



North Shore Choral Society

Donald Chen Young Artist Award

2018 Competition

February 18, 2018, 4:00 p.m.

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

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, nine finalists have been selected from applications by young singers 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 this afternoon'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.

**North Shore Choral Society is partially funded by the
Evanston Community Foundation and by a grant from the
Illinois Arts Council**



PREVIOUS WINNERS

Chris Albanese, tenor
Sammi Block, mezzo soprano
Kateri Gormley, soprano
Corey Grigg, baritone
Elizabeth Jankowski, mezzo soprano
Ashley Nicole Johnson, soprano
Michael Orlinsky, baritone
Simonetta Pacek, soprano
Rebecca Robinson, mezzo soprano
Kyle Sackett, baritone
Anne Slovin, soprano
Rachel Sparrow, soprano
Sean Stanton, baritone
Ryan Townsend Strand, tenor
Alan Taylor, tenor
Alison Wahl, soprano

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Welcome

John Darrow,
North Shore Choral Society President

Program

Emily Rosenberg, soprano

"Les filles de Cadix"

Léo Delibes

"Oh! Quante volte" from

I Capuleti e I Montecchi

Vincenzo Bellini

Tzytle Steinman, mezzo soprano

"Kaddisch"

Maurice Ravel

"Va, laisse couler mes larmes"

from *Werther*

Jules Massenet

Kyle Jensen, baritone

"Traum durch die Dämmerung"

Richard Strauss

"Madamina! il catalogo è questo"

from *Don Giovanni*

W. A. Mozart

Michael Coduto, tenor

"Dalla sua pace"

from *Don Giovanni*

W. A. Mozart

"A Green Cornfield"

Michael Head

Olivia Boen, soprano

"Deh vieni non tardar"

from *Le nozze di Figaro*

W.A. Mozart

"Apparition"

Claude Debussy

Lani Stait, soprano

"Ich will dir mein Herze

schenken" from *Matthaus Passion*

J. S. Bach

"Je suis encore" from *Manon*

Jules Massenet

Eric J. McConnell, baritone

“O del mio amato ben”

“Non so più cosa son”

from *Le nozze di Figaro*

Stefano Donaudy

W.A. Mozart

Megan Ott-Romero, mezzo soprano

“Dopo notte” from

Ariodante

“She Walks in Beauty”

G.F. Handel

Nicolas Flagello

Jaqueline Piccolino, soprano

“Bel raggio lusinghier”

from *Semiramide*

“Son”

Gioachino Rossini

Sergei Rachmaninoff

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 today'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, Debbie Buesing, John Darrow, Fran Faller, Betsy Gladfelter, Judy Greene, Anne Harkonen, Marilyn Leipsiger, Marj Lundy, Julie McDowell, Phoebe Segal, Jane Schieber, and Erica Sufritz for their assistance in producing today'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 (payable to NSCS) 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. Donations can also be made on our website, northshorechoral.org. We appreciate your support!

TODAY'S COMPETITORS

Soprano **Emily Rosenberg** has been recognized as a "spirited actress" with a "rounded and lyrical voice, well under her control" by *Platea Magazine*, and "could be part of the program at any established international theater." This season, she will appear in the title role of *The Cunning Little Vixen* with Opera Steamboat (formerly Emerald City Opera) and in the role of the Narrator in the world premiere of *For Those in Peril*, a new opera by Francis L. Lynch. Most recently, Emily captivated audiences in multiple portrayals of Susanna in *Le nozze di Figaro*, with performances in Los Angeles, Prague, and at the Mozarteum in Salzburg. Emily made her Boston Symphony Hall debut in 2015 as soloist in the *Distant Worlds: Music From FINAL FANTASY* world tour and is the recurring featured soloist for the Berklee Silent Film Orchestra. Emily holds degrees in Vocal Performance and Professional Music with a focus in Songwriting from Berklee College of Music, where she helped launch Berklee's first opera program, singing, directing, and producing the program. A native of the North Shore of Chicago, Emily is currently based in Los Angeles where she is sought

after for commercial and film score recordings in addition to opera and concert appearances.

