



# COMPETITION *for* COLORADO SINGERS



PRESENTED BY  
DENVER LYRIC OPERA GUILD

## Master Class

Saturday, February 19, 2022, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. MT

## Preliminaries

Saturday, March 5, 2022, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. MT

## Finals

Saturday, March 19, 2022, 1 p.m.-5 p.m. MT

All events are held at: Calvary Baptist Church | 6500 E. Girard Avenue | Denver, CO

Free and open to the public. Masks required, and proof of vaccination  
or negative Covid test within past 72 hours.



The objective of the Denver Lyric Opera Guild is the encouragement and support of young singers and the continuing education of members in the appreciation and knowledge of opera.

For more information on DLOG Membership and Member Events  
[www.denverlyricoperaguild.org](http://www.denverlyricoperaguild.org)

# Denver Lyric Opera Guild

Denver Lyric Opera Guild is a non-profit membership organization. DLOG was founded in 1965 to help support the Denver Lyric Opera Company. The opera company was forced to close in 1968, but the Guild pursued other programs in keeping with **its purpose to encourage and support young singers and provide continuing education to the members in the appreciation and knowledge of opera.**

## Competition for Colorado Singers

In 1984, the Guild inaugurated its signature event, the *Competition for Colorado Singers*, to support singers ages 23-32 in pursuing their operatic careers. Since then, the Guild has awarded **over \$900,000 to Competition winners. Hundreds of young singers** have successfully launched their operatic and musical careers since winning the Competition.

## Grants

The Guild provides **grants to Colorado's colleges and universities for vocal scholarships, and to apprentice opera programs.** Over the years, these **grants have totaled over \$850,000** from the earnings on our endowment. Grants are given to the voice performance programs at **Colorado State University, Metro State University of Denver, University of Colorado, University of Denver, University of Northern Colorado,** and young artist apprentice programs of **Central City Opera, Opera Colorado, Opera Fort Collins, and Opera Theatre of the Rockies and Opera Steamboat.** In 2021, universities and opera apprentice programs received grants totaling \$33,000.

## 2022 Board of Directors and Competition Committee

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**Inez Wilson**  
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**Scott Finlay**  
Judges Selection

**Valerie Wassill**  
Public Relations

# The Louise C. Conter Master Class

Louise Conter (1924-1998) had a lifelong love of opera and the desire to help aspiring young singers. Upon her death in 1998, Denver Lyric Opera Guild became the recipient of an extraordinary bequest and her gift will ensure the support of young singers through the Guild's program for many years to come. DLOG is proud to salute Louise Conter at the annual DLOG Competition for Colorado Singers by naming the Master Class in her honor.

Louise was the only child of William and Catherine Conter. Her early years were spent in Brighton, Colorado. She graduated from Cathedral High School in Denver and later, embarked on a career in nursing. She trained and worked at Mercy Hospital in Denver before moving to the Colorado Springs Penrose Hospital. Louise returned to Denver in 1956 and worked as a surgical nurse at St. Anthony's Hospital for the next 25 years. She was a founding member of the Denver Association of Operating Nurses. She was a strong supporter of local musical organizations and a participating member of the Denver Lyric Opera Guild for many years. Upon retirement, Louise moved to the dairy farm in Commerce City owned by her grandparents where she lived until her death. Denver Lyric Opera Guild is a beneficiary of Louise Conter's kindness and generosity and we are forever grateful for her living gift!



