

NATIONAL COUNCIL AUDITIONS

# GRAND FINALS CONCERT

CONDUCTOR  
Carlo Rizzi

HOST  
Anthony Roth  
Costanzo

GUEST ARTIST  
Christian Van Horn

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 31, 2019  
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

2018–19 SEASON

NATIONAL COUNCIL AUDITIONS

## GRAND FINALS CONCERT

CONDUCTOR

**Carlo Rizzi**

HOST

**Anthony Roth Costanzo**

GUEST ARTIST

**Christian Van Horn**

"Dich, teure Halle" from *Tannhäuser* (Wagner)

**Meghan Kasanders**, Soprano

"Fra poco a me ricovero ... Tu che a Dio spiegasti l'ali"  
from *Lucia di Lammermoor* (Donizetti)

**Dashuai Chen**, Tenor

"Oh! quante volte, oh! quante" from  
*I Capuleti e i Montecchi* (Bellini)

**Elena Villalón**, Soprano

"Kuda, kuda, kuda vy udalilis" (Lenski's Aria) from  
*Eugene Onegin* (Tchaikovsky)

**Miles Mykkanen**, Tenor

"Addio, addio, o miei sospiri" from *Orfeo ed Euridice* (Gluck)

**Michaela Wolz**, Mezzo-Soprano

"Seul sur la terre" from *Dom Sébastien* (Donizetti)

**Piotr Buszewski**, Tenor

Today's concert is  
being recorded for  
future broadcast  
over many public  
radio stations.  
Please check  
local listings.

Sunday, March 31, 2019, 3:00PM

"Captain Ahab? I must speak with you" from  
*Moby Dick* (Jake Heggie)  
**Thomas Glass**, Baritone

"Don Ottavio, son morta! ... Or sai chi l'onore" from  
*Don Giovanni* (Mozart)  
**Alaysha Fox**, Soprano

"Sorge infausta una procella" from *Orlando* (Handel)  
**William Guanbo Su**, Bass

### *Intermission*

"Ich bin Euer Liebden sehr verbunden" from  
*Der Rosenkavalier* (R. Strauss)  
**Elena Villalón**, Soprano

"Je crois entendre encore" from *Les Pêcheurs de Perles* (Bizet)  
**Miles Mykkanen**, Tenor

"Otkuda eti slezy, zachem one?" from  
*The Queen of Spades* (Tchaikovsky)  
**Meghan Kasanders**, Soprano

"Salut! demeure chaste et pure" from *Faust* (Gounod)  
**Dashuai Chen**, Tenor

"Que fais-tu, blanche tourterelle?" from  
*Roméo et Juliette* (Gounod)  
**Michaela Wolz**, Mezzo-Soprano

"Cisza dokoła, noc jasna, czyste niebo" from  
*The Haunted Manor* (Moniuszko)  
**Piotr Buszewski**, Tenor

"Vi ravviso, o luoghi ameni" from *La Sonnambula* (Bellini)  
**William Guanbo Su**, Bass

"Ich ging zu ihm" from *Das Wunder der Heliane* (Korngold)  
**Alaysha Fox**, Soprano

"Avant de quitter ces lieux" from *Faust* (Gounod)  
**Thomas Glass**, Baritone

### GUEST ARTIST

"Ella giammai m'amò" from *Don Carlo* (Verdi)  
**Christian Van Horn**, Bass-Baritone

### ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE GRAND FINALS WINNERS

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

Yamaha is the  
Official Piano of the  
Metropolitan Opera.

Sunday, March 31, 2019, 3:00PM

## Meet the Artists



**Piotr Buszewski**

TENOR (WARSAW, POLAND)

AGE: 26

Piotr Buszewski began his studies at Warsaw's Fryderyk Chopin Music University before enrolling at the Juilliard School. He is currently finishing his residency at Philadelphia's Academy of Vocal Arts, where he has sung the Prince in *Rusalka* and Ferrando in *Così fan tutte* and will sing Roméo in *Roméo et Juliette*. This season, he also appeared as Leandre in Gounod's *Le Médecin Malgré lui* at Boston's Odyssey Opera and will appear as Tybalt in *Roméo et Juliette* at Cincinnati Opera and Nemorino in *L'Elisir d'Amore* in Leipzig. He made his professional debut in the title role of Donizetti's *Il Pigmaliione* at New York City Opera in 2018 and has also sung the Duke in *Rigoletto* with Wolf Trap Opera and Loge in *Das Rheingold* at the Academy of Vocal Arts. Middle Atlantic Region.



