



INDIANA DISTRICT



LAFFONT COMPETITION

The Metropolitan Opera

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2025

THE CHRISTEL DEHAAN FINE ARTS CENTER

Ruth Lilly Performance Hall

UNIVERSITY OF
INDIANAPOLIS

HOSTED BY
INDIANAPOLIS OPERA

UNIVERSITY OF
INDIANAPOLIS

CHRISTEL
DEHAAN FAMILY
FOUNDATION

**ALLEN
WHITEHILL
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CHARITABLE FOUNDATION



INDIANA DISTRICT



LAFFONT COMPETITION

The Metropolitan Opera

HOSTED BY
INDIANAPOLIS OPERA

SATURDAY | OCTOBER 25, 2025 | 11 AM

**CHRISTEL DEHAAN FINE ARTS CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF
INDIANAPOLIS**

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District Coordinator Rachelle Woolston
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Committee Members Kathleen Hacker
Bonnie Reilly

SPECIAL THANKS

The Christel DeHaan Family Foundation
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Jeffrey Barnes, Mitzi Westra, Rebecca Sorley, Peter Nichols & The University of Indianapolis
Indianapolis Opera

We also thank our current and past donors who have made today possible:

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Olimpia Barbera	Claudette Einhorn	Holly Johnson	Ted & Lee Planje	Marianne Williams Tobias
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2025–26 SEASON

INDIANA DISTRICT

OCTOBER 25, 2025



LAFFONT
COMPETITION

The Metropolitan Opera



2025 Laffont Competition Finalists and Grand Finals Winners with Competition alumni Jamie Barton and Janai Brugger

MELISSA WEGNER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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ADMINISTRATOR

ANNE KLINE POHANKA
CHAIRMAN

LARA MARCON
PAMELA CRAVEN
MEMBERS AT LARGE

National Semi finals
Sunday, March 15, 2026

**Eric and Dominique Laffont
Grand Finals Concert**
Sunday, March 22, 2026

For up-to-date auditions results, alumni news, and other general information, follow [@metoperacompetition](#) on Facebook and Instagram.

THE METROPOLITAN OPERA ERIC AND DOMINIQUE LAFFONT COMPETITION

The Met’s Laffont Competition—previously known as the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions—is designed to discover promising young opera singers and assist in the development of their careers and is sponsored by hundreds of donors and volunteers from across the United States, Canada, Mexico, and South America. Some of today’s greatest singers got their starts in the competition, including Jamie Barton, Stephanie Blythe, Lawrence Brownlee, Anthony Roth Costanzo, Emily D’Angelo, Michael Fabiano, Renée Fleming, Susan Graham, Ryan Speedo Green, Lisette Oropesa, Eric Owens, and Nadine Sierra.

The 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.

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

SUPPORT OPERA’S FUTURE STARS

When you make a gift to support the Laffont Competition, you make a statement about your commitment to the future of opera and to helping expand our work of identifying opera’s brightest rising stars. This unique initiative is possible thanks to the generous support that we receive from valued friends like you.

Please text LAFFONT to 44321 or visit metopera.org/competitionsupport and make a gift to support the Laffont Competition today. Your contribution will make a truly meaningful difference.

LEADERSHIP FOR THE 2025-26 SEASON

Regional Chairpersons

Jennifer Esposito
Viktoria Vizin
CENTRAL

Tom Cannon Jr.
EASTERN

Marianne Cornetti
GREAT LAKES

Melissa Gordon
Dwayne Littauer
Susan Garic Mitchell
GULF COAST

Elana Lippa
Aundi Marie Moore
Rafael Urrutia
MIDDLE ATLANTIC REGION

David Adams
Melinda J. Cannady
MIDWEST

Susan Gates
Jon Saxton
NEW ENGLAND

Stewart Law
NORTHWEST

Karen Bruggenthies
Chris Mohr
ROCKY MOUNTAIN

Andrés Rodríguez
SOUTH AMERICA

Alexis Lundy
Jason Meeks
SOUTHEAST

Connie Fullmer
Jimmy Longoria
UPPER MIDWEST

Marianne Grant
Molly Siefert
WESTERN

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Laurie Lane
Monique Spells
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Ragnar Conde
Octavio Rivas
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Barbara Wiltsie
MICHIGAN

Connie Fullmer
Jimmy Longoria
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Committee of Advisors
Jamie Barton
Anthony Roth Costanzo
Ryan Speedo Green