Mezzo-soprano **Tzytle Steinman** is a second-year Master's student at Northwestern University originally from Oceanside, California. Tzytle has sung with Ohio Light Opera, Utah Festival Opera, Opera NEO, Northwestern Opera Theatre, Boston Conservatory Opera, and Lyric Opera San Diego. Some of her favorite previous roles include Mother Marie in *The Dialogues of the Carmelites*, Thelma in *Later the Same Evening*, the Stewardess in *Flight*, and Mercedes in *Carmen*. This summer she will return to Ohio Light Opera and perform in six shows while covering La Périchole in *La Périchole* and Iolanthe in *Iolanthe*. When she is not singing, Tzytle also loves to dance -- jazz, ballet, tap, and hip hop.

Kyle Jensen is a first-year graduate student at Northwestern University, studying with W. Stephen Smith. Jensen has performed roles such as Coppelius and Dr. Miracle in Offenbach's *Les contes d'Hoffmann*, Colline in Puccini's *La bohème*, Death in Holst's *Savitri*, and Bob in Menotti's *The Old Maid and the Thief*. He will debut as Leporello in Northwestern's production of *Don Giovanni* this March. Jensen was a finalist in the Idaho-Montana district for Metropolitan Opera National Council auditions in 2016, and received an encouragement award the previous year. Hailing from Bear River City in Utah, Jensen received his undergraduate degree at Brigham Young University-Idaho under the tutelage of Kristine Ciesinski. He is grateful for his loving wife, Sarah, and his three-year-old daughter, Lillian, in supporting him in his graduate studies.

Michael Coduto is an active tenor performing throughout the Midwest and Western United States. He has pursued degrees in voice at both the Chicago College of Performing Arts and the University of Colorado at Boulder. Michael has had numerous operatic and symphonic successes including solo engagements with the Boulder Bach Festival and performing with Chicago's Grant Park Chorus. He has been the winner of several prestigious competitions including the Chicago NATS Chapter. He will be seen in Chicago this upcoming season as the Schoolmaster in *The Cunning Little Vixen* at Chicago College of Performing Arts.

Applauded as “someone to watch” by ClevelandClassical.com, soprano **Olivia Boen** recently completed her undergraduate studies at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music under the tutelage of Daune Mahy. She was a 2016 Gerdine Young Artist at the Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, the youngest singer of the season. Olivia has been seen on the Oberlin Opera Theater stage in the title roles in Poulenc’s *Les Mamelles de Tirésias* and Handel’s *Alcina*, as well as the leading ladies in Donizetti’s *Don Pasquale*, Puccini’s *Gianni Schicchi*, and Handel’s *Serse* with the Oberlin-in-Italy program in Tuscany. In January 2016, she had the distinct honor of performing the North American premiere of Jesse Jones’ *One Bright Morning* with the Contemporary Music Ensemble on Oberlin’s 150th Anniversary Tour to her hometown, Chicago. Olivia has participated in master classes with Renée Fleming, Eric Owens, and Marilyn Horne. She will be moving to London in the autumn, to pursue a master’s degree at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

Raised in Annandale, Virginia, soprano **Lani Stait** now calls Chicago her home. Lani is currently a young artist with Chicago Opera Theater and is in the professional diploma program at Roosevelt University. This year with COT she was featured as Anna Gomez in *The Consul* and will be appearing in *Il Pigmaliione & Rita*. Last season she was featured as Isolt in *The Love Potion* and appeared in *Fairy Queen* and *The Perfect American*. Recently, Lani performed with the Cincinnati Opera chorus, won first place in the highest division of the NATS competition, and was a semi-finalist and Bravo Award recipient in the Bel Canto Foundation young artists competition. Lani is an alumna of University of Michigan and University of Cincinnati.