## Master Class Instructor

**Mardi Byers**

*American Soprano*

American soprano, Mardi Byers is one of the most exciting and talented artists to have emerged from the United States of America in recent years. Hailed by the press as "The Grace Kelly of opera" (Die Welt), she is making her mark on international opera and concert stages including the Hamburg State Opera, the Bregenz Festival, Moscow's Bolshoi Theater, New York City Opera, and the BBC Proms. Her triumphant opera debut as Floria Tosca at Theater Lübeck in 2003 earned her both critical and public acclaim, prompting invitations from leading opera houses to sing the major roles of her repertoire including Amelia Simon Boccanegra at the Hamburg State Opera, Aida at Finnish National Opera, Opera Toulon, as well as in Graham Vick's production for the Bregenz Festival, Donna Anna Don Giovanni for Opera Frankfurt and New York City Opera, Georgette and Suor Angelica Il Trittico for New Orleans Opera, Elisabetta Don Carlo for Theater Basel directed by Calixto Beito, Marietta Die Tote Stadt, the title role of Tosca, Elizabeth Tannhäuser as well as Emilia Marty in Janáček's opera Vec Makropulos (a Robert Carson production) at the Nürnberg State Theater. In 2011, she was nominated for Russia's most prestigious theater award, "The Golden Mask" for her portrayal of Marie in the Dmitri Tcherniakov's celebrated production of Wozzeck conducted by Teodor Currentzis with the Bolshoi Theater. She also returned there as a guest in 2013, performing Der fliegende Holländer. She has performed 2 Richard Strauss roles (Chrysothemis Elektra and the title role in Ariadne auf Naxos) in Nürnberg and most recently covered the role of Salome at the Santa Fe Opera Festival. Mardi Byers' further European credits include Aida under the baton of Daniele Gatti, Elisabetta in Don Carlos in both the French and Italian versions, Amelia in I Masnadieri, Marguerite in Faust, the title role in Adriana Lecouvreur, La Contessa in Le nozze di Figaro, and Margarete in Honegger's Jeanne d'Arc au Bûcher. Equally at home on the concert stage, Mardi Byers has performed Mahler's 8th Symphony at the First Night of the 2010 BBC Proms, Strauss' Vier letzte Lieder in Hamburg, the Verdi Requiem in Finland's esteemed Turku Concert Hall, Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with the Stuttgart Symphony, and excerpts from Alban Berg's Wozzeck with the Düsseldorf Symphony Orchestra. Recitals have taken her to San Francisco, Zurich, Munich, Rome, and Salzburg. Mardi Byers is a native of Boulder, Colorado and currently makes her home in Zurich, Switzerland.

# 2022 *Competition* Finalists



Lauren Bumgarner



Courtney Caston



Alice Del Simone



Christina Hazen



Kyrie Laybourn



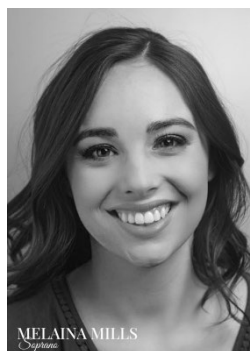
Danielle Lombardi



Tessa McQueen



Andrea Messina



Melaina Mills



Gabrielle Razafinjatovo



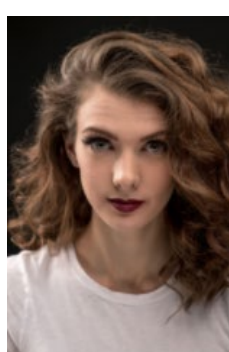
Kelly Riordan



Nathan Snyder



Catherine Swindle



Dawna Rae Warren



Paul Wolf



# Competition for Colorado Singers Finals Schedule

Time	Name	Age	Voice
Aria	Opera	Composer	

## 1:00 - Welcome

### 1:10 Gabrielle Razafinjatovo, 27, Mezzo-soprano

Va! laisse couler mes larmes, Werther, Massenet  
Crude furie, Serse, Handel  
Cruda sorte, L'Italiana in Algeri, Rossini  
This Journey, Dead Man Walking, Heggie  
Chacun à son goût, Die Fledermaus, J. Strauss

### 1:20 Alice Del Simone, 29, Soprano

Neghittosi, or via che fate?, Ariodante, Handel  
Non Monsieur mon mari, Les Mamelles de Tirésias, Poulenc  
Down you go, Flight, Dove  
Die Wiener Herrn verstehn sich, Arabella, R. Strauss  
Sul fil d'un soffio etesio, Falstaff, Verdi

### 1:30 Andrea Messina, 27, Soprano

Silver Aria, The Ballad of Baby Doe, Moore  
Presentation of the Rose, Der Rosenkavalier, R. Strauss  
Ach, ich fühl's, Die Zauberflöte, Mozart  
Obéissons quand leur voix appelle, Manon, Massenet  
Caro nome che il mio cor, Rigoletto, Verdi

### 1:40 Dawna Rae Warren, 26, Soprano

Da tempeste, Giulio Cesare, Handel  
Adieu, notre petite table, Manon, Massenet  
Ach, ich liebte, Die Entführung aus dem Serail, Mozart  
Caro nome che il mio cor, Rigoletto, Verdi  
Ah, fors'é lui, La Traviata, Verdi