OUR JUDGES



DAN NOVAK *Director, Ryan Opera Center, Lyric Opera of Chicago*

Dan Novak was named Director of The Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center at Lyric Opera of Chicago in April of 2013, having served as Manager since 2000. In 2006 his position with the program was elevated to senior management level when he assumed responsibility for all executive duties and began assisting with artistic decisions. Novak's career at Lyric Opera of Chicago, of which the Center is an affiliate, began in 1989. The first decade of his tenure involved positions with the Development and Ticket Departments, most recently the Assistant Director of Development for Chapter Activities. An Illinois native, Novak is a graduate of Northwestern University, where he earned a degree in Music Education with distinction. He serves as a member of the Advisory Board of the Shoshana Foundation as well as an adjudicator for voice competitions, including the Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition.



KATHY OLSEN *Founder, Encompass Arts LLC & Opera Coach*

Katherine Olsen is the Founder of Encompass Arts LLC. Encompass Arts represents leading Broadway, film-tv, stage and operatic talent. Her clients include: John Cullum-TONY Award winner, David Miller (Il Divo), Kammersängerein Cheryl Studer, and the late Jerry Springer and Marcello Giordani. Katherine is one of the most famous and sought-after opera coach/accompanists in the world today. In 2001 she was Principal Coach and Artistic Administrator for Baz Luhrmann's Tony Award-winning production of Puccini's "La Bohème On Broadway." Ms. Olsen has played for and adjudicated many prestigious vocal competitions including: The MacAllister Awards, The Puccini Competition, The George London Awards, The Richard Tucker Foundation, and Voci Verdiane-Busetto, Italy. As a pianist she has collaborated with artists Ben Heppner, Leona Mitchell, Sherrill Milnes, Cheryl Studer, Gary Lakes, Barbara Daniels, Harolyn Blackwell, Renata Scotto, Marcello Giordani and Riccardo Caruso (great-grandson of Enrico Caruso). Katherine currently serves on the board of The Singer's Development Foundation. Over the course of her career, she has been involved with many teaching programs and masterclasses with: Renata Scotto, Sherrill Milnes, Martina Arroyo and Regina Resnik, to name a few. Katherine has held staff positions with: Juilliard School's American Opera Center, Lyric Opera Chicago, University of Tennessee and Orlando Opera. She has been on staff of numerous summer programs including: Opern Air Gars, Voice Experience, and Prelude to Performance, in New York City. She has performed for Presidents Ronald Reagan and George Herbert Bush at the White House and she has performed at the Library Of Congress three times. Ms. Olsen has written articles and been interviewed numerous times on the subject of accompanying by: Keyboard Magazine, Classical Singer Magazine, and The Christian Science Monitor. She holds both a Bachelor of Music and a Masters Degree in Piano Performance. She is a proud member of Opera Managers Association International.



TICHINA VAUGHN *mezzo-soprano*

Tichina Vaughn is internationally celebrated for her “superb, rich singing” and serious theatrical presence”. The Grammy winning American mezzo soprano has performed leading roles in the world’s most important opera houses, including the Metropolitan Opera, San Francisco Opera, La Scala Milan, Royal Opera Covent Garden, and the Semperoper Dresden. Equally at home in opera, concert, and recital repertoire, Vaughn is recognized for her artistry, versatility, and commitment to uplifting diverse voices in classical music. As an active voice teacher and mentor, Vaughn has been artist-in-residence at her alma mater the University of North Carolina School of the Arts and serves as artistic advisor for SAS Performing Arts Company NYC. She has served as a faculty clinician with Opera Programs Berlin and is currently Associate Professor of Music in Voice at the Jacobs School of Music at

Indiana University where she was awarded a 2025 Trustees Teaching Award. Tichina Vaughn began her international operatic career as a member of the Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artist Program and in the 2025-26 season, she returns to The Metropolitan Opera as Maria in *Porgy and Bess* and celebrates a role and house debut as Monisha in *Treemonisha* with Washington National Opera. Successes in season 2024 - 2025 included the Old Lady in *Candide* with Semperoper Dresden, Mezzo soloist in Verdi’s *Requiem* with the Flagstaff Symphony Orchestra, and her debut at Welsh National Opera as Zia Principessa and Zita (*Il Trittico*) under Maestro Carlo Rizzi. Previous season highlights included her Royal Opera House Covent Garden debut as the Witch (*Hansel and Gretel*), Azucena (*Il Trovatore*) for Piedmont Opera, reengagements at the Metropolitan Opera as the Hostess of the Inn (*Boris Gudonow*), Mere Jeanne (*Dialogues de Carmélites*), Erste Magd (*Elektra*) and Maria (*Porgy and Bess*), Amneris (*Aida*) at Fort Worth Opera and Cincinnati Opera, appearances with Maestro Alan Gilbert at the Lucerne Festival Switzerland in *Porgy and Bess* (Maria), her debut at the Opéra National de Lyon as the Old Lady (*Candide*) and her Opera Theater of Saint Louis debut as Monisha in a new production of Scott Joplin's *Treemonisha*. Further international engagements have included appearances with Maestro Alan Gilbert at the Lucerne Festival Switzerland in *Porgy and Bess* (Maria) and her debut at the Opéra National de Lyon as the Old Lady (*Candide*).

