NATIONAL COUNCIL AUDITIONS

GRAND FINALS CONCERT

CONDUCTOR Bertrand de Billy

ноsт Lisette Oropesa

guest artist Javier Camarena

Metropolitan Opera Orchestra

general manager Peter Gelb

JEANETTE LERMAN-NEUBAUER MUSIC DIRECTOR Yannick Nézet-Séguin

Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions Grand Finals Concert

Sunday, March 1, 2020 3:00PM

The Metropolitan Opera National Council is grateful to the **Charles H. Dyson Endowment Fund** for underwriting the Council's Auditions Program.

The Metropolitan Opera 2019–20 SEASON

NATIONAL COUNCIL AUDITIONS

GRAND FINALS CONCERT

CONDUCTOR Bertrand de Billy

ноsт Lisette Oropesa*

guest artist Javier Camarena

"O zitt're nicht, mein lieber Sohn ... Zum Leiden bin ich auserkoren" from *Die Zauberflöte* (Mozart) **Jana McIntyre**, Soprano

"Hai già vinta la causa ... Vedrò mentr'io sospiro" from *Le Nozze di Figaro* (Mozart) **Xiaomeng Zhang**, Baritone

"I Want Magic" from A Streetcar Named Desire (Previn) Chasiti Lashay, Soprano

"Give him this orchid" from *The Rape of Lucretia* (Britten) Gabrielle Beteag, Mezzo-Soprano

"Sgombra è la sacra selva ... Deh! proteggimi, o Dio!" from *Norma* (Bellini) Lindsay Kate Brown, Mezzo-Soprano

"Dich, teure Halle" from *Tannhäuser* (Wagner) Alexandria Shiner, Soprano

Sunday, March 1, 2020, 3:00PM

This performance is being broadcast live on Metropolitan Opera Radio on SiriusXM channel 75 and streamed at metopera.org.

	 "Carlos, écoute Ah, je meurs, l'âme joyeuse" from Don Carlos (Verdi) Blake Denson, Baritone "Depuis le jour" from Louise (G. Charpentier) Denis Vélez, Soprano "Ah! Mes amis Pour mon âme!" from La Fille du Régiment (Donizetti) Jonah Hoskins, Tenor Intermission "Mab, reine des mensonges" from Roméo et Juliette (Gounod) Xiaomeng Zhang, Baritone "A vos jeux, mes amis Partagez-vous mes fleurs"
	from Hamlet (Thomas) Jana McIntyre, Soprano "Io son l'umile ancella" from Adriana Lecouvreur (Cilea) Chasiti Lashay, Soprano "Ja, Gretelchen Hurr hopp hopp hopp" from Hänsel und Gretel (Humperdinck) Gabrielle Beteag, Mezzo-Soprano
	"To this we've come" from <i>The Consul</i> (Menotti) Alexandria Shiner, Soprano
	"Da, chas nastal! Prastitye vi" from The Maid of Orleans (Tchaikovsky) Lindsay Kate Brown, Mezzo-Soprano
	"Sì, ritrovarla io giuro" from <i>La Cenerentola</i> (Rossini) Jonah Hoskins, Tenor
	"Tu che di gel sei cinta" from <i>Turandot</i> (Puccini) Denis Vélez , Soprano
* Graduate of the Lindemann Young Artist Development Program	"Oh, Lawd Jesus, hear my prayer" from <i>The Emperor Jones</i> (Gruenberg) Blake Denson , Baritone
Before the performance begins, please switch off any cell phones and any other electronic devices. Yamaha is the Official Piano of the Metropolitan Opera.	GUEST ARTIST "Ah! lève-toi, soleil!" from <i>Roméo et Juliette</i> (Gounod) "È la solita storia del pastore" from <i>L'Arlesiana</i> (Cilea) Javier Camarena , Tenor ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE GRAND FINALS WINNERS

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Sunday, March 1, 2020, 3:00PM

Meet the Artists



Gabrielle Beteag mezzo-soprano (lilburn, georgia) age: 25

In 2020, Gabrielle Beteag will be featured as the alto soloist in Haydn's *Lord Nelson Mass* with the Michael O'Neal Singers and as Ursule in Atlanta Concert Opera's production of *Béatrice et Bénédict*.