**Dashuai Chen**

TENOR (SHANGHAI, CHINA)

AGE: 28

Dashuai Chen is currently pursuing an artist diploma at the Juilliard School. His recent performances include Don Ottavio in *Don Giovanni* at the Bregenz Festival; Ferrando in *Così fan tutte* at Japan's Showa University Theatre and in Daegu, South Korea; Nemorino in *L'Elisir d'Amore* in Bologna; and Jupiter in Legrenz's *La Divisione del Mondo* in Kiel, Germany. He was a finalist in the 2015 Neue Stimmen Competition and has earned prizes at numerous singing competitions, including China's Golden Bell Competition, the 2018 International Music Competition in Harbin, the 2018 Gerda Lissner Lieder Vocal Competition, the Opera Index Competition, and the Premiere Opera International Vocal Competition. He earned his bachelor's degree from Shanghai Conservatory of Music. Great Lakes Region.



## Alaysha Fox

SOPRANO (QUEENS, NEW YORK)

AGE: 27

This season, Alaysha Fox appears in a one-night-only performance of *Camelot* at Lincoln Center Theater, where previously, she was featured in a workshop of Ricky Ian Gordon's new opera *Intimate Apparel*. She recently appeared as part of Kathleen Battle's *Underground Railroad: A Spiritual Journey* recital series and was a featured artist at the annual Verdi Square Festival. Her other roles have included the First Lady in *Die Zauberflöte*, Dee Legendary in the world preview of J. Rubinstein's *Legendary*, Lady Macbeth in *Macbeth*, Female Chorus in Britten's *The Rape of Lucretia*, the title role of *Penelope*, and Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni*. She was also a featured artist in Lee Mingwei's exhibit *Sonic Blossom* with MetLiveArts. She holds a master's degree from Manhattan School of Music, Eastern Region.



## Thomas Glass

BARITONE (EDINA, MINNESOTA)

AGE: 28

Thomas Glass is a second-year studio artist at Houston Grand Opera, where, this season, his roles include Marcello in *La Bohème* and Alvaro in Catán's *Florencia en el Amazonas*. Last season in Houston, he sang Baron Douphol in *La Traviata*, Figaro and Fiorello in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, and Officer Krupke in *West Side Story*. In recent years, he has been a Filene Young Artist at Wolf Trap Opera, where he appeared as Mercutio in *Roméo et Juliette*; a participant in San Francisco Opera's Merola Opera Program; and a resident artist at Minnesota Opera, where he sang Capulet in *Roméo et Juliette*, Gustave in the world premiere of William Bolcom's *Dinner at Eight*, and Schaunard in *La Bohème*. He holds a master's degree from the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University and bachelor's degrees from the University of St. Thomas in Saint Paul, Minnesota. Rocky Mountain Region.

## Meet the Artists CONTINUED



### Meghan Kasanders

SOPRANO (DARIEN, ILLINOIS)

AGE: 27

This season, Meghan Kasanders appears as Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni* at the Juilliard School. Other recent credits include Sibelius's *Luonnotar* at Alice Tully Hall, Bernstein's *Songfest* at Carnegie Hall, Mendelssohn's *Elijah* at Juilliard, and Magda Sorel in Menotti's *The Consul* at Opera Saratoga. She has also appeared with Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, Des Moines Metro Opera, Union Avenue Opera, and Dolora Zajick's Institute for Young Dramatic Voices. She was the youngest competitor in the 2017 Mildred Miller International Voice Competition, where she won first prize. She holds a master's degree from Rice University and a bachelor's degree from Simpson College. Later this year, she will receive an artist diploma from Juilliard. Upper Midwest Region.



### Miles Mykkanen

TENOR (BESSEMER, MICHIGAN)

AGE: 27

This season, Miles Mykkanen appears as Lt. Nikolaus Sprink in Kevin Puts's *Silent Night* at Minnesota Opera, Flute in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Opera Philadelphia, and Brighella in *Ariadne auf Naxos* with the Cleveland Orchestra. He will also cover the role of Admète in Gluck's *Alceste* at the Bavarian State Opera. On the concert stage, he sings Handel's *Messiah* with the National Symphony Orchestra and the University of Michigan's Musical Society and Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with the Sarasota Orchestra. In recent seasons, he has also appeared with the Tanglewood Music Center, Canadian Opera Company, Ravinia Music Festival, New York Philharmonic, Arizona Opera, Bard Music Festival, Palm Beach Opera, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Mostly Mozart Festival, Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, and Marlboro Music Festival. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees, as well as an artist diploma, from the Juilliard School. Upper Midwest Region.