## 1:50 - 2:00 Break

### 2:00 Nathan Snyder, 31, Tenor

Ah, si ben mio, Il Trovatore, Verdi  
Lift Off into the Heavens with me, Staggerwing, Peters & Despain  
Dein is mein ganzes Herz!, Das Land des Lächelns, Lehár  
E lucevan le stelle, Tosca, Puccini  
La fleur que tu m'avais jetée, Carmen, Bizet

### 2:10 Lauren Bumgarner, 25, Soprano

Je dis que rien ne m'épouvante, Carmen, Bizet  
Ain't it a pretty night?, Susannah, Floyd  
Come scoglio, Così fan tutte, Mozart  
Donde lieta, La Bohème, Puccini  
Klänge der Heimat, Die Fledermaus, J. Strauss

### 2:20 Christina Hazen, 27, Mezzo-soprano

Non so più cosa son, Le nozze di Figaro, Mozart  
I bought this suitcase, Flight, Dove  
Près des remparts de Séville, Carmen, Bizet  
O quante lagrime, La donna del lago, Rossini  
The Violin Aria, Les Contes d'Hoffmann, Offenbach

**2:30 Catherine Swindle, 30, Soprano**  
Ain't it a pretty night?, Susannah, Floyd  
Porgi, amor, Le nozze di Figaro, Mozart  
Tu che di gel sei cinta, Turandot, Puccini  
Das war sehr gut, Mandryka, Arabella, R. Strauss  
Donde lieta, La Bohème, Puccini

**2:40-2:50 Break**

**2:50 Kyrie Laybourn, 32, Soprano**  
I'm full of happiness, Albert Herring, Britten  
Pace, pace mio, Dio La forza del destino, Verdi  
Marietta's Lied (Glück, das mir verblieb), Die tote Stadt, Korngold  
Pleurez, pleurez mes yeux, Le Cid, Massenet  
It's the Girl, The Manchurian Candidate, Puts

**3:00 Kelly Riordan, 25, Mezzo-Soprano**  
I was a constant faithful wife, The Bear, Walton  
Va! laisse couler mes larmes, Werther, Massenet  
Svelgiatevi nel core, Giulio Cesare, Handel  
Wie du warst!, Der Rosenkavalier, R. Strauss  
This Journey, Dead Man Walking, Heggie

**3:10 Paul Wolf, 31, Tenor**  
Here I stand, The Rake's Progress, Stravinsky  
La fleur que tu m'avais jetée, Carmen, Bizet  
Il mio tesoro, Don Giovanni, Mozart  
Dein is mein ganzes Herz!, Das Land des Lächelns, Lehár  
Una furtiva lagrima, L'elisir d'amore, Donizetti

**3:20 - 3:30 Break**

**3:30 Tessa McQueen, 24, Soprano**  
Si, mi chiamano Mimi, La Bohème, Puccini  
Je dis que rien ne m'épouvante, Carmen, Bizet  
Valeria's Aria, Mayo, Cipullo  
Ah, fuggi il traditor, Don Giovanni, Mozart  
Czardas, Die Fledermaus, J. Strauss

**3:40 Danielle Lombardi, 30, Mezzo-Soprano**  
Acerba voluttà, Adriana Lecouvreur, Cilea  
Amour! viens aider ma faiblesse!, Samson et Dalila, Saint-Saëns  
Va! laisse couler mes larmes, Werther, Massenet  
Sgombra è la sacra selva, Norma, Bellini  
Pauline's Aria, Pique Dame, Tchaikovsky

**3:50 Courtney Caston, 26, Soprano**  
I want magic, A Streetcar Named Desire, Previn  
Signore, ascolta!, Turandot, Puccini  
Und ob die Wolke, Der Freischütz von, Weber  
Porgi, amor, Le nozze di Figaro, Mozart  
Donde lieta, La Bohème, Puccini

**4:00 Melaina Mills, 26, Soprano**  
Mio caro bene, Rodelinda, Handel  
Padre, germani, addio, Idomeneo, Mozart  
Comme autrefois, Les Pêcheurs de Perles, Bizet  
Oh quante volte, I Capuleti e i Montecchi, Bellini  
The Tower...How Beautiful It Is, The Turn of the Screw, Britten

# Accompanist

## Master Class, Preliminaries and Final Competition



### Dr. Jeremy Reger | *International Performer and Educator*

Jeremy Reger came to the University of Colorado after holding the position of director of keyboard studies and collaborative arts at Christopher Newport University in Virginia. The international performer and educator says although the natural beauty of the region was a big draw, in the end it was the passion of the students and faculty at the College of Music that led him here. "There's something special going on here," says Reger. "The exceptional, creative, inspiring community created between faculty and students is palpable, and it's very exciting to be a part of it."