In 2019, she was a young artist at Chautauqua Opera, where she was performed with the touring outreach program as Aunt Bartolo in *The Barber of Seville* in California and on the main stage as Woman in a Hat / Duchess in *The Ghosts of Versailles*. She earned her master's degree from Georgia State University (GSU) in 2018. While at GSU, she appeared as Katisha in *The Mikado*, Lady Billows in *Albert Herring*, and Charlotte Malcolm in *A Little Night Music*. Her repertoire also includes the Secretary in *The Consul*, Madame de Croissy in *Dialogues des Carmélites*, and Augusta Tabor in *The Ballad of Baby Doe*. Southeast Region.



Lindsay Kate Brown

MEZZO-SOPRANO (WATERLOO, NEW YORK) AGE: 28

A current artist with the Houston Grand Opera Studio (HGO), Lindsay Kate Brown appears this season as Giovanna in *Rigoletto* and the Second Lady in *Die Zauberflöte*. She has also covered Léonor in *La*

Favorite and Paula in Florencia en el Amazonas during her two seasons at HGO. This spring, she will cover Herodias in Salome. Past engagements include appearances as the Composer in Ariadne auf Naxos at Wolf Trap Opera and Ma Moss in The Tender Land at Des Moines Metro Opera, where she also covered Ježibaba in Rusalka. This summer, she will be an apprentice artist at the Santa Fe Opera, covering the role of Ježibaba. She made her New York City debut in 2019 at OPERA America, performing in a curated art-song recital with fellow HGO Studio artists. She is a graduate of Rice University (2018), SUNY Binghamton (2016), and Mansfield University of Pennsylvania (2013). Upper Midwest Region.



Blake Denson

BARITONE (PADUCAH, KENTUCKY) AGE: 24

Blake Denson is a second-year master's student at Rice University's Shepherd School of Music. While at Rice, he has appeared as Elder McLean in *Susannah* and Mercurio in *La Calisto*. He has also worked

with Wolf Trap Opera, where he covered Kaiser Overall in *Der Kaiser von Atlantis* and Pierrot in *L'Île de Merlin*. He joins the Houston Grand Opera Studio during the 2020–21 season, and he will also return to Wolf Trap Opera for a second season, singing the Captain in *Eugene Onegin* and covering the opera's title character. He will also cover the role of Marcello in *La Bohème*. He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Kentucky School Of Music. Midwest Region.



Jonah Hoskins tenor (saratoga springs, utah) age: 23

Jonah Hoskins's past roles include Tamino in *Die Zauberflöte*, Septimius in *Theodora*, and Rinuccio in *Gianni Schicchi* at Brigham Young University (BYU) and Benvolio in *Roméo et Juliette* at Utah

Opera. Last summer, he was a young artist at Des Moines Metro Opera, where he studycovered the title role of *Candide*. He will return again this year to cover the title role of *Platée* and sing the Master of Ceremonies in *The Queen of Spades*. Previously, he was a young artist at Ohio Light Opera and attended Houston Grand Opera's Young Artist Vocal Academy program. He received the Extraordinary Artistic Promise Award at the 2019 Lotte Lenya Competition. He is currently studying vocal performance at BYU and will graduate this spring with his bachelor's degree. Rocky Mountain Region.



Chasiti Lashay soprano (houston, texas) age: 27

Chasiti Lashay is a postgraduate student at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music (SFCM), where she earned her master's degree in 2019. She completed her bachelor's degree at Tuskegee

University in 2014. This year, she will be a young artist at Chautauqua Opera, where she will appear as Marla in the educational-outreach opera *Bear Hug* and cover the roles of Angel More and Henrietta M. in *The Mother of Us All* and Annu in *Thumbprint*. She also recently sang the Prima Donna in the prologue of *Ariadne auf Naxos* at SFCM. She has sung the title role of *Suor Angelica*, covered the Countess in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, and performed the following partial roles: Mimì in *La Bohème*, Desdemona in *Otello*, Cleopatra in *Antony and Cleopatra*, Mother Marie in *Dialogues of the Carmelites*, Blanche in *A Streetcar Named Desire*, and the title role of *Arabella*. Western Region.