OUR PIANIST



SHUICHI UMEYAMA *collaborative pianist*

Shuichi Umeyama is an assistant professor of music in opera studies and an opera coach at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music.

A sought-out collaborator by internationally prominent vocalists, pianist Umeyama is a highly seasoned concert performer. Equally at ease as a soloist and accompanist, he commands a vast repertoire in both vocal and instrumental literature. He has performed piano concertos by Brahms, Beethoven, Chopin, and Rachmaninoff, among others, and his recitals have been broadcast on Japan National Broadcasting (NHK).

In the United States, Umeyama has served as a coach or an accompanist for San Francisco Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Santa Fe Opera, Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, Opera North, Indianapolis Opera, and others. He has been an official accompanist for the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions (Laffont Competition) for over 30 years.

As a musical coach, he has participated in numerous operatic world premieres, including *Our Town* (Rorem), *Jeppé* (Sandstrom), *Vincent* (Rands), *The Tale of Lady Thi Kinh* (Phan), *Anne Frank* (Ran), and *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay* (Bates, Scheer).

In 2017, Umeyama taught voice students at Aichi University of the Arts in Japan as a resident artist.

PERFORMANCE ORDER | 11 AM START

Carolina Sullivan, Soprano, 24	Cincinnati, OH
Benhur Mosazghi, Baritone, 28	Asmara, Eritrea
Danielle Pribyl, Soprano, 27	San Clemente, CA
Steele Fitzwater, Bass-baritone, 30	Dawson, WV
Megan Graves, Mezzo-soprano, 28	Haslet, TX
Madeleine Gotschlich, Soprano, 29	Gorham, ME
Stella FitzGerald, Mezzo-soprano, 23	Cincinnati, OH
Rachel Purvis, Soprano, 29	Indianapolis, IN
Uma Singh, Soprano, 26	Cleveland, OH
Natalie Vong, Mezzo-soprano, 27	Toronto, ON Canada
Solamada Pando Girard, Baritone, 24	Ann Arbor, MI

1-2 PM INTERMISSION

Brittany Rose Weinstock, Soprano, 24	Newport Beach
Michael Deshield, Tenor, 25	Abington, PA
Ryan Henry, Bass-baritone, 29	Cincinnati, OH
Victoria Popritkin, Soprano, 25	Cleveland, OH
Morgan Potts, Mezzo-soprano, 23	Alpharetta, GA
Ashley Ruckman, Soprano, 26	Kansas City, KS
Drew Comer, Bass, 29	Brownsburg, IN
Jasmine Wonkyung Chung, Soprano, 27	Seoul, South Korea
Alexander Gushrowski, Tenor, 27	La Porte, IN
Tatiana Morales, Soprano, 25	Copperas Cove, TX
Jackson Ray, Tenor, 24	Asheville, NC
Ashley Nicole Dawson, Soprano, 27	Richmond, VA
Nia Spaulding, Soprano, 23	Berkeley, CA
Robert Wente, Baritone, 25	Bloomington, IN
Anneke Van Slyke, Soprano, 23	Manlius, NY
Pelagia Pamel, Soprano, 23	Bloomfield Hills, MI

5 PM | COMPETITION CONCLUDES

REPERTOIRE LIST

IN PERFORMANCE ORDER

Carolina Sullivan, Soprano, 24

Cincinnati, OH

Gualtier Maldè...Caro nome	RIGOLETTO	Verdi
Gold is a fine thing	THE BALLAD OF BABY DOE	Moore
Presentation of the Rose	DER ROSENKAVALIER	R. Strauss
This is what it is to love an artist	EURydICE	Aucoin

