

THE METROPOLITAN OPERA ERIC AND DOMINIQUE LAFFONT

GRAND FINALS CONCERT

CONDUCTOR
Marco Armiliato

HOST AND GUEST ARTIST
Nadine Sierra

Metropolitan
Opera Orchestra

Sunday, May 1, 2022
3:00PM

GENERAL MANAGER
Peter Gelb

JEANETTE LERMAN-NEUBAUER
MUSIC DIRECTOR
Yannick Nézet-Séguin

With this performance and its entire
spring season, the Met honors Ukraine,
its citizens, and the many lives lost.

The Metropolitan Opera

2021–22 SEASON

THE METROPOLITAN OPERA ERIC AND DOMINIQUE LAFFONT

GRAND FINALS CONCERT

CONDUCTOR

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Nadine Sierra

"L'amour est un oiseau rebelle" from *Carmen* (Bizet)

Maggie Renée, Mezzo-Soprano

"Se pietà di me non senti" from *Giulio Cesare* (Handel)

Julie Roset, Soprano

"O Isis und Osiris, schenket der Weisheit Geist" from

Die Zauberflöte (Mozart)

Jonas Jud, Bass

"Regnava nel silenzio ... Quando rapito in estasi" from

Lucia di Lammermoor (Donizetti)

Rachel Blaustein, Soprano

"Dies Bildnis ist bezaubernd schön" from *Die Zauberflöte*

(Mozart)

Daniel O'Hearn, Tenor

"Werther! Qui m'aurait dit ... Ces lettres!" from *Werther*

(Massenet)

Anne Marie Stanley, Mezzo-Soprano

"Otchevo eto prezhde ne znala" from *Iolanta* (Tchaikovsky)

Alexandra Razskazoff, Soprano

This performance
is being broadcast
live on Metropolitan
Opera Radio on
SiriusXM channel
355 and streamed
at metopera.org.

Sunday, May 1, 2022, 3:00PM

"Vyes' tabor spit" from *Aleko* (Rachmaninoff)

Le Bu, Bass-Baritone

"Col sorriso d'innocenza ... Oh sole ti vela" from *Il Pirata* (Bellini)

Esther Tonea, Soprano

"Winterstürme wichen dem Wonnemond" from *Die Walküre* (Wagner)

Matthew Cairns, Tenor

Intermission

"Ah! Où va la jeune indoue" from *Lakmé* (Delibes)

Julie Roset, Soprano

"Svegliatevi nel core" from *Giulio Cesare* (Handel)

Maggie René, Mezzo-Soprano

"A te l'estremo addio ... Il lacerato spirito" from *Simon Boccanegra* (Verdi)

Jonas Jud, Bass

"I worry, that's all" from *Fellow Travelers* (Gregory Spears)

Rachel Blaustein, Soprano

"Crudele? ... Non mi dir" from *Don Giovanni* (Mozart)

Alexandra Razskazoff, Soprano

"Se Romeo t'uccise un figlio ... La tremenda ultrice spada" from *I Capuleti e i Montecchi* (Bellini)

Anne Marie Stanley, Mezzo-Soprano

"Di rigori armato il seno" from *Der Rosenkavalier* (Strauss)

Daniel O'Hearn, Tenor

"Schweig, schweig" from *Der Freischütz* (Weber)

Le Bu, Bass-Baritone

"La fleur que tu m'avais jetée" from *Carmen* (Bizet)

Matthew Cairns, Tenor

"Dieu! Quel frisson court dans mes veines? ... Amour, ranime mon courage" from *Roméo et Juliette* (Gounod)

Esther Tonea, Soprano

GUEST ARTIST

"È strano! è strano! ... Ah fors'è lui ... Sempre libera degg'io" from *La Traviata* (Verdi)

Nadine Sierra, Soprano

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE GRAND FINALS WINNERS

Please remember that face masks are required at all times inside the Met.

Before the performance begins, please switch off any cell phones and any other electronic devices.

Yamaha is the Official Piano of the Metropolitan Opera.