Jana McIntyre soprano (santa barbara, california) age: 28

This season, Jana McIntyre sings Ännchen in Heartbeat Opera's new production of *Der Freischütz* and the First Sister in the Santa Fe Opera's workshop of *Lord of Cries*. She also joins the Sacramento

Philharmonic and Opera for their Mozart Favorites concert. In recent seasons, she made company debuts at the Santa Fe Opera in *Jenůfa* and Arizona Opera in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, reprised her portrayal of the Queen of the Night in *Die Zauberflöte* at Opera Grand Rapids and Toledo Opera, and appeared at Tulsa Opera in productions of *The Little Prince* and *Don Giovanni*. She also covered the Fairy Godmother in *Cendrillon* at Lyric Opera of Chicago, appeared in *Orfeo ed Euridice* at National Sawdust, and sang Wolf's *Italienisches Liederbuch* as part of San Francisco Opera's Recital Series. She holds degrees from UCLA and Manhattan School of Music and has apprenticed with San Francisco Opera's Merola Opera Program, the Santa Fe Opera, and Tulsa Opera. Midwest Region.

Meet the Artists CONTINUED



Alexandria Shiner soprano (waterford, michigan) age: **29**

During the 2019–20 season, Alexandria Shiner returned to Washington National Opera's Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program, where she sang the First Lady in *Die Zauberflöte* and Magda Sorel in *The Consul.*

Additional season highlights include a return the Glimmerglass Festival as Ada in *Die Feen*, Verdi's Requiem with the Quad Cities Symphony Orchestra, and Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 with the National Symphony Orchestra, Canada's Victoria Symphony, and Oregon Symphony. She has appeared as Kayla in the world premiere of Kamala Sankaram's *Taking Up Serpents*, Mirra in the North American premiere of Liszt's lost opera *Sardanapalo*, the title role of *Ariadne auf Naxos* at Wolf Trap Opera, the title role of *Alcina* in the Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist performance at Washington National Opera, the Celestial Voice in *Don Carlo* and Berta in *II Barbiere di Siviglia* at Washington National Opera, and Berta at the Glimmerglass Festival. Middle Atlantic Region.



Denis Vélez

soprano (puebla, mexico) age: **27**

Later this year, Denis Vélez will be joining Lyric Opera of Chicago's Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center as a young artist. Since 2018, she has been a member of Mexico's National Opera Chorus

at the Palacio de Bellas Artes in Mexico City. She has participated in master classes with Mexican tenors Francisco Araiza and Ramón Vargas, American tenors Joseph McClain and Michael Silvester, and Polish soprano Ewa Izykowska-Klosiewicz. Her repertoire includes the Countess and Susanna in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Bastienne in *Bastien und Bastienne*, Adina in *L'Elisir d'Amore*, and Mimì in *La Bohème*. She holds a bachelor's degree from Mexico's Superior School of Music. Gulf Coast Region.



Xiaomeng Zhang

baritone (wenzhou, china) age: **29**

Xiaomeng Zhang completed his artist diploma at the Juilliard School and was a participant in San Francisco Opera's 2018 Merola Opera Program. During the 2019–20 season, he sings Figaro in *II Barbiere di Siviglia* at Opera Columbus, the title role of *Don Giovanni* at Opera

 Naples, and Silvio in Pagliacci at Pittsburgh Festival Opera. In the fall of 2020, he will join the International Opera Studio at Opernhaus Zürich. Previous credits include the Count in Le Nozze di Figaro at the Aspen Music Festival; Don Giovanni, Kuligin in Kát'a Kabanová, and Minskman in Flight at the Juilliard School; Belcore in L'Elisir d'Amore at City Lyric Opera; Tancredi in II Combattimento di Tancredi e Clorinda with Ensemble Connect at Carnegie Hall; Don Giovanni in the Narnia Festival; Schaunard in La Bohème at Chautauqua Opera; and Don Fernando in Fidelio and Licinio in Aureliano in Palmira at Caramoor. He received his bachelor's degree at Shanghai Conservatory of Music and his master's degree from ³⁸ Manhattan School of Music. New England Region.