Teaching and mentorship are Reger's true passions and he's worked with some of the top vocal performers and coaches in the country, including at the Minnesota Opera, Indiana Opera Theater, the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and the Ann Arbor Opera. In summer 2014 he was a coach and performer at the Opera Studio de Recife in Brazil. Reger has also been on the faculty of Music Academy of the West, and worked for Virginia Opera. A strong supporter of local arts organizations, he has also played with the Virginia Symphony, the Williamsburg Symphonia and the Cantabile Singers Art Song Project.

Dr. Reger holds degrees from Cincinnati Conservatory of Music and the University of Michigan.

## Opera on Tuesday Awards Luncheon Featuring 2022 Competition Winners

**Tuesday, April 5, 2022**

**10:30 a.m.**

*Social Hour*

**11:00 a.m.**

*Awards Program and Entertainment  
by our Competition Winners!*

**12:30 p.m.**

*Luncheon*

**Columbine Country Club**

**17 Fairway Lane, Littleton 80123**

**COST: \$55**

Reservations must be received by Tuesday, March 29, 2022

Send checks and any dietary restrictions to:

**Becky Gantner**

**2082 Montane Drive East**

**Golden, CO 80401**



# Judges - Preliminary Competition

## JONATHAN HAYS



Jonathan Hays, a graduate of the Yale College of Music, has fully entered the ranks of the best young performers of his generation. Mr. Hays' repertoire includes leading roles in operas such as Don Giovanni (Don Giovanni, Masetto), Le Nozze di Figaro (Count, Figaro), Die Zauberflöte (Papageno), Così Fan Tutte (Guglielmo), Das Rheingold (Donner), La Bohème (Marcello, Schaunard), L'Elisir d'Amore (Belcore), Giulio Cesare (Achilla), Deidamia (Fenice), L'Italiana in Algeri (Taddeo), La Cenerentola (Dandani), La Gazza Ladra (Fernando), I Pagliacci (Silvio), Fidelio (Fernando), Albert Herring (Sid, Vicar), Béatrice et Bénédict (Somarone), which he has performed with such companies as The Washington Opera, Central City Opera, The Lyric Opera of Kansas City, The Caramoor Festival, Connecticut Opera, Connecticut Grand Opera and Orchestra, Opera de la Colombia, The Cape Town Opera, Syracuse Opera, Eugene Opera, The Oklahoma Mozart Festival, The Utah Festival Opera Company and Yale Opera. After an acclaimed performance of Rossini's La Gazza Ladra with the Caramoor Festival and the Orchestra of St. Lukes, Paul Griffiths of The New York Times wrote of his work, "...in all his contributions,

the nobility of his voice matched the nobility of his bearing and his singing was consistently strong, lucid, direct and bang on the note. His was a magnificent performance."

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## EAPEN LAUBNER



With impressive reviews from Opera News, the New York Times and Musical America, Eapen Leubner is one of classical music's most diverse artists. Eapen's roles range from Mozart to Donizetti to rarely performed opera (Mahler's Die Drei Pintos and Herbert's Sweethearts) and world-premiere American Opera. Eapen has performed from Alaska to New York to Tirana, Albania. He recently rejoined Boulder Opera for "The Firebringers", three short operas by Colorado composer Chappell Kingsland featuring the world premiere of "Iwa the Caiman." In May 2016, Eapen debuted with Opera Theatre of the Rockies in "The Mikado." A frequent performer in New York City, Eapen made his Carnegie Hall Solo debut with Mid-America Productions and his Brooklyn Academy of Music debut with Encompass New Opera Theatre. In 2015, Eapen founded the Denver Art Song Project to entertain and educate audiences new to the genre. The group presents lively art song performances incorporating storytelling, multimedia and more. Now incorporated as a 501c3, "Art Song Colorado", the group performs live across the state, produces albums on their non-profit label, and creates online videos. The group has partnered with Chamber Orchestra of the Springs, Denver Arts & Venues, St. Andrews UMC and other organizations to introduce new audiences to the passion and power of classical singing. You can follow Eapen's career at: [www.facebook.com/eapenleubner](http://www.facebook.com/eapenleubner) - [www.facebook.com/artsongcolorado](http://www.facebook.com/artsongcolorado)