Eric J. McConnell, bass-baritone, has enjoyed a diverse career singing both traditional and new works. Recent performances include Olin Blitch (*Susannah*), Bartolo (*Le nozze di Figaro*), Bartolo/Basilio (*Il barbiere di Siviglia*), Frank (*Die Fledermaus*), Simone (*Gianni Schicchi*), and Sarastro (*Die Zauberflöte*). A dedicated performer of contemporary works, Eric has had the pleasure of creating many new roles, including Elisha Fitzgibbon in Evan Mack’s *Roscoe* with the Albany Symphony Orchestra, featuring soprano Deborah Voigt. He holds a MM from Northwestern University and a BM from the University of Miami and has trained as a young artist at Opera Saratoga, Central City Opera, and Seagle Music Colony. In June, Eric will return to his home state of Colorado as a Fellow at the Aspen Music Festival and School and will be working as a Young Artist with Opera Colorado in Denver through May 2019.

Mezzo-soprano **Megan Ott-Romero** was born in Erie, PA. She is currently working with Madison Opera as a Studio Artist. In November, she sang Mercedes and covered Carmen in Bizet's *Carmen* and is working toward the next opera in April 2018, *Florencia en el Amazonas* by Daniel Catán. Last year she performed the role of Dorabella in *Così fan tutte* in Vancouver, BC with an opera workshop led by Luke Housner and sang the title role of L'enfant in North Park University Opera's production of *L'enfant et les Sortilèges*. She also took first place in North Park University Performance Awards. Past roles include Third Lady (*Die Zauberflöte*) under the baton of Dr. Tom Zelle, Nireno (*Giulio Cesare*) with the Chicago Handel Week Festival, Rosine (*Signor Deluso*) with North Park Opera, and The Page (*Amahl and the Night Visitors*) with Otterbein University Opera. She received her B.A. in Music from Otterbein University in Westerville, OH, and is finishing her M.M. in Vocal Performance at North Park University in Chicago.

Italian-American soprano, **Jacqueline Piccolino**, hailed by the San Francisco Chronicle as having "impeccable technique and stage presence," made her San Francisco Opera debut in the summer of 2013 as Stella in *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*. She returned as First Lady in *The Magic Flute*, Lady Madeline in *La chute de la maison Usher*, Laura in *Luisa Miller*, 2nd maid in the world premiere of *Dolores Claiborne*, Kate Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly*, Clotilda in *Norma*, and Mrs. Hayes in *Susannah*. As a participant in the 2012 and 2013 Merola Opera Program, Jacqueline appeared as Countess Almaviva in *Le nozze di Figaro* and Arminda in *La finta giardiniera*. She is a winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Audition Mid-South Region and a George London Foundation Encouragement Award winner. In May 2016 she was a finalist in the 9th International Moniuszko Competition in Warsaw, Poland. Jacqueline graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign School of Music in 2013 and received the prestigious Kate Neal Kinley Memorial Fellowship from her alma mater. Her recent engagements included singing the role of the First Lady in *Die Zauberflöte* at Seattle Opera in May 2017 and performing Samuel Barber's *Knoxville: Summer of 1915* with the Johnstown Symphony Orchestra in October 2017.

STILL TO COME THIS SEASON:

Music for Social Change: Free Public Workshop with Mollie Stone

Saturday, February 24, 9 a.m., Regina Dominican High School
701 Locust Road, Wilmette

Music for Social Change Concert:

Africa, America and the Singing Revolution of Estonia

Sunday, February 25, 3 p.m., Regina Dominican High School,
701 Locust Road, Wilmette

NSCS Benefit at Evanston's Historic Dawes House

Sunday, March 4, 3 p.m.
Evanston History Center, 225 Greenwood Street, Evanston

Requiem — Britain and France

Settings of the ancient Requiem text by Chilcott and Fauré
with full orchestra and Donald Chen Young Artist Award-
winning soloists

Sunday, June 3, 3 p.m.,
Saint John Brebeuf Church, 8307 N. Harlem Avenue, Niles

**For further information about North Shore Choral Society,
please visit our website, www.northshorechoral.org**