The Metropolitan Opera National Council was founded in 1952 by Mrs. August Belmont to increase nationwide interest in and support for the Metropolitan Opera. Through the generous contributions of its members, the Council provides direct support for the Metropolitan Opera and the National Council Auditions.

The National Council membership is comprised of opera lovers from across the continent who have a special interest in young singers. Many members are directly involved with their local District and Region auditions through administrative and financial support, experiencing first hand how the National Council assists young singers at a crucial time in their artistic development.

The National Council Auditions program is designed to discover promising young opera singers and assist in the development of their careers. The auditions are held annually in 13 regions of the United States and Canada. There are 41 districts within these regions, each providing an opportunity for talented singers to enter the auditions at the local level. The auditions are administered by National Council members and volunteers in each region.

Winners of the Region Finals each receive the $800 Mrs. Edgar Tobin Award from the Tobin Endowment and advance to New York to compete in the National Semi-Finals, a competition held on the stage of the Metropolitan Opera. Approximately ten of the semi-finalists are selected as national finalists and compete the following Sunday in a public concert accompanied by the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, at which time a jury awards up to five Grand Winner awards of $15,000 each. The remaining national finalists receive $5,000 each, and national semi-finalists who did not advance to the Finals are given $1,500 to further their studies.

Many of the world’s greatest singers, among them Renée Fleming, Susan Graham, Thomas Hampson, Ben Heppner, Samuel Ramey, Frederica von Stade, and Deborah Voigt, have received awards from the National Council. Annually, more than 100 former auditioners appear in Metropolitan Opera productions.

Support for this program is generously provided by the Charles H. Dyson National Council Audition Program Endowment Fund at the Metropolitan Opera.

For more information about membership in the Metropolitan Opera National Council, please contact:

The Metropolitan Opera National Council
30 Lincoln Center Plaza, New York, NY 10023
Call: 212-870-4515
Fax: 212-870-7648
Email: ncouncil@metopera.org
www.metopera.org/nationalcouncil

Your gift is very much appreciated and tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. The organization’s most recent financial statement may be obtained online or by writing to: The Metropolitan Opera, Lincoln Center, New York, NY 10023 or Office of the Attorney General, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271.

PHOTOS: REBECCA FAY/METROPOLITAN OPERA (GRAND FINALS), KEN HOWARD/METROPOLITAN OPERA (FABIANO, PIASTRO), MIKEY SIU/METROPOLITAN OPERA (NERILDA), JONATHAN TICHLER/METROPOLITAN OPERA (PLAZA PHOTO AND CECEL COACHING)

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- Invitation to annual National Patron Weekend for Patrons living outside the New York City metro area.

Privileges and benefits for all categories are annual. A $45 of National Council Full/Associate Membership contributions is designated for Opera News and the Met Season Book. National Council Patron gifts are fully tax deductible. Under Federal Law, your gift is tax deductible as a charitable contribution to the extent it exceeds the fair market value of goods and services provided by the Met. For information regarding gifts of securities, please call 212-870-4502.

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- Yes, I/we wish to participate in the National Council.
- **Contribution Level**
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- Enclosed is my check for $____
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- Please charge my contribution of $____
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