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## MARCIA RAGONETTI



A veteran of opera, concert and musical theatre stages as well as intimate cabaret spaces, Marcia Ragonetti has earned acclaim for her stellar singing+acting and was hailed by one critic as "a perfectly splendid mezzo". Nominated for "Henry" awards for outstanding actress for virtuosic portrayals of Maria Callas in Master Class and Norma Desmond in Sunset Boulevard, she was also cited as "Best Diva 2012" by Westword for a legacy of work with Opera Colorado (24 roles spanning 1981-2017), the Colorado Symphony Orchestra (22 guest artist appearances) as well as a wide range of regional and national opera companies. Her international debut was a 2009 tour of four Italian cities in Sweeney Todd. Marcia is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Cornell University where she received A.B. and M.A. degrees in psycholinguistics and English literature. Favorite opera roles include Cherubino, Carmen, Augusta Tabor, Cenerentola, Rosina, Prince Orlovsky, Hoffmann's Muse, Meg Page, Siebel, Hansel, Dido, Amahl's Mother, Empress Ottavia and Katisha.

# Judges - Final Competition

## SAM MUNGO



Dr. Samuel Mungo has been involved in opera as a director, singer and teacher for over 30 years. Recent professional directing credits include *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* for Florida Grand Opera, *Gianni Schicchi* for Opera Plovdiv, *Suor Angelica* for Opera Stara Zagora, *Rigoletto* for San Antonio Opera, and *Pirates of Penzance* for Colorado Light Opera. He has directed over 60 productions, for companies and programs large and small. National awards include twice Opera Production of the Year from the National Opera Association, Best of Baltimore Readers Choice, and Classical Performance of the Year from the San Antonio Express News. With a national reputation as an opera acting pedagogue, he has presented across the country at national conferences and colleges, including the National Opera Association, NATS, and Classical Singer. Upcoming include *The Falling* and the *Rising* for Opera Carolina, *Lady Bird* for Queens Opera, and Masterclasses at Hunter College, Butler University, and University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Dr. Mungo has been faculty at the Peabody Conservatory, Actor's Studio Drama School, New York University, the New School University, and Texas State University. [Samuelmungo.com](http://Samuelmungo.com)

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## LEENYA RIDEOUT



Leenya Rideout's talent has been heralded in glowing terms such as *"Her singing voice is delightful, equally comfortable in folk, rock, and classic Italian."* *"Hands down a quadruple threat- with the most amazing operatic pipes, divine, dancing skills, splendid acting abilities, and the ability to play a stringed instrument like it's an extension of her arm."* *"Even Rideout's terrific soprano registers the change, gaining power as Aldonza slowly comes to see herself as Lady Dulcinea named"* The 2020 Distinguished Alumna of the University of Colorado School of Music, Leenya Rideout has performed in musicals, plays, operas, and concerts all over the world. Featured on such original Tony winning Broadway cast recordings as *Company* and *Cabaret*, she has worked with groundbreaking directors such as John Doyle, Sam Mendes, & Rob Marshall. She is a 2- time medalist in the Savannah Vocal Competition and recipient of the Johnny Mercer Award. Her original solo play with music entitled *Wild Abandon* had a successful run at the Irish Repertory Theatre in 2018. She has taught voice at NYU Steinhardt. A resident of New York City, she lives with her actor husband Ted Koch. [www.leenya.com](http://www.leenya.com)