Meet the Artists



Rachel Blaustein

SOPRANO (OLNEY, MARYLAND)

AGE: 30

During the 2021–22 season, Rachel Blaustein sings Frasquita in *Carmen* at Chicago Opera Theater, Lauretta in *Gianni Schicchi* at Tulsa Opera, Micól Finzi-Contini in the world premiere of Ricky Ian Gordon's *The Garden of the Finzi-Continis* at New York City Opera, and Ruth in the world premiere of Tobias Picker's *Awakenings* at Opera Theatre of Saint Louis. She also covers the Monument in Kamala Sankaram's *Rise* as a part of Washington National Opera's *Written in Stone* and Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte* at Opera Theatre of Saint Louis. Last summer, she was an apprentice artist at the Santa Fe Opera, where she sang Autonoe in the world premiere of John Corigliano's *The Lord of Cries* and Peaseblossom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Other recent appearances include Bach's Mass in B Minor with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra and Bel Canto Chorus and Save Mart Customer / Queer Kid in Kamala Sankaram's *Taking Up Serpents* at Chicago Opera Theater. Eastern Region.



Le Bu

BASS-BARITONE (YAN CHENG, CHINA)

AGE: 26

Le Bu is currently pursuing his undergraduate degree at Manhattan School of Music, under the instruction of legendary bass-baritone James Morris. He began his vocal training at Shanghai Conservatory of Music before transferring to Wichita State University, where he studied with tenor Michael Sylvester. This year, he joined San Francisco Opera's Merola Opera Program and has also participated in the Aspen Music Festival and School and iSING! International Young Artist Festival. His operatic roles include Dr. Bartolo in *Le Nozze di Figaro* and Simone in *Gianni Schicchi*. In 2018, he was a winner of the Barbara Rondelli Kansas Statewide Classical Voice Competition. Midwest Region.



Matthew Cairns

TENOR (TORONTO, CANADA)

AGE: 27

A current member of the Canadian Opera Company Ensemble Studio, Matthew Cairns recently sang the Prince of Persia in *Turandot*, the Witch in *Hänsel und Gretel*, and the Gamekeeper in *Rusalka*, and covers Alfredo in *La Traviata*. He has also appeared as Don Ottavio in *Don Giovanni* and Gherardo in *Gianni Schicchi* with the Centre for Opera Studies in Italy, Liberto in Monteverdi's *L'Incoronazione di Poppea* at Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, and Detlef in Romberg's *The Student Prince* at Chautauqua Institution, where he placed first in its Sigma Alpha Iota Competition. Other roles include Count Belfiore in Mozart's *La Finta Giardiniera*, Sam Kaplan in Weill's *Street Scene*, and Sam Sharkey / a Lumberjack in Britten's *Paul Bunyan*. He was a finalist in the 2022 Neue Stimmen Competition, first-prize winner of the 2018 Canadian Opera Company Ensemble Studio Competition, and winner of the CBC Music Young Artist Development Prize. Great Lakes Region.



Jonas Jud

BASS (TROGEN, SWITZERLAND)

AGE: 25

Jonas Jud completed his bachelor's degree in 2020 at the Conservatorio di Musica Agostino Steffani in Castelfranco Veneto, Italy, and is now pursuing his master's degree at the Yale School of Music. He has sung Caronte in Monteverdi's *Orfeo* with the Ouverture opera company in Sion, Switzerland; Colline in *La Bohème* at Opernspiele Munot in Schaffhausen, Switzerland; Truffaldin in *Ariadne auf Naxos* and Skomoroch in Rimsky-Korsakov's *The Tale of Tsar Saltan* at Germany's Isny Oper; Sarastro in *Die Zauberflöte* at the Teatro Civico di Schio and Teatro di Castelfranco Veneto; and Melisso in Handel's *Alcina* at the Yale Opera. He has also covered the roles of Dr. Bartolo in *Le Nozze di Figaro* and Theseus in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Santa Fe Opera. This August, he will sing Sarastro at Opernspiele Munot, and in September, he joins the International Opera Studio at Opernhaus Zürich. New England Region.