## William Guanbo Su

BASS (BEIJING, CHINA)

AGE: 24

During the 2019–20 season, William Guanbo Su will be a young artist in the Houston Grand Studio, and in 2018, he was a Gerdine Young Artist at Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, where he returns this coming summer. As a voice fellow at the Aspen Music Festival and School, he appeared as Don Basilio in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*. He has also sung Pluton in Rameau's *Hippolyte et Aricie*, Herr Reich in Nicolai's *Die Lustigen Weiber von Windsor*, and Seneca in *L'Incoronazione di Poppea*. He made his Carnegie Hall debut in 2017 singing Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* with the Cecilia Chorus of New York and returned the following year with Handel's *Messiah*. He is currently pursuing a master's degree from the Juilliard School, studied German lieder at Vienna's Franz-Schubert-Institut, and was a participant in Carnegie Hall's SongStudio master class series, led by Renée Fleming, in 2019. Eastern Region.



## Elena Villalón

SOPRANO (AUSTIN, TEXAS)

AGE: 21

During the 2019–20 season, Elena Villalón will be a young artist in the Houston Grand Studio. She has also been a vocal fellow at both the Tanglewood Music Center and Houston Grand Opera's Young Artist Vocal Academy. Upcoming performances include Adele in *Die Fledermaus* at University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music (CCM), where she is currently completing her undergraduate degree, and Barbarina in *Le Nozze di Figaro* at Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, where she will appear as a Gerdine Young Artist. She will also return to Tanglewood this coming summer as a soprano fellow. At CCM, she also sang Lucy in Menotti's *The Telephone* and Miss Wordsworth in Britten's *Albert Herring*. Among her numerous accolades are the audience prize at the 2019 Houston Grand Opera Eleanor McCollum Competition. Central Region.

## Meet the Artists CONTINUED



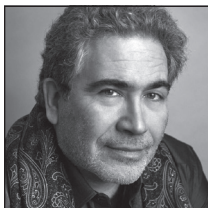
### Michaela Wolz

MEZZO-SOPRANO (EUREKA, MISSOURI)

AGE: 24

During the summer of 2018, Michaela Wolz was a Gerdine Young Artist at Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, where she covered the role of Pvt. Stanton in the world premiere of Huang Ruo's *An American Soldier*. This coming summer, she will return to the company as a Gaddes Festival Artist and appear as Amore in *L'Incoronazione di Poppea*. In recent seasons, she has covered Annio in *La Clemenza di Tito* at Opera Theatre of Saint Louis and sung Dorabella in *Così fan tutte*, Mother Marie in *Dialogues des Carmélites*, Sister Helen Prejean in Jake Heggie's *Dead Man Walking*, Bradamante in Handel's *Alcina*, Presendia in Nico Muhly's *Dark Sisters*, Cherubino in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, and Stewardess in Jonathan Dove's *Flight* with Boston Conservatory Opera. This May, she will receive a master's degree from the Boston Conservatory at Berklee, Midwest Region.

## Meet the Special Guests



### Carlo Rizzi

CONDUCTOR (MILAN, ITALY)

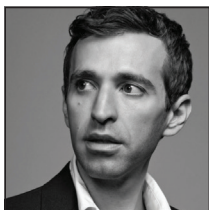
**THIS SEASON** The National Council Auditions Grand Finals Concert, *Tosca*, and *Mefistofele* at the Met; *Falstaff* in Tokyo; and *Un Ballo in Maschera* and *Roberto Devereux* at Welsh National Opera.

**MET APPEARANCES** More than 200 performances of 15 operas, including *Turandot*, *Norma*, *La Bohème* (debut, 1993), *La Traviata*, *Tosca*, *Nabucco*, *Il Trovatore*, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, *Pagliacci*, *Aida*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *Madama Butterfly*, and *Rigoletto*.

**CAREER HIGHLIGHTS** Since 2015, he has served as conductor laureate of Welsh National Opera, where he had two tenures as music director, 1992–2001 and 2004–08. Since launching his conducting career in 1982 with Donizetti's *L'Ajo Nell'Imbarazzo*, he has led more than 100 different operas, a repertoire rich in both Italian works and the music of Wagner, Richard Strauss, Britten, and Janáček. He has conducted at the Bavarian State Opera, La Scala, Covent Garden, Paris Opera, Dutch National Opera, and Lyric Opera of Chicago, among others. Recent performances include *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* in Amsterdam, *Cavalleria Rusticana* and *Pagliacci* in Rome, *Madama Butterfly* at Deutsche Oper Berlin, and *Tosca* and *La Forza del Destino* at Welsh National Opera.