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## WEI WU



Grammy Award-winning bass Wei Wu, born in Beijing, received his Performance Certificate and Master of Music in Voice from the University of Colorado at Boulder, where he recently was honored with the Kalpana Chawla Outstanding Graduate Award to compliment him on his booming opera career. In 2017, Mr. Wu created the role of Kōbun Otagawa in the world premiere opera *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs*, which later brought him a Grammy award in the Best Opera Recording of the Year. Mr. Wu has been highly praised for his appearances in many theaters throughout the U.S and internationally, such as Metropolitan Opera, Washington National Opera, San Francisco Opera, Glyndebourne Festival Opera in the U.K, NCPA in Beijing, Santa Fe Opera, Minnesota Opera, Pittsburgh Opera, Austin Opera, Lyric Opera of Kansas, North Carolina Opera, New Orleans Opera, China National Opera, Shanghai Opera House, Bard Summerscape Festival, Opera Hong Kong, Prototype Festival, Princeton Festival, Maryland Lyric Opera, and Teatro dell'Opera di Roma. He has collaborated with Washington Concert Opera, Pittsburgh Symphony, Choral Arts DC, West Virginia Symphony, and Kansas City Symphony. Mr. Wu is a former member of the Cafritz Young Artist of Washington National Opera and prize winner of the Gerda Lissner Foundation Vocal Competition, Metropolitan Opera National Council Audition, and Denver Lyric Opera Guild Competition. Future engagements include Opera Philadelphia, Des Moines Metro Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, and Los Angeles Opera.

# 2022 Competition Awards

**\$36,000 will be awarded in 2022**

**First Place: \$10000 GALEN & ADA BELLE SPENCER FOUNDATION AWARD**

*Recipient* \_\_\_\_\_

**Second Place: \$5000 KENNETH KING FOUNDATION AWARD**

*Recipient* \_\_\_\_\_

**Third Place: \$4500 MYRLE F. HOFFMAN MEMORIAL AWARD**

*Recipient* \_\_\_\_\_

**Fourth Place: \$4000 SHIRLEY AND MARLIS SMITH AWARD**

*Recipient* \_\_\_\_\_

**Fifth Place: \$3500 GARY & GAYLE LANDIS AWARD**

*Recipient* \_\_\_\_\_

**Sixth Place: \$3000 CAROLE JOHNSTON AWARD**

*Recipient* \_\_\_\_\_

**Seventh Place: \$2500 BEVERLY ANN LANDIS MEMORIAL AWARD**

*Recipient* \_\_\_\_\_

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## 3 Certificates of Merit \$1000 Each

LISA CURTIS IN HONOR OF ANNE KOTCH AWARD

*Recipient* \_\_\_\_\_

JULIE JOHNSTON & DONORS IN MEMORY OF  
HARRY WILLIAMS AWARD

*Recipient* \_\_\_\_\_

JACKIE WRITZ IN MEMORY OF CANDIDATE  
CHECK-IN VOLUNTEERS: EXTRAORDINAIRE MARY  
SHARON WELLS, ROSEMARY PRIESTER, JANE  
GIBSON AND JEANETTE THROWER

*Recipient* \_\_\_\_\_

## 5 Honorable Mentions \$500 Each

GENE AND LINDA YOUNG IN HONOR OF MASON  
CRAMER

*Recipient* \_\_\_\_\_

LIVERPOOL CARD GROUP AND DLOG DONORS

*Recipient* \_\_\_\_\_

*Recipient* \_\_\_\_\_

*Recipient* \_\_\_\_\_

*Recipient* \_\_\_\_\_



# 2021 Competition Winners

## First Place Galen & Ada Belle Spencer Foundation Award

Anna Montgomery | *Soprano*



Anna Montgomery received her BM in Voice Performance from the University of Houston and her MM in Voice Performance from Michigan State University. She received an Encouragement Award at this year's MONC Rocky Mountain Region Auditions. Other recent awards include the 2019 Career Bridges Young Artist Grant Winner, first place in the 2019 Harold Haugh Light Opera Vocal Competition, finalist in the 2019 American Vocal Arts International Singing Championship, and was the Graduate/Advanced Winner and Division Winner of the 2018 NATS Great Lakes Region Auditions.

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## Second Place Kenneth King Foundation Award

Steven Groth | *Baritone*



Steven Groth received his Bachelor of Music Education and French from the University of Wisconsin Madison, his MM in Vocal Performance and MM in Collaborative Piano from the University of Missouri – Columbia, and his Doctor of Musical Arts in Voice Performance and Pedagogy from the University of Colorado – Boulder. He is currently teaching remotely for SUNY Potsdam and hopes to join the faculty there in person this coming fall.