Benhur Mosazghi, Baritone, 28

Asmara, Eritrea

Per me giunto	DON CARLO	Verdi
Avant de quitter ces lieux	FAUST	Gounod
Di tua beltade imagine	POLIUTO	Donizetti
Hai già vinta la causa!	LE NOZZE DI FIGARO	Mozart

Danielle Pribyl, Soprano, 27

San Clemente, CA

Hello! Oh Margaret, it's you	THE TELEPHONE	Menotti
Padre, germani, addio	IDOMENEO	Mozart
Wo bin ich	HÄNSEL UND GRETEL	Humperdinck
Quando m'en vo'	LA BOHÈME	Puccini

Steele Fitzwater, Bass-baritone, 30

Dawson, WV

Aprite un po' quegl'occhi	LE NOZZE DI FIGARO	Mozart
Sorge infausta una procella	ORLANDO	Handel
Schweig, schweig, damit dich niemand warnt	DER FREISCHÜTZ	Weber
Hear me, oh Lord	SUSANNAH	Floyd

Megan Graves, Mezzo-soprano, 28

Haslet, TX

Wie du warst	DER ROSENKAVALIER	R. Strauss
Una voce poco fa	IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA	Rossini
Va! Laisse couler mes larmes	WERTHER	Massenet
I bought this suitcase in New York	FLIGHT	Dove

Madeleine Gotschlich, Soprano, 29

Gorham, ME

Oh, smania! Oh, furie!.. D'Oreste, d'Aiace	IDOMENEO	Mozart
Es gibt ein Reich	ARIADNE AUF NAXOS	R. Strauss
Tacea la notte placida	IL TROVATORE	Verdi
Do not utter a word	VANESSA	Barber

Stella FitzGerald, Mezzo-soprano, 23 Cincinnati, OH

Torna di Tito a lato	LA CLEMENZA DI TITO	Mozart
Ô petite étoile	L'ÉTOILE	Chabrier
Am I in your light?	DOCTOR ATOMIC	Adams
Sein wir wieder gut	ARIADNE AUF NAXOS	R. Strauss

Rachel Purvis, Soprano, 29 Indianapolis, IN

Senza mamma	SUOR ANGELICA	Puccini
Ain't it a pretty night?	SUSANNAH	Floyd
Porgi, amor	LE NOZZE DI FIGARO	Mozart
Klänge der Heimat	DIE FLEDERMAUS	J. Strauss

Uma Singh, Soprano, 26 Cleveland, OH

Nun eilt herbei ... Verführer!	DIE LUSTIGEN WEIBER VON WINDSOR	Nicolai
Ah! Je ris de me voir	FAUST	Gounod
Tu che di gel sei cinta	TURANDOT	Puccini
Per pietà, ben mio, perdona	COSÌ FAN TUTTE	Mozart

Natalie Vong, Mezzo-soprano, 27 Toronto, ON Canada

Enfin, je suis ici	CENDRILLON	Massenet
Non so più cosa son	LE NOZZE DI FIGARO	Mozart
Sta nell'Ircana pietrosa tana	ALCINA	Handel
I bought this suitcase in New York	FLIGHT	Dove

Solamada Pando Girard, Baritone, 24 Ann Arbor, MI

Ô vin, dissipe la tristesse	HAMLET	Thomas
Hai già vinta la causa!	LE NOZZE DI FIGARO	Mozart
What makes a man a man	CHAMPION	Blanchard
Kogda bī zhizn domashnim krugom	EUGENE ONEGIN	Tchaikovsky

Brittany Rose Weinstock, Soprano, 24 Newport Beach, CA

S podruzhkami po jagodu khodit (Snow Maiden's Aria)	THE SNOW MAIDEN	Rimsky-Korsakov
Nun eilt herbei ... Verführer!	DIE LUSTIGEN WEIBER VON WINDSOR	Nicolai
No word from Tom	THE RAKE'S PROGRESS	Stravinsky
Je dis que rien ne m'épouvante	CARMEN	Bizet

Michael Deshield, Tenor, 25 Abington, PA

Amfortas! Die Wunde!	PARSIFAL	Wagner
Cielo e mar!	LA GIOCONDA	Ponchielli
Mamma, quel vino è generoso	CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA	Mascagni
It's about the way people is made I reckon	SUSANNAH	Floyd

Ryan Henry, Bass-baritone, 29 Cincinnati, OH

Vyes' tabor spit	ALEKO	Rachmaninoff
O, du mein holder Abendstern	TANNHÄUSER	Wagner
A warm night	DEAD MAN WALKING	Heggie
Madamina! il catalago è questo	DON GIOVANNI	Mozart