# Meet the Special Guests



## Anthony Roth Costanzo

HOST (DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA)

**THIS SEASON** The National Council Auditions Grand Finals Concert at the Met, the title role of Philip Glass's *Akhnaten* at English National Opera, and concert appearances with Les Violons du Roy, the New York Philharmonic, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra & Chorale, Boston Baroque, Mercury, and the NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchester. He also produces and stars in *Glass/Handel*, an operatic art installation co-presented by Opera Philadelphia and National Sawdust.

**MET APPEARANCES** Ferdinand and Prospero in *The Enchanted Island*, Prince Orlofsky in *Die Fledermaus*, and Unulfo in *Rodelinda* (debut, 2011).

**CAREER HIGHLIGHTS** He has sung with leading opera companies across the United States and Europe, including the Glyndebourne Festival, San Francisco Opera, Houston Grand Opera, LA Opera, Glimmerglass Festival, Canadian Opera Company, and the Finnish National Opera. A champion of new music, he appeared in the world premieres of Jimmy Lopez's *Bel Canto* at Lyric Opera of Chicago and Jake Heggie's *Great Scott* at the Dallas Opera. He has also premiered works written for him by Matthew Aucoin, Paola Prestini, Gregory Spears, Suzanne Farrin, Bernard Rands, Scott Wheeler, Mohammed Fairouz, Steve Mackey, and Nico Muhly. He was a winner of the 2009 National Council Auditions.



## Christian Van Horn

BASS-BARITONE (ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NEW YORK)

**THIS SEASON** The National Council Auditions Grand Finals Concert, Colline in *La Bohème*, the title role of *Mefistofele*, and Publio in *La Clemenza di Tito* at the Met; Raimondo in *Lucia di Lammermoor* at Opera Philadelphia; Narbal in *Les Troyens* at the Paris Opera; Escamillo in *Carmen* at the Bavarian State Opera; and Zoroastro in Handel's *Orlando* at San Francisco Opera.

**MET APPEARANCES** Julio in Thomas Adès's *The Exterminating Angel*, the Speaker in *Die Zauberflöte*, Colline, and Pistola in *Falstaff* (debut, 2013).

**CAREER HIGHLIGHTS** Recent performances include the Emperor in Stravinsky's *The Nightingale and Other Short Fables* at the Canadian Opera Company; Méphistophélès in *Faust*, Escamillo, and Narbal at Lyric Opera of Chicago; Melisso in Handel's *Alcina* and Raimondo at the Santa Fe Opera; Oroveso in *Norma* at the Dallas Opera; and the Four Villains in *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* at LA Opera. He has also sung the Prefect in Donizetti's *Linda di Chamounix* in Rome, Escamillo at the Canadian Opera Company, Frère Laurent in *Roméo et Juliette* and Alidoro in *La Cenerentola* at Lyric Opera of Chicago, Zaccaria in *Nabucco* at Seattle Opera, and Von Bock in the world premiere of Marco Tutino's *Two Women* at San Francisco Opera. He was a winner of the 2003 National Council Auditions

## Judges

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Associate Artistic Administrator

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Artistic Director

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Executive Director, Metropolitan Opera  
National Council Auditions

Diane Zola  
METROPOLITAN OPERA;  
Assistant General Manager, Artistic

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Makeup

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Hair Styling

Katherine Shak and Juan Ibarra  
Wardrobe

Fay Fox and Ken Howard  
Photographers



From left:  
Brady Walsh, Administrator;  
Melissa Wegner, Executive Director;  
Camille LaBarre, Chairman; and  
Carol E. Domina, President