Meet the Special Guests



Bertrand de Billy CONDUCTOR (NEUILLY SUR SEINE, FRANCE)

THIS SEASON The National Council Auditions, *La Traviata*, and *Tosca* at the Met; Rossini's *Stabat Mater* with the Orchestre National de France; Spontini's *La Vestale* in Vienna; Fauré's Requiem with the London Philharmonic Orchestra; *Carmen* in Rome; and concert appearances with the Vienna Symphony, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, Bamberg Symphony, Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne, and Staatskapelle Weimar.

MET APPEARANCES Il Trittico, Tosca, Cendrillon, Luisa Miller, La Gioconda, Faust, Roméo et Juliette (debut, 1998), Samson et Dalila, Turandot, La Traviata, and Carmen.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS He concluded his tenure as principal guest conductor of the Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne in 2018, served as principal guest conductor of the Dresden Philharmonic between 2014 and 2018, and was principal guest conductor of the Frankfurter Opern- und Museumsorchester until 2015. Between 2002 and 2010, he was music director of the Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra, and he was music director of Barcelona's Gran Teatre del Liceu between 1999 and 2004. He has led performances at the Bavarian State Opera, Paris Opera, Vienna State Opera, Covent Garden, and in Tokyo, Frankfurt, and Hamburg, as well as with leading orchestras throughout Europe.



Lisette Oropesa host (new orleans, louisiana)

THIS SEASON The National Council Auditions Grand Finals Concert, Violetta in La Traviata, and the title role of Manon at the Met; Ophélie in Hamlet in concert at Washington Concert Opera; Rosina in II Barbiere di Siviglia at the Paris Opera; the title role of Lucia di Lammermoor at the Bavarian State Opera; Violetta in Madrid; Carmina Burana in Paris; and Konstanze in Die Entführung aus dem Serail at the Glyndebourne Festival.

MET APPEARANCES Since her 2006 debut as a Woman of Crete in *Idomeneo*, she has sung more than 125 performances of 16 roles, including Gretel in *Hansel and Gretel*, Sophie in *Werther*, Nannetta in *Falstaff*, Gilda in *Rigoletto*, and Susanna in *Le Nozze di Figaro*.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS Recent performances include Violetta at Greek National Opera and in Verona, Amalia in Verdi's *I Masnadieri* at Savonlinna Opera Festival and La Scala, Norina in *Don Pasquale* at Pittsburgh Opera, Isabelle in Meyerbeer's *Robert le Diable* in concert in Brussels, the title role of *Rodelinda* in Barcelona, and Gilda in Rome. She is a graduate of the Met's Lindemann Young Artist Development Program and was the 2019 recipient of the Met's Beverly Sills Artist Award, established by Agnes Varis and Karl Leichtman.

Meet the Special Guests CONTINUED



Javier Camarena tenor (veracruz, mexico)

THIS SEASON The National Council Auditions Grand Finals Concert and Don Ramiro in La Cenerentola at the Met, Arturo in I Puritani at the Paris Opera, Nemorino in L'Elisir d'Amore and Gualtiero in Il Pirata in Madrid, Don Ramiro in Zurich, Tonio in La Fille du Régiment in Mexico City, Rossini's Messa di Gloria with the Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, Ernesto in Don Pasquale at the Salzburg Festival, Elvino in La Sonnambula at Deutsche Oper Berlin, and concert and recital appearances throughout Europe and North America.

MET APPEARANCES Tonio, Nadir in Les Pêcheurs de Perles, Idreno in Semiramide, Arturo, Count Almaviva in II Barbiere di Siviglia (debut, 2011), Ernesto, Don Ramiro, and Elvino. CAREER HIGHLIGHTS Between 2007 and 2014, he was a member of the ensemble at the Zurich Opera, where his roles have included Nadir, Count Liebenskof in Rossini's II Viaggio a Reims, Ernesto, Fenton in Falstaff, Ferrando in Così fan tutte, and the title role of Le Comte Ory, among many others. Recent performances include Tonio at Covent Garden, Edgardo in Lucia di Lammermoor at the Bavarian State Opera, Nadir in Bilbao, Ernesto at the Paris Opera, and Arturo in Barcelona.

