

PREMIERE OPERA FOUNDATION  
INTERNATIONAL VOCAL COMPETITION  
+ PROFESSIONAL CASTING AUDITIONS

5<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
LIVE  
FINALS

DECEMBER 11, 2021 | 4PM EST  
FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST | NYC



# Premiere Opera Foundation International Vocal Competition

The Premiere Opera Foundation's International Vocal Competition assembles the most esteemed operatic judging panels, consisting of elite industry professionals, international theaters and casting directors, and world renowned superstars, to discover and honor the most promising, up and coming, young opera singers in the world today.

The Foundation is proud to offer generous awards and special prizes to the winners of our Vocal Competition, as well as to provide them with incredible opportunities to advance their careers via casting auditions, intensive training programs and other forms of direct support.

CONCERT PROGRAM

**Greer Lyle - Soprano, USA**

Глянуть с Нижнего (Kuma's Arioso)

Чародейка (The Enchantress)

Tchaikovsky

**Errin Duane Brooks - Tenor, USA**

Vesti la giubba

Pagliacci

Leoncavallo

**Yoseph Park - Baritone, South Korea**

O du, mein holder Abendstern

Tannhäuser

Wagner

**Shanley Horvitz - Mezzo-Soprano, USA**

Acerba voluttà, dolce tortura

Adriana Lecouvreur

Cilea

**Seonho Yu - Baritone, South Korea**

Я вас любил (Ya vas lyublyu)

Pique Dame

Tchaikovsky

**Yulan Piao - Soprano, South Korea**

Stridono lassù

Pagliacci

Leoncavallo

**Alex DeSocio - Baritone, USA**

Starbuck's Aria

Moby Dick

Heggie

**Allegra De Vita - Mezzo-Soprano, USA**

Dopo notte

Ariodante

Handel

**Tatev Baroyan - Soprano, Armenia**

Tu che di gel sei cinta

Turandot

Puccini

**Kathleen Reveille - Mezzo-Soprano, USA**

Iris, Hence Away!

Semele

Handel

**Maria Natale - Soprano, USA**

Un bel dì vedremo

Madama Butterfly

Puccini

**Jonghyun Park - Tenor, South Korea**

Dies bildnis ist bezaubernd schön

Die Zauberflöte

Mozart

**Joseph Lodato - Baritone, USA**

Pari siamo

Rigoletto

Verdi

**Katherine Whyte - Soprano, USA**

Ah, je ris de me voir

Faust

Gounod

**Thomas Cilluffo - Tenor, USA**

Aria of the Worm

The Ghosts of Versailles

Corigliano

**Meigui Zhang - Soprano, China**

Regnava nel silenzio

Lucia di Lammermoor

Donizetti

**PIANIST: DR. MICHAEL FENNELLY**

# AUDIENCE PRIZE

## YOUR VOTE COUNTS!!

The moment the singing finishes is the time to make your voice heard!

We are proud to offer an Audience Prize to the artist chosen from the voting of those watching LIVE as well as those viewing online from around the world!

All you do is click the link below and cast your vote for the ONE SINGER from tonight's Finals Concert that is your favorite!

We will tabulate the votes from all over the world and announce the Audience Favorite Prize tonight!

[VOTE NOW](#)

# LIVE FINALS JURY

## **Jonathan Friend**

Metropolitan Opera

## **Samuel Gelber**

Washington National Opera

## **Dominik Licht**

Royal Danish Opera, Salzburg Easter Festival

## **Constantine Orbelian**

New York City Opera, Kaunas City Symphony Orchestra, Delos Records

## **Christian Firmbach**

Oldenburgisches Staatstheater

## **Gerald Martin Moore**

Yale School of Music, Glyndebourne Festival, Ravinia Festival, Music Academy of the West, SongStudio Carnegie Hall, Decca Records