Daniel O'Hearn

TENOR (CHICAGO, ILLINOIS)

AGE: 26

Daniel O'Hearn is currently a resident artist with Utah Opera, where this season he sings Bill in Jonathan Dove's *Flight* and Spoletta in *Tosca*, and covers Count Almaviva in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*. Last summer, he was an apprentice artist at the Santa Fe Opera, where he covered Tom Snout in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and the Peasant in *Eugene Onegin*. He returns this coming summer to cover Le Remendado in *Carmen* and the Sailor and Shepherd in *Tristan und Isolde*. He has also performed as a soloist in a number of classical concert works, including in Stravinsky's *Pulcinella* and Handel's *Messiah* with the Utah Symphony. He was the winner of the 2019 American Prize from the American Prize Oratorio Society of Chicago and placed first in the 2019 Kleinman Competition. Rocky Mountain Region.



Alexandra Razskazoff

SOPRANO (NEW BRIGHTON, MINNESOTA)

AGE: 30

This year, Alexandra Razskazoff will make her international debut as Mimi in *La Bohème* at Chile's Teatro Municipal de Santiago and reprise her portrayals of Violetta in *La Traviata* at Opera Columbus and Donna Elvira in *Don Giovanni* with Teatro Grattacielo at the Phoénicia International Festival of the Voice. Also during the 2021–22 season, she sang Suzel in Mascagni's *L'Amico Fritz* with Teatro Grattacielo and Giannetta in *L'Elisir d'Amore* at Palm Beach Opera, where she also covered Micaëla in *Carmen* and Hanna Glawari in *The Merry Widow*. She was a young artist in San Francisco Opera's Merola Opera Program and an apprentice artist at the Santa Fe Opera, and while a member of these prestigious programs, she prepared roles including the Countess in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Musetta in *La Bohème*, Wellgunde in *Das Rheingold*, and Blanche de la Force in *Dialogues des Carmélites*. She was a semifinalist in the 2021 Operalia competition. Southeast Region.



Maggie René

MEZZO-SOPRANO (LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA)

AGE: 23

An honors graduate of the Juilliard School, where she is currently pursuing her master's degree, Maggie René sings the Second Spirit in *Die Zauberflöte* with San Francisco Opera's Merola Opera Program and Baba the Turk in *The Rake's Progress* with Juilliard Opera this season. Last season, she covered Olga in *Eugene Onegin* and a Bridesmaid in *Le Nozze di Figaro* at the Santa Fe Opera and sang King Egeon in Handel's *Teseo* and Goffredo in Handel's *Rinaldo* at Juilliard. She has also sung Carmen in *La Tragédie de Carmen* with City Lyric Opera, toured Europe with Juilliard's production of *Dido and Aeneas*, and made her European debut as Cherubino in *Le Nozze di Figaro* in Germany. Eastern Region.



Julie Roset

SOPRANO (AVIGNON, FRANCE)

AGE: 25

Julie Roset has sung Papagena in *Die Zauberflöte* at Opéra de Toulon, Aurora and Giunone in Sacriati's *La Finta Pazza* at Opéra de Dijon and Opéra Royal de Versailles, Amour in Rameau's *Les Indes Galantes* at Opéra Royal de Versailles and the Beaune Festival, Amour in Mondonville's *Titon et l'Aurore* with Les Arts Florissants at Paris's Opéra Comique, and Galatea in Handel's *Acis and Galatea* at the Juilliard School, and appeared in *Il Combattimento, la Théorie du Cygne Noir*, a musical journey through the Italian Baroque, at the Festival d'Aix-en-Provence. As a concert performer, she has appeared with Cappella Mediterranea, Ensemble Pygmalion, and the Millennium Orchestra Ensemble Correspondences, among others. This season, she sings Galatea with the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Euridice in Rossi's *Orfeo* with Juilliard415, and Amore and Valetto in Monteverdi's *L'Incoronazione di Poppea* at the Festival d'Aix-en-Provence. Central Region.



Anne Marie Stanley

MEZZO-SOPRANO (PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY)

AGE: 30

Anne Marie Stanley is a third-year resident artist at Philadelphia's Academy of Vocal Arts (AVA) in Philadelphia, where she recently appeared as Olga in *Eugene Onegin*. In her first year at AVA, she sang Léonor de Guzman in Donizetti's *La Favorite*, as well as works by Korngold, Massenet, and Bernstein. Elsewhere, she has performed Mozart's Mass in C Major with the New England Symphonic Ensemble at Carnegie Hall and Dinah in Bernstein's *Trouble in Tahiti* and Marcellina in *Le Nozze di Figaro* with Music Academy of the West. In 2015 and 2017, she was an apprentice artist at the Santa Fe Opera, where she sang Giovanna in *Rigoletto* and covered Olivia in the world premiere of Jennifer Higdon's *Cold Mountain*. She recently won first prize in the 2021 AVA Giulio Giargiari Bel Canto Vocal Competition and was selected as a grand finalist in the 2021 Vincerò World Singing Competition. Upper Midwest Region.