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

* Graduate of the Lindemann Young Artist Development Program

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Gabrielle Beteag Mezzo-Soprano Southeast Region

Ben Brady Bass-Baritone Western Region

Lindsay Kate Brown Mezzo-Soprano Upper Midwest Region

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Alexandria Shiner Soprano Middle Atlantic Region

Brent Michael Smith Bass Middle Atlantic Region

Denis Vélez Soprano Gulf Coast Region

Suzannah Waddington Soprano Gulf Coast Region

Xiaomeng Zhang Baritone New England Region

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 National Council 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

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Dominique Laffont Award

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\$10,000 AWARDS

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The National Council's Education Fund provides grants to former first-place region winners to enable them to continue their musical studies. The Council is grateful to the following donors. (\$250 or more) Alan Agle Anonymous Susan K. Appel Marion Batchelder Jane C. Bergner Sara Brewster Eleanor N. Caulkins **Emily Cornelius** Fred Dear and Ken Garlock Stephen Dilts Dennis and Karen Dunn Suzanne B. Engel Dr. Romana Farrington Ron and Barabara Glass Lynn Goldberg Herbert Gorenstein Dr. Veronika Grimm and Prof. John Matthews Ms. Lily Hsieh Richard and Joan Klein Anne I. Lawrence Dr. and Mrs. Charles Lightdale Dorothy Lincoln-Smith Peggy W. McDowell Leonard and Sally Michaels Leslie Paliyenko Dr. and Mrs. Macon Phillips Mr. and Mrs. William C. Rustin Christine Saurel, in memory of Margaret Nicholas Dr. and Mrs. Frank Sharbrough Louise H. Shouse Dr. Caroline Urvater

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Telephones with volume controls and TTY Public Telephone located in Founders Hall on the Concourse level.

RESTAURANT AND REFRESHMENT FACILITIES

The Grand Tier Restaurant features creative contemporary American cuisine, and the Revlon Bar offers panini, crostini, and a full service bar. Both are open two hours prior to the Metropolitan Opera curtain time to any Lincoln Center ticket holder for pre-curtain dining. Pre-ordered intermission dining is also available for Met ticket holders. For reservations please call 212.799.3400. diningatmetopera.com

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RESTROOMS

Wheelchair-accessible restrooms are on the Dress Circle, Grand Tier, Parterre, and Founders Hall levels.

SEAT CUSHIONS

Available in the South Check Room. Major credit card or driver's license required for deposit.

SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

For information contact the Metropolitan Opera Guild Education Department, 212.769.7022.

SCORE-DESK TICKET PROGRAM

Tickets for score desk seats in the Family Circle boxes may be purchased by calling the Metropolitan Opera Guild at 212.769.7028. These no-view seats provide an affordable way for music students to study an opera's score during a live performance.

TOUR GUIDE SERVICE

Backstage tours of the opera house are held during the Met season on most weekdays at 3PM, and on select Sundays at 10:30AM and/or 1:30PM. For tickets and information, call 212.769.7028. Tours of Lincoln Center daily; call 212.875.5351 for availability. metguild.org/tours

WEBSITE metopera.org

WHEELCHAIR ACCOMMODATIONS



Telephone 212.799.3100, ext. 2204. Wheelchair entrance at Concourse level.

The exits indicated by a red light and the sign nearest the seat you occupy are the shortest routes to the street. In the event of fire or other emergency, please do not run—walk to that exit.

In compliance with New York City Department of Health regulations, smoking is prohibited in all areas of this theater.

Patrons are reminded that, in deference to the performing artists and the seated audience, those who leave the auditorium during the performance will not be re-admitted while the performance is in progress. The photographing or sound recording of any performance, or the possession of any device for such photographing or sound recording inside this theater, without the written permission of the management, is prohibited by Jaw. Offenders may be ejected and liable for damages and other lawful remedies.

Use of cellular telephones and electronic devices for any purpose, including email and texting, is prohibited in the auditorium at all times. Please be sure to turn off all devices before entering the auditorium.