# LIVE FINALS JURY

## **Andrès Spoerer Rodriguez**

Fundacion Ibáñez-Atkinson

## **Devere Burnett**

IMG Artists

## **Megan Weston**

Athena Music Foundation

## **David Blackburn (via Livestream)**

NYIOP International, Bolshoi Theatre Opera Studio,  
Opernhaus Zurich Opera Studio, Ibáñez-Atkinson  
Foundation

## **Eric Margiore**

Premiere Opera Foundation, Premiere Artists  
Management, Premiere Opera Vocal Arts Institute



# Mission

The Premiere Opera Foundation is dedicated to the promotion and preservation of the operatic artform through discovering, nurturing, and honoring the most promising, up and coming opera singers in the world today, by enhancing their careers through financial, educational, and ongoing advisory support.

Premiere Opera Foundation is a registered 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

# Help us achieve our goals and support our future artists

100% of every donation is guided to fulfill our mission of supporting and providing ongoing assistance to promising young artists from all around the world.

Premiere Opera Foundation has remained a beacon of hope and support for all artists during this difficult period, by continuing to host our competition and training initiatives at the same international level as before. To date we have given away what is valued at \$135,000 in cash prizes and special awards to international emerging singers and young artists.

We ask you to consider a 100% tax-deductible donation to help us continue our endeavors. Some options include underwriting a prize, sponsoring a jury member, giving in honor and tribute, adopting a winner or simply giving any amount of your choosing. Premiere Opera Foundation is a registered 501(c)(3) charitable organization (EIN 86-1236503).

Thank you, friends!

~Eric Margiore, President & Founder

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# Vision

The Premiere Opera Foundation is a model for how resources can be offered to artists, and an advocate for the value of artists, in amplifying their essential contributions to communities around the globe. The impact the Foundation seeks:

- Expand the awareness of opera, and its educational as well as therapeutic value to all global citizens.
- Advance and celebrate the work of today's opera singers through scholarships, residencies, masterclasses, and related educational initiatives to ensure that they are supported and thriving.
- Showcase artists that reflect and represent the diverse world in which we live.
- Act as a beacon, to bridge the Golden Age operatic traditions to the current constructs of today's classical music world.

# Our Values

Artist-centered

Educational-based

Diverse in demographics

Diverse in perspectives

Comprehensive

Sustainable

VIEW THE VIRTUAL FINALS CONCERT

2021 VIRTUAL FINALISTS

**Ochirsaikhan Erdenee, Baritone**  
**Mongolia**

**Ricardo Garcia, Tenor**  
**USA**

**Kali Hardwick, Soprano**  
**Switzerland/USA**

**Murrella Parton, Soprano**  
**USA**

**Joel Balzun, Baritone**  
**USA**

**Hyunju Mun, Soprano**  
**Austria/South Korea**

**Andrew Morstein, Tenor**  
**Austria/USA**

**Jonas Jud, Bass**  
**USA/Switzerland**

# 2021 VIRTUAL FINALISTS

**Franko Klisovič, Countertenor**  
**Croatia**

**GeDeane Graham, Mezzo-Soprano**  
**USA**

**Tamara Banjesevič, Soprano**  
**Germany/Serbia**

**Maria Belén Rivarola, Soprano**  
**Argentina**

**José Simerilla Romero, Tenor**  
**USA/Argentina**

**Rocío Faus, Soprano**  
**Spain**

**Navasard Hakobyan, Baritone**  
**Armenia**

# 2021 VIRTUAL JURY

## **David Lomelí**

Santa Fe Opera, Bayerische Staatsoper München,  
Dallas Opera

## **Christian Carlstedt**

Staatsoper Hannover, Stadttheater Klagenfurt,  
Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Komische Oper  
Berlin

## **Christian Jérôme Timme**

Theater Dortmund

## **Constantine Orbelian**

New York City Opera, Kaunas City Symphony  
Orchestra, Delos Records

## **Marcus Carl**

Hessisches Staatstheater Wiesbaden

## **Brian Speck**

Houston Grand Opera Studio

## **Beatrice Benzi**

Teatro all Scala Milano, Accademia alla Scala  
Milano, Institute for Young Dramatic Voices

