* at Opera North and returned to the role for the company's Education and Outreach Tour. She has appeared as Donna Anna with the Midwest Institute of Opera and performed the soprano solo in Zelenka's *Magnificat in C* with chamber orchestra. She was awarded the Lynne Harvey Foundation Scholarship in honor of her sister, Virginia Cooper Maier, in the Musicians Club of Women's 2014 scholarship awards competition.

**Tenor Christian Ketter** recently made his Carnegie Hall debut with Marilyn Horne's festival, "The Song Continues". In 2013 he was the Friedrich Schorr American prize winner and national winner of the Chicago Oratorio Award. Concert appearances as tenor soloist include Bruckner's *Te Deum* with Chicago Bar Symphony and Chorus, Starring roles on the musical stage include Willy Loman in *Death of a Salesman*. In 2011 he performed under the direction of Carlisle Floyd as Will in *Cold Sassy Tree*. Mr. Ketter is featured on the upcoming classical recording "Beloved," with violinist Cara Schlecker and pianist Myron Silberstein, to be released in the summer of 2014.

**Emma Bonanno, mezzo soprano**, is a recent graduate of DePaul University, where she studied with Jane Bunnell. At DePaul, Ms. Bonanno was the third-place winner in the 2013 Kleinman Voice Competition and performed the roles of Betty in *The Threepenny Opera*, Owl in *The Cunning Little Vixen* and Inez in *The Gondoliers* with DePaul Opera Theatre. She is currently performing the roles of Mother and Witch in Chicago Opera Playhouse's production of *Hansel and Gretel* and is an education intern with Chicago Opera Theater.

Twenty-four-year-old **baritone Leo Rado** was the recent third-prize winner of the Eighth International Klaudia Taev competition

in Pärnu, Estonia. Mr. Rado is establishing himself as a uniquely versatile performer in the world of opera. He has performed as soloist in opera, art song and oratorio to high critical acclaim at venues such as Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, The Peter Jay Sharp Theatre and Ravinia Festival. In addition to his mastery of the standard operatic repertoire from Monteverdi through Britten, Mr. Rado particularly enjoys creating recitals of unknown vocal masterpieces by composers that are better known for their instrumental music, such as Haydn, Beethoven, Chopin, Grieg, Schönberg and Prokofiev.

**Kelsey Betzelberger, soprano**, was last seen as Rosina in Opera for the Young's 2013-2014 Midwest tour of Rossini's *Il barbiere di Siviglia* and Rosalinde in American Chamber Opera's spring production of Strauss's *Die Fledermaus*. She also recently played the role of Pamina in Mozart's *The Magic Flute* through the Lyric Opera of Chicago's outreach program, Opera in the Neighborhoods. Ms. Betzelberger won the 2013 Opera Idol Competition, awarding her a full tuition scholarship to the V.O.I.C. Experience Savannah Voice Festival in August, run by Sherrill Milnes and Maria Zouves. She has been the recipient of numerous prestigious scholarships and awards to further her vocal career. She will next be seen in the role of Adina in Verismo Opera Theater's summer production of *L'elisir d'amore* and Juliette in American Chamber Opera's 2015 production of *Roméo et Juliette*.