

FRIENDS OF
Eastman Opera

20TH ANNUAL VOICE COMPETITION

Adjudicated by

MIAH IM

*Director of Opera Studies at Rice University
Music Director, Houston Opera Studio*

Saturday, March 6, 2021

7:30 PM

VIRTUALLY



EASTMAN
SCHOOL OF MUSIC
UNIVERSITY *of* ROCHESTER

PROGRAM

Michael Aiello, baritone Maeve Berry, piano

Ah! per sempre from *I puritani*

Vincenzo Bellini
(1801-1835)

Charlie's Aria from *Three Decembers*

Jake Heggie
(b. 1961)

Robert's Aria from *Iolanta*

Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
(1840-1893)

American baritone Michael Aiello most recently performed the role of Fredrik Egerman in Stephen Sondheim's *A Little Night Music* with the Aspen Opera Festival. Other recent credits include Lieutenant Audebert in *Silent Night* (Buffalo, NY) by Kevin Puts, Marcello in *La bohème* (San Diego, CA) by Puccini and Tom in Gershwin's *Blue Monday* with Opera de Tijuana in Mexico. While pursuing his doctorate at the Eastman School of Music, Michael has sung the title roles in Mozart's *Don Giovanni* and Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd*; he will sing the role of John Cree in the upcoming production of *Elizabeth Cree* by Kevin Puts this coming spring. In 2019, Michael was a semi-finalist in the Lotte Lenya competition, and in 2016 he received the second-place award in the Palm Springs Opera Guild Rossini Competition, adjudicated by the famous Rossini tenor Rockwell Blake.

Edward Bland, baritone Jenny Kirby, piano

Pierrot's Tanzlied from *Die tote Stadt*

Erich Korngold
(1897-1957)

Vision fugitive from *Hérodiade*

Jules Massenet
(1842-1912)

Per me giunto from *Don Carlo*

Giuseppe Verdi
(1813-1901)

Baritone Edward Bland is a first-year MM Vocal Performance and Literature student from Morganton, North Carolina. He completed his Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance at Lenoir-Rhyne University, graduating in 2020. He has participated in summer programs including the Opera Workshop in the Flint Hills in Marion, Kansas, and "Si parla, si canta!" in Arona, Italy. He was twice named a NATS National Semi-finalist during undergraduate studies. His performed roles include Betto in Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi* and Shoe Salesman/Puppet #2 in Dominick Argento's *Postcard from Morocco*. An opera lover, his idols include Ettore Bastianini, Dmitri Hvorostovsky, and Leontyne Price.

PROGRAM

Kira Kaplan, soprano Jenny Kirby, piano

- Ah, fors'è lui...Sempre libera!** Giuseppe Verdi
from *La traviata* (1813-1901)
- O zittre nicht** from *Die Zauberflöte* Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756-1791)
- No word from Tom** from *The Rake's Progress* Igor Stravinsky
(1882-1971)

Soprano Kira Kaplan most recently received accolade as an award winner in the 2020 MI Opera Competition. During her time at Eastman, she has had success in the roles of Madame Herz in *Der Schauspieldirektor*, as Le Feu/Le Rossignol in *L'enfant et les sortilèges*, and as the soprano soloist in Haydn's *Seasons* with the Eastman Rochester Chorus. In summer 2019, Kira made her Italian debut as Laretta in *Gianni Schicchi* with the Villa Negra Opera Festival. Other recent performances include singing as a Young Artist with the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival, portraying Amy in the opera *Little Women*.

Elise Noyes, soprano I-Hsiang Chao, piano

- Comme autrefois** Georges Bizet
from *Les pêcheurs de perles* (1838-1875)
- Come scoglio** from *Così fan tutte* Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756-1791)
- I want magic!** from *A Streetcar Named Desire* André Previn
(1929-2019)

Canadian-American soprano Elise Noyes is a graduate of the University of Alberta and a current masters student at Eastman heralded for her versatility in choral, operatic, and musical theater works alike. Her recent performances include Eastman Opera Theatre's *Our Voices*, Against the Grain Theatre's *Opera Pub*, Micaela in Mercury Opera's *Carmen*, and Ravel's *Shéhérezade* with the Edmonton Youth Orchestra. Ms. Noyes is currently supported by the Alberta Foundation for the Arts and the Anne Burrows Foundation. This spring, she will be featured as a soloist with both the Eastman Bach Cantata series and Eastman's *Mozart Mayhem* production appearing as Fiordiligi.

PROGRAM

Gia Pappas, soprano William Shi, piano

Dove sono... from *Le nozze di Figaro* Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756-1791)

Donde lieta from *La bohème* Giacomo Puccini
(1858-1924)

Elle a fui, la tourterelle
from *Les contes d'Hoffmann* Jacques Offenbach
(1819-1880)

Greek-American soprano Gia Pappas is a first year MM student at the Eastman School of Music. Ms. Pappas has gained acclaim for her powerful and dramatic instrument, opulent tone and commanding stage presence. Recent highlights include the role of Contessa Almaviva in Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro* and Clori in Cavalli's *L'Egisto*. Collaborations include guidance from world-renowned soprano Anna Maria Martinez as she studied Rosalba in Catán's *Florencia en el Amazonas*, Grammy-nominated composer Missy Mazzoli and 2020 Pulitzer Prize winner Anthony Davis in Eastman Opera Theatre's *Our Voices*. Awards include first place in the 2019 Kleinman Vocal Competition and the 2017 Georgia Sfondouris Mitchell Music Panhellenic Scholarship. Ms. Pappas is looking forward to her future in the operatic field and is excited for her upcoming roles!