Esther Tonea

SOPRANO (BUFORD, GEORGIA)

AGE: 28

Romanian-American soprano Esther Tonea has appeared in concert and recital across North America and Europe. In 2021, she performed in *The Adler Fellows in Concert* with the San Francisco Opera Orchestra, singing the mad scene from Bellini's *Il Pirata*, and in *The Adlers: Live at the Drive-In*, where she sang music from *Valurile Dunării*. She has also appeared as a soloist in Haydn's *Missa in Angustiis* and *The Creation*, Mahler's Symphonies No. 2 and 4, and Mozart's *Exsultate, Jubilate* and Requiem, and in 2019, she sang Diana in the world premiere of Jake Heggie's *If I Were You*. She is a Richard F. Gold Career Grant recipient and an Adler Fellow at San Francisco Opera. She holds a master's degree from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and bachelor's degrees from the University of Georgia. Western Region.

Meet the Special Guests



Marco Armiliato

CONDUCTOR (GENOA, ITALY)

THIS SEASON The Eric and Dominique Laffont Competition and *Turandot* at the Met; *Tosca*, *L'Elisir d'Amore*, and *Rigoletto* at the Vienna State Opera; *Simon Boccanegra* in Zurich; *Tosca* at Covent Garden; *Ernani* in Rome; and concerts in Naples, Milan, and Barcelona.

MET APPEARANCES Since his 1998 debut leading *La Bohème*, he has conducted more than 450 performances of 25 operas, including *Turandot*, *Macbeth*, *La Fanciulla del West*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Il Trovatore*, *Cyrano de Bergerac*, *Manon Lescaut*, *Aida*, *Anna Bolena*, *La Traviata*, *La Sonnambula*, *Tosca*, *Rigoletto*, *Francesca da Rimini*, *Ernani*, *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, and *La Fille du Régiment*.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS He appears regularly at the Vienna State Opera, where he has conducted *Don Pasquale*, *La Bohème*, *Aida*, *Andrea Chénier*, *La Traviata*, *Samson et Dalila*, *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, *Otello*, *La Fanciulla del West*, *Turandot*, and *Manon Lescaut*, among many others. Recent performances also include *Tosca* at the Salzburg Festival; *Il Trovatore* in concert in Naples; *Cavalleria Rusticana* and *Pagliacci* in Verona; *Norma* in Madrid; *La Rondine* in Florence; *Tosca*, *La Traviata*, and *Andrea Chénier* at the Bavarian State Opera; *Madama Butterfly* in Muscat; and *Il Trovatore* and *Rigoletto* at Lyric Opera of Chicago.



Nadine Sierra

SOPRANO (FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA)

THIS SEASON The title role of *Lucia di Lammermoor* at the Met, Bavarian State Opera, and in Naples; Violetta in *La Traviata* in Florence; Gilda in *Rigoletto* at the Paris Opera and La Scala; Mahler's Symphony No. 2 with the Berlin Philharmonic; Adina in *L'Elisir d'Amore* in Buenos Aires; and recitals and concert appearances throughout Europe and North and South America.

MET APPEARANCES Susanna in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Gilda (debut, 2015), Ilia in *Idomeneo*, and Zerlina in *Don Giovanni*.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS Recent performances include Lucia in Barcelona; Musetta in *La Bohème* in Las Palmas; Juliette in *Roméo et Juliette* in Bordeaux and at San Francisco Opera; Sophie in *Der Rosenkavalier*, Nannetta in *Falstaff*, and Gilda at Staatsoper Berlin; and Maria in *West Side Story* in concert with the Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia. She has also sung Norina in *Don Pasquale* and Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte* at the Paris Opera; Lucia in Venice, Palermo, and Zurich; Amore in *Orfeo ed Euridice* at Staatsoper Berlin; and Lucia, Pamina, and the Countess in *Le Nozze di Figaro* at San Francisco Opera. She was the 2018 recipient of the Met's Beverly Sills Artist Award, established by Agnes Varis and Karl Leichtman.