Victoria Popritkin, Soprano, 25 Cleveland, OH

Amour, ranime mon courage	ROMÉO ET JULIETTE	Gounod
Padre, germani, addio	IDOMENEO	Mozart
No word from Tom	THE RAKE'S PROGRESS	Stravinsky
Ore dolci e divine	LA RONDINE	Puccini

Morgan Potts, Mezzo-soprano, 23 Alpharetta, GA

Nobles seigneurs, salut!	LES HUGUENOTS	Meyerbeer
Smanie implacabili	COSÌ FAN TUTTE	Mozart
I bought this suitcase in New York	FLIGHT	Dove
Chacun à son goût	DIE FLEDERMAUS	J. Strauss

Ashley Ruckman, Soprano, 26 Kansas City, KS

No word from Tom	THE RAKE'S PROGRESS	Stravinsky
Chi il bel sogno di Doretta	LA RONDINE	Puccini
Ach, ich fühl's	DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE	Mozart
Amour, ranime mon courage	ROMÉO ET JULIETTE	Gounod

Drew Comer, Bass, 29 Brownsburg, IN

O Isis und Osiris	DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE	Mozart
Il lacerato spirito	SIMON BOCCANEGRA	Verdi
Zabylasya	THE TSAR'S BRIDE	Rimsky-Korsakov
Wie schön ist doch die Musik	DIE SCHWEIGSAME FRAU	R. Strauss

Jasmine Wonkyung Chung, Soprano, 27 Seoul, South Korea

Der Hölle Rache	DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE	Mozart
Regnava nel silenzio	LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR	Donizetti
À vos jeux, mes amis...Partagez-vous mes fleurs!	HAMLET	Thomas
Chacun le sait	LA FILLE DU RÉGIMENT	Donizetti

Alexander Gushrowski, Tenor, 27 La Porte, IN

It's about the way people is made I reckon	SUSANNAH	Floyd
Ah, lève-toi, soleil!	ROMÉO ET JULIETTE	Gounod
Questa o quella	RIGOLETTO	Verdi
Dies Bildnis ist bezaubernd schön	DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE	Mozart

Tatiana Morales, Soprano, 25 Copperas Cove, TX

Donde lieta uscì	LA BOHÈME	Puccini
Dove sono i bei momenti	LE NOZZE DI FIGARO	Mozart
Ain't it a pretty night?	SUSANNAH	Floyd
Je dis que rien ne m'épouvante	CARMEN	Bizet

Jackson Ray, Tenor, 24 Asheville, NC

Kuda, kuda	EUGENE ONEGIN	Tchaikovsky
New York Lights	A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE	Bolcom
Il mio tesoro	DON GIOVANNI	Mozart
Dovunque al mondo	MADAMA BUTTERFLY	Puccini

Ashley Nicole Dawson, Soprano, 27 Richmond, VA

Glück, das mir verblieb	DIE TOTE STADT	Korngold
Ah! Je veux vivre	ROMÉO ET JULIETTE	Gounod
Porgi, amor	LE NOZZE DI FIGARO	Mozart
My darling Jim	GLORY DENIED	Cipullo

Nia Spaulding, Soprano, 23 Berkeley, CA

Depuis le jour	LOUISE	Charpentier
Měsíčku na nebi hlubokém	RUSALKA	Dvořák
Donde lieta uscì	LA BOHÈME	Puccini
Ah, fuggi il traditor!	DON GIOVANNI	Mozart

Robert Wente, Baritone, 25

Bloomington, IN

Starbuck's Aria	MOBY DICK	Heggie
Sois immobile	GUILLAUME TELL	Rossini
Aprite un po' quegl'occhi	LE NOZZE DI FIGARO	Mozart
Si corre dal notaio	GIANNI SCHICCHI	Puccini

Anneke Van Slyke, Soprano, 23

Manlius, NY

Embroidery in childhood	PETER GRIMES	Britten
Glück, das mir verblieb	DIE TOTE STADT	Korngold
Je dis que rien ne m'épouvante	CARMEN	Bizet
Dove sono i bei momenti	LE NOZZE DI FIGARO	Mozart

Pelagia Pamel, Soprano, 23

Bloomfield Hills, MI

Měsíčku na nebi hlubokém	RUSALKA	Dvořák
How beautiful it is	THE TURN OF THE SCREW	Britten
Me voilà seule... Comme autrefois	LES PÊCHEURS DE PERLES	Bizet
Signore, ascolta!	TURANDOT	Puccini