**Thomas Cadenbach**

Semperoper Dresden Junges Ensemble

**Gerald Martin Moore**

Yale School of Music, Glyndebourne Festival,  
Ravinia Festival, Music Academy of the West,  
SongStudio Carnegie Hall, Decca Records

**Ken Benson**

Ken Benson Artists, Juilliard School

**Andrès Spoerer Rodriguez**

Fundacion Ibáñez-Atkinson, Chile

**David Blackburn**

NYIOP International, Bolshoi Theatre Opera  
Studio, Opernhaus Zurich Opera Studio,  
Ibáñez-Atkinson Foundation

**Eric Margiore**

Premiere Opera Foundation, Premiere Artists  
Management, Premiere Opera Vocal Arts Institute



## Board Of Directors

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# Advisory Board

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CAROL VANESS

DENNIS ZHENG



## 2020 WINNERS

### ***Edward Rosen Memorial Grand Prizes***

Key'mon Murrah (USA)

Yaritza Véliz (Chile)

### ***Second Prizes***

Emmett O'Hanlon (USA)

Alexandra Lowe (UK)

### ***Third Prizes***

Franko Klisovič (Croatia)

Alexandra Razskazoff (USA)

### ***The Voce di Meche Encouragement Award***

Johanna Wallroth (Sweden)

### ***The Dr. David DiChiera Encouragement Award***

Igor Onishcenko (Ukraine)

### ***The Armenian Cultural Career Grant***

Tigran Ohanyan (Armenia)

### ***Audience Choice Award***

Franko Klisovič

## 2019 WINNERS

### ***Edward Rosen Memorial Grand Prize***

Bryan Murray (USA)

### ***Dmitri Hvorostovsky Memorial Career Grant***

Monica Dewey (USA)

### ***Puccini Ambassador Medal***

Quan Chan (China)

### ***Marcello Glordani Memorial Prize***

Carolyn Sproule (USA)

### ***Bel Canto Intl Club & Italian Language Foundation Audience Prize***

Alexandra Razskazoff (USA)

### ***Voce di Meche Encouragement Award***

Polixeni Tziouvaras (Greece)

### ***Dr. David DiChiera Encouragement Award***

Joseph Tancredi (USA)

## 2018 WINNERS

### ***Edward Rosen Memorial Grand Prize***

Takaoki Onishi (Japan)

### ***Dmitri Hvorostovsky Memorial Career Grant***

Takaoki Onishi (Japan)

### ***Teatro alla Scala Audition Prize***

Mario Rojas (Mexico)

### ***Second Prize***

Dashai Chen (China)

### ***Second Prize***

Ziyi Dai (China)

### ***Audience Favorite Prize***

Xiaomeng Zhang (China)

### ***Dr. David DiChiera Encouragement Awards***

Aaron Crouch (USA)

Sae Lin Kim (South Korea)

Mario Rojas (Mexico)

## 2017 WINNERS

### ***Edward Rosen Memorial Grand Prize***

Jaemin Yoon (South Korea)

### ***Second Prizes***

Gerardo de la Torre (Mexico)

Kang Wang (Australia/China)

### ***Audience Favorite Awards***

Jana McIntyre (USA)

Felicia Moore (USA)

### ***Encouragement Awards***

Bryan Murray (USA)

Suzannah Waddington (Canada/USA)

### ***Operavision Academy Scholarship***

Carami Hilaire (USA)

### ***Centro Studi Italiani Scholarship***

Siman Chung (South Korea)

# Thank You For Attending The 2021 LIVE Finals

We look forward to hearing  
from you in the future.

PREMIERE OPERA FOUNDATION  
a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization  
EIN 86-1236503

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