Sofia Scattarreggia, soprano Rebecca Golub, piano

Me llaman la primorosa
from *El barbero de Sevilla* Giménez y Nieto
(1858-1923)

Je dis que rien ne m'épouvante
from *Carmen* Georges Bizet
(1838-1875)

O mio babbino caro from *Gianni Schicchi* Giacomo Puccini
(1858-1924)

Sofia Scattarreggia is an Italian and American soprano from Barcelona, Spain. She received her BM from the Florida State University and is currently in the last semester of her MM at the Eastman School of Music. She has performed roles such as Eurydice in *Orfeo ed Euridice*, Lady with a Cake Box in *Postcard from Morocco*, Lauretta in *Gianni Schicchi*, among others. Sofia has won several awards, including being a winner of the Hannah J. Beaulieu Competition and a finalist in the 2018 SERNATS competition. Sofia looks forward to pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts degree.

PROGRAM

Hannah Stokes, soprano Rebecca Golub, piano

The Trees on the Mountains
from *Susannah*

Carlisle Floyd
(b. 1926)

Und ob die Wolke from *Der Freischütz*

Carl Maria von Weber
(1786-1826)

Mi tradi quell'alma ingrata
from *Don Giovanni*

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756-1791)

Hannah Stokes, soprano, is pursuing a master's degree at the Eastman School of Music. She received her Bachelor of Arts in vocal performance from Westminster College of Salt Lake City. Most recently, she portrayed Isabelle Eberhardt in Eastman Opera Theatre's *Our Voices*. In Utah, Hannah performed the role of Adina in Donizetti's *L'elisir d'amore* and in the choruses of Otto Nicolai's *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and Puccini's *La bohème*. Additionally, she performed as Gilda in scenes from Verdi's *Rigoletto*, Rosalinda in scenes from Strauss's *Die Fledermaus*, and Nancy in scenes from Britten's *Albert Herring*.

Bergsvein Toverud, tenor Maeve Berry, piano

Freunde, das Leben ist lebenswert
from *Giuditta*

Franz Lehár
(1870-1948)

Dies Bildnis from *Die Zauberflöte*

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756-1791)

Questa o quella from *Rigoletto*

Giuseppe Verdi
(1813-1901)

Tenor Bergsvein W. Toverud earned his Bachelors of Music from Furman University in 2019 and is currently in the final semester of his Masters Degree in Performance and Literature from the Eastman School of Music. Bergsvein made his operatic debut at Eastman in 2019 as Charlie and Der Harlekin in *Mahagonny-Songspiel* by Weill and *Der Kaiser von Atlantis* by Ullman, respectively. In the summer of 2019, he took first prize at the Classical Singer National Competition in Chicago.

20TH ANNUAL COMPETITION ADJUDICATOR

Canadian born pianist **Miah Im** has recently been appointed Professor of Opera and Director of Opera Studies at Rice University. Additionally, she has joined Houston Grand Opera as Music Director of its esteemed HGO Studio. Formerly, she was the Head of Music Staff at Los Angeles Opera, where she served as an assistant conductor, pianist and prompter. Working alongside its music director James Conlon, she was the prompter for LAO's Grammy winning opera performance for *The Ghosts of Versailles*.

She has collaborated with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Baltimore Symphony, the Taiwan Philharmonic and has been engaged in Seoul, South Korea by the Seoul Arts Center and at the Daegu Opera House as its Principal Coach and Assistant Conductor. She previously held positions as Principal Coach and Conductor of the University of Toronto Opera School as well as Music Director of the University of Maryland Opera Studio, San Diego Opera Young Artists Ensemble and co-music director of the Concert Artists program for the Oberlin in Italy program.

With over 80 operas in her repertoire, Ms. Im has served on the music staffs for Lyric Opera of Chicago, New York City and Wolftrap Operas, Ravinia Music Festival, Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, The Juilliard School and the Centre for Opera Studies in Italy. She has also been on the opera faculty at the Aspen Music Festival and School, where she has taught, performed and served as principal coach and chorus master.

She has coached and conducted at the Royal College of Music in London and with a commitment to emerging artists, has devoted much of her time to the singers and pianists in the Domingo-Colburn-Stein Young Artists Program and has worked with the Jette Parker Young Artists at the Royal Opera House.

An active member of OPERA America, Im serves on the steering committee of OPERA America's Women's Opera Network, which is committed to increasing awareness and discussion about diversity and gender equality. Among her greatest passions are helping the advancement of talented women in the opera field and serving as a supporter and mentor for emerging female professionals.

Ms. Im was the inaugural recipient of the Marilyn Horne Foundation Award for Excellence in Vocal Accompanying and appeared as a featured artist on the foundation's annual gala concert. She has performed with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Houston Grand Opera, Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Saint Louis and New World Symphonies. Her performances have also been featured on WQXR in New York City, NPR and on the CBC radio.

She holds degrees from the University of Michigan in Piano Performance, a minor in Italian and a Master of Music in Collaborative Piano and Chamber Music. Her principal teachers have included Martin Katz, Warren Jones and Louis Nagel.

ABOUT THE PRIZES

The **Lynne Clarke Vocal Prize** was established in 2003 from a fund created in 1998 by John Clarke in memory of his late wife and continues to be supported through the generosity of John's widow, Stephanie Cooper-Clarke. John and Lynne were founding members of the Friends of Eastman Opera

The **Annabel Muentner Vocal Prize** was established in 2012 to honor the memory of Ms. Annabel Muentner, a lifelong opera lover and longtime board member of Friends of Eastman Opera.

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