

It's News to Me

BY **JANOS GEREKEN**, *July 5, 2016*

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Toland Vocal Arts Competition Winners



Toland Competition winner Cody Quattlebaum | *Credit: Samuel Crossley*

Winners of the third annual James Toland Vocal Arts Competition include two Juilliard-trained singers and two current participants in the San Francisco Opera Merola Program. A total of \$20,000 was awarded in cash prizes along with performance opportunities at Oakland Symphony and Masterworks Chorale concerts.

Bass-baritone Cody Quattlebaum won both the Grand Prize and Audience Favorite awards and soprano Eva Gheorghiu received first place in the Tier II competition. Both have studied at Juilliard; Quattlebaum is currently earning a master's degree in vocal performance and Gheorghiu recently graduated with a bachelor's degree in music.

Sopranos Yelena Dyachek and Julia Metzler, tenors Arnold Livingston Geis and Alexander Taite, and bass-baritone Timothy Madden won the other awards. Quattlebaum and Dyachek, who also won the Masterworks Chorale Award, are participants in the Merola Program, and both are featured next month in a production of Mozart's *Così fan tutte*.

Developed to support and nurture the emerging talents of artists as they begin a career in vocal performance, the competition attracted 150 applicants. Finalists performed before a panel of judges and audience members at Holy Names University in Oakland.