Judges

Melissa Wegner

Metropolitan Opera; Executive Director,
Lindemann Young Artist Development
Program and Laffont Competition

Khori Dastoor

Houston Grand Opera; General Director
and CEO

Michael Heaston

Metropolitan Opera; Assistant General
Manager, Artistic

Myra Huang

Metropolitan Opera; Head of Music,
Lindemann Young Artist Development
Program

Thomas Lausmann

Metropolitan Opera; Director of Music
Administration

Erik Malmquist

Bavarian State Opera; Head of Casting

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Theresa Ganley and Margo Maier-Moul

Stage Managers

Marian Torre and Sabrina Ziomi

Makeup

Tera Willis and Alexandra O'Reilly

Hair

Enid Turnbull

Wardrobe Supervisor

Amber DeFeo

Wardrobe Steady Extra

Karen Almond and Natalie Powers

Photographers



From left: Brady Walsh, Camille LaBarre,
Melissa Wegner, and Carol E. Domina

* Graduate of the Lindemann Young
Artist Development Program

2022 Regional Winners

Rachel Blaustein
Soprano
Eastern Region

Sophia Hunt
Soprano
Gulf Coast Region

Maggie Renéé
Mezzo-Soprano
Eastern Region

Cody Bowers
Countertenor
Western Region

Jonas Jud
Bass
New England Region

Julie Roset
Soprano
Central Region

Le Bu
Bass-Baritone
Midwest Region

Nicholas Kelliher
Countertenor
Eastern Region

Elizabeth Sarian
Mezzo-Soprano
Eastern Region

Matthew Cairns
Tenor
Great Lakes Region

Anna Kelly
Mezzo-Soprano
Gulf Coast Region

Anne Marie Stanley
Mezzo-Soprano
Upper Midwest Region

Dennis Chmelensky
Baritone
Eastern Region

Samson McCrady
Baritone
Central Region

Catherine Thornsley
Soprano
Northwest Region

Erik Grendahl
Baritone
Eastern Region

Daniel O'Hearn
Tenor
Rocky Mountain Region

Esther Tonea
Soprano
Western Region

Mary Hoskins
Soprano
Rocky Mountain Region

Alexandra Razskazoff
Soprano
Southeast Region

Ángel Vargas
Tenor
Gulf Coast

Grand Finals Awards

Today's concert serves as the final round of this season's competition. Those who are selected as national winners are awarded \$20,000 each, and the remaining national finalists receive \$10,000 to further assist in their careers.

The Laffont Competition is grateful to its donors for prizes at the national level and to the Tobin Endowment for the Mrs. Edgar Tobin Award, given to each first-place region winner.

\$20,000 AWARDS

The Birgit Nilsson Award of the American-Scandinavian Foundation

Faith P. Geier Award

Dominique Laffont Award

Alton E. Peters Award

METROPOLITAN OPERA GUILD

Noreen Zimmerman Award

\$10,000 AWARDS

Ellie Caulkins Award

Pamela Craven Award

Fernand Lamesch Award

Judith Raskin Award

Anne de Richemont
Smithers Award

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The Laffont Competition would like to thank the following donors who have contributed to the National Finalists Fund. (\$1,000 or more)

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The Laffont Competition is grateful to the nationwide network of volunteer personnel who organize and finance the district and regional auditions leading up to today's Grand Finals Concert.

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These artists on the 2021–22 season roster were previous participants in the Laffont Competition program.

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Janai Brugger
Tracy Cox
Amani Cole-Felder
Ellie Dehn
Sylvia D'Eramo
Monica Dewey
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Briana Hunter
Laura Krumm
Edyta Kulczak
Maya Lahyani
Sarah Larsen
Anna Laurenzo
Leia Lensing
Megan Marino
Megan Moore
Sarah Mesko
Deborah Nansteel
Zoe Reams
Rebecca Ringle
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Philip Horst
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