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## Third Place Myrle F. Hoffman Memorial Award

Schyler Vargas | *Baritone*



Schyler Vargas received his Bachelor of Music from Colorado State University and his MM from the University of Cincinnati College – Conservatory of Music. Schyler was a Young Artist at the Glimmerglass Festival in 2018 and 2019 and was a member of the Houston Grand Opera Young Artist Vocal Academy in 2017. Schyler was a 2020 winner of the Colorado/Wyoming District MONC Auditions and took first place in the 2020 TriCities Opera Competition.

# 2021 Competition Winners

## Fourth Place Galena & Ada Belle Spencer Foundation Award

Lauren Bumgarner | *Soprano*



Lauren Bumgarner received her BM in Vocal Performance from the University of California – Santa Cruz and is working on her MM in Vocal Performance at Colorado State University. Lauren was the 2020 Emerging Artist for MIOpera and was selected as a 2020 Apprentice Artist at Opera Fort Collins. Roles for MIOpera include Micheala in *Carmen* and Juliette in *Romeo et Juliette*.

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## Fifth Place Gary & Gayle Landis In Honor Of Marlis Smith Award

Gabrielle Razafinjatovo | *Mezzo*



Gabrielle Razafinjatovo received her BA Music from Minot State University and is working on her MM in Voice Performance and Pedagogy at the University of Colorado Boulder. Gabrielle received the Audience Choice Award and an Encouragement Award at the 2016 MET Auditions ND-MB Region. Roles performed for the Western Plain Opera Company include the Mother in *Hansel and Gretel*, Rosina in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* and Anna Leonowens in *The King and I*.

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## Sixth Place Carole Johnson In Memory of Mary Wise Award

Isaiah Feken | *Baritone*



Isaiah Feken received his BM in Voice Performance from the University of Tulsa and his MM in Voice Performance from the University of Georgia. Isaiah is currently in his second year as an Opera Colorado Artist in Residence. Some of his many roles include Figaro and Police Sargent in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, Count Almaviva in *Le nozze di Figaro*, Ford in *Falstaff* and Fred Graham in *Kiss Me Kate*.

# 2021 Competition Winners

## Seventh Place Sherry Shepherd Sargent Memorial Award

Oliver Poveda | *Bass*



Oliver Poveda is a bass who hails from Ecuador. He received his Technical Degree in Music from Conservatorio Nacional de Musica – Ecuador, and received his Bachelor of Music from the Lamont School of Music at DU. Oliver received first place in the 2018 Lamont Chamber Music Competition. Roles include Sarastro in *Die Zauberflöte*, Bartolo in *Le nozze di Figaro* and Colline in *La Bohème*.

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## Eighth Place Dr. Frank Sargent Family Award

Courtney Caston | *Soprano*



Courtney Caston received her MM in Vocal Performance at the University of Northern Colorado. Roles include Erste Dame in *Die Zauberflöte* and the Sacerdotessa in *Aida* with Opera Classica Europa, and Aida in UNC's *Aida*. Courtney also worked for the Stryker Institute for Leadership Development that supports the personal, social, and academic achievements of women from underrepresented groups at UNC.