# 2019 Regional Winners

Piotr Buszewski  
Tenor  
Middle Atlantic Region

Alasyha Fox  
Soprano  
Eastern Region

William Guanbo Su  
Bass  
Eastern Region

Dashuai Chen  
Tenor  
Great Lakes Region

Thomas Glass  
Baritone  
Rocky Mountain Region

Elena Villalón  
Soprano  
Central Region

Anthony Ciaramitaro  
Tenor  
Great Lakes Region

Mary Hoskins  
Soprano  
Rocky Mountain Region

Joshua Lee Wheeler  
Tenor  
Western Region

Sylvia D'Eramo  
Soprano  
Gulf Coast Region

Meghan Kasanders  
Soprano  
Upper Midwest Region

Michaela Wolz  
Mezzo-Soprano  
Midwest Region

Monica Dewey  
Soprano  
Midwest Region

Miles Mykkanen  
Tenor  
Upper Midwest Region

Hubert Zapiór  
Baritone  
Eastern Region

Abigail Dock  
Mezzo-Soprano  
New England Region

Nicholas Newton  
Bass-Baritone  
Western Region

Meryl Dominguez  
Soprano  
Middle Atlantic Region

Murrella Parton  
Soprano  
Southeast Region

Anna Dugan  
Soprano  
Eastern Region

Camille Sherman  
Mezzo-Soprano  
Northwest 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 \$15,000 each, and the remaining national finalists receive \$7,500 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.

### **\$15,000 AWARDS**

The Birgit Nilsson Award of the American-Scandinavian Foundation

Faith Geier Award

Dominique Laffont Award

Alton E. Peters Award  
METROPOLITAN OPERA GUILD

Noreen Zimmerman Award

### **\$7,500 AWARDS**

Ellie Caulkins Award

Fernand Lamesch Award

Judith Raskin Award

Anne de Richemont  
Smithers Award

## National Finalists Fund

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

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Estate of Ingvelde Rappaport

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# Education Fund

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)

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The National Council 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 2018–19 season roster were participants in the National Council Auditions.

## **SOPRANOS**

Elaine Alvarez  
Norah Amsellem  
Jennifer Black  
Deanna Breiwick  
Elizabeth Caballero  
Jennifer Check  
Melissa Citro  
Tracy Cox  
Mary Dunleavy  
Jessica Faselt  
Wendy Bryn Harmer  
Holli Harrison  
Nicole Haslett  
Jihee Kim  
Disella Lárusdóttir  
Kathryn Lewek  
Clarissa Lyons  
Angela Meade  
Erin Morley  
Kerriann Otaño  
Marjorie Owens  
So Young Park  
Ailyn Pérez  
Susanna Phillips  
Sondra Radvanovsky  
Gabriella Reyes  
Jennifer Rowley  
Amy Shoremount-Obra  
Nadine Sierra  
Amber Wagner  
Rachel Willis-Sørensen  
Tamara Wilson  
Amanda Woodbury

## **MEZZO-SOPRANOS**

Jamie Barton  
Elizabeth Bishop  
Stephanie Blythe  
Jane Bunnell  
Augusta Caso  
Rihab Chaieb  
Marianne Cornetti  
Emily D'Angelo

Allegra De Vita  
Sandra Piques Eddy  
Samantha Gossard  
Denyce Graves  
Megan Grey  
Samantha Hankey  
Heather Johnson  
Edyta Kulczak  
Maya Lahyani  
Sarah Larsen  
Margaret Lattimore  
Megan Marino  
MaryAnn McCormick  
Sarah Mesko  
Mary Phillips  
Carolyn Sproule  
Renée Tatum  
Tichina Vaughn  
Cassandra Zoé Velasco  
Maria Zifchak

## **COUNTERTENOR**

Siman Chung

## **TENORS**

Paul Appleby  
Aaron Blake  
Ben Bliss  
Adam Diegel  
Michael Fabiano  
Paul Groves  
Bryan Hymel  
Ian Koziara  
Yi Li  
Robert McPherson  
Jay Hunter Morris  
Matthew Polenzani  
David Portillo  
Kevin Ray  
Mark Schowalter  
Scott Scully  
Tony Stevenson  
Carl Tanner  
Jonathan Tetelman

## **BARITONES**

Michael Chioldi  
Kidon Choi  
Nathan Gunn  
John Hancock  
Quinn Kelsey  
Will Liverman  
Donald Maxwell  
Lucas Meachem  
Kyle Pfortmiller  
Michael Todd Simpson  
David Won  
Hyung Yun

## **BASS-BARITONES**

Joseph Barron  
Patrick Carfizzi  
Brandon Cedel  
David Crawford  
Bradley Garvin  
Ryan Speedo Green  
Christopher Job  
Kyle Ketelsen  
Eric Owens  
Christian Van Horn  
Alfred Walker

## **BASSES**

Richard Bernstein  
Philip Cokorinos  
Paul Corona  
Jeremy Galyon  
Oren Gradus  
Ricardo Lugo  
Matthew Rose  
Kevin Short  
Stefan Szkafarowsky  
Christian Zaremba