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## Certificates of Merit

Lisa Curtis In Honor of Anne Kotch Award

Helen Hass, *Mezzo*

Julie Johnston and Donors in Memory of Harry Williams Award

Kelly Riordan, *Mezzo*

## Honorable Mention DLOG Members and Dr. Frank Sargent

Emily Anderson, *Mezzo*

Paul Wolf, *Tenor*

Christiana Danaé Maldonado,  
*Soprano*

Miguel Angel Ortega Bañales, *Tenor*  
Angela Lamar, *Soprano*



# First Place Winners of Past Competitions

<b>1985</b> Rebecca Lively	<b>1995</b> Julianne Best	<b>2004</b> Wendy Jones	<b>2013</b> Thomas Kittle
<b>1986</b> Elizabeth Hagedorn	<b>1996</b> Emily Herrera	<b>2005</b> Christopher Job	<b>2014</b> Rebecca Kidnie
<b>1987</b> Kathryn Garber	<b>1997</b> Katherine Adam	<b>2006</b> Jordan Shanahan	<b>2015</b> Taylor Raven
<b>1988</b> Geena Jeffries	<b>1998</b> Amy Lauritzen	<b>2007</b> Jennifer DeDominici	<b>2016</b> Sarah Cambridge
<b>1989</b> Cynthia Lawrence	<b>1999</b> Li Hui Zhang	<b>2008</b> Annamarie Zmolek	<b>2017</b> Ekaterina Kotcherguina
<b>1990</b> Yalun Zhang	<b>2000</b> Robert Gardner	<b>2009</b> Juli Bunyak	<b>2018</b> Michael Hoffman
<b>1991</b> James Bobick	<b>2001</b> Bradley Thompson	<b>2010</b> Christie Hageman	<b>2019</b> Matthew Peterson
<b>1992</b> Curt Peterson	<b>2002</b> Jennifer Robertson	<b>2011</b> John Lindsay	<b>2020</b> Claire McCahan
<b>1993</b> Helena Biktasheva	<b>2003</b> Shannon Koonce Magee	<b>2012</b> Kimberly Render	<b>2021</b> Anna Montgomery

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Since inaugurating the *Competition for Colorado Singers* in 1984, over 250 aspiring young opera singers have won the coveted top awards. DLOG wishes all of the 2020 winners success as their operatic and music careers move forward.

Perhaps one day, they too will join with other Colorado Competition winners who have achieved Metropolitan Opera, San Francisco Opera, Santa Fe Opera, and other major national and international opera success.

We honor Competition alumni such as **Sarah Cambridge, Jennifer DeDominici, Christopher Job, Curt Peterson, Cynthia Lawrence, Megan Marino, Mark Van Arsdale, Wei Wu** and others who have reached opera stardom.



# DLOG Collegiate and Young Artists Grants

Denver Lyric Opera Guild Grants to universities and young artist training programs are made possible through the generosity of Guild Members and by established funds from the endowment portfolio. In 2021, universities and opera apprentice programs will receive grants totaling **\$33,000**.

## 2022 Collegiate Grants

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**COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC**

**EKLUND OPERA  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AT BOULDER**

**METROPOLITAN STATE UNIVERSITY OF  
DENVER DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC**

**UNIVERSITY OF DENVER  
LAMONT SCHOOL OF MUSIC**

**UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO OPERA THEATRE**

## 2022 Young Artists Program Grants

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**CENTRAL CITY OPERA  
YOUNG ARTISTS PROGRAM**

**OPERA FORT COLLINS  
APPRENTICE ARTISTS PROGRAM**

**OPERA COLORADO  
ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM**

**OPERA THEATRE OF THE ROCKIES  
ARTISTS AND OUTREACH ENSEMBLE**

**OPERA STEAMBOAT**

## 2021 Young Artists Grant Recipients

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**COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC**

David Silvano

**CENTRAL CITY OPERA  
YOUNG ARTISTS PROGRAM**

Eric McConnell

**METROPOLITAN STATE UNIVERSITY OF  
DENVER DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC**

Miranda White, Lillian Timmons

**OPERA COLORADO  
ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE**

six Opera Colorado Artists in Residence and their  
Coach Accompanist.

**EKLUND OPERA  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER**

The grant was directed toward paying eight student singer performer fees for the Eklund Opera's summer academic program CU NOW (New Opera Workshop). The student singers worked with Jake Heggie, Gene Scheer, and Houston Grand Opera singers.

**UNIVERSITY OF DENVER  
LAMONT SCHOOL OF MUSIC**

Justin Given, Kimberly Gnagey, Julianne Perkins

**OPERA FORT COLLINS  
APPRENTICE ARTISTS PROGRAM**

Due to COVID restrictions, Opera Fort Collins created a virtual "Career Paths" Zoom program for university opera students. Grant monies paid the professional vocal performers who conducted the four clinics last spring and the recent two clinics.

**UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO  
OPERA THEATRE**

Kristi Muzzio, Charles Mukaida, Jonathan Espinoza, Reese Cruz

**OPERA THEATRE OF THE ROCKIES**

Given to eleven young Artists Outreach Ensemble singers for a major performance in August during Vocal Arts Week, and for the Ensemble's performance in a free, outdoor concert enjoyed by 400+ community attendees.

# Denver Lyric Opera Guild Major Donors

The following make the Competition for  
Colorado Singers possible with their generous gifts

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We gratefully acknowledge and thank all DLOG members and volunteers  
who support the Guild with their time, talents and generosity.

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Learn more about DLOG by visiting  
[www.denverlyricoperaguild.org](http://www.denverlyricoperaguild.org)



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