



INSPIRING FUTURE
GENERATIONS OF SINGERS

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Elizabeth Minerman Wins Nevada Schmidt Vocal Competition

The University of Nevada, Las Vegas hosts prestigious singing competition that presents thousands of dollars in awards each year

(Las Vegas, NV) March 14, 2020 – On March 14, 2020, the University of Nevada, Las Vegas hosted the Schmidt Vocal Competition, a prestigious singing competition for sophomore, junior, and senior high school singers that provides awards to more than 150 people annually. This year's first prize winner was Elizabeth Minerman, from Irvine, CA, who was awarded \$2,500 for her performance of "The Crucifixion" by Samuel Barber.

Additional winners were: Alicia Werner, Second Place; Holly Shaffer, Third Place; Gilbert Almaraz, Ralayna Amy, Andreea Cretu, Aliyah Douglas, Adrian Melendrez, Flora Yuan, Finalists; Christian Abbo, Adrian Melendrez, Sydney Wilson, Encouragement Awards; Aliyah Douglas, Most Promising Sophomore.

"We are so proud of Elizabeth and the many other talented singers who participated in this year's Schmidt Vocal Competition," said Linda McAlister, Executive Director of Schmidt Vocal Arts. "Each year the Schmidt Vocal Competition provides young singers with the opportunity to perform in front of a live audience, participate in master classes with world-renowned artists and professionals, and connect with both their peers and mentors who will help foster their continued vocal growth."

"I am very honored to be this year's winner," remarks Elizabeth Minerman. "It was important to me for me to compete at this year's Schmidt Vocal Competition because of the valuable advice I received from the judges last year, which improved my overall performance. The competition experience is about taking risks, learning from others, and growing as performer. This year, I received even more constructive advice, which is going to help me reach my dreams of becoming a world-class opera performer. I also enjoy the master class and social aspect of the competition. Everyone from the judges to my peers were so supportive and made this year's competition an experience I will not forget, social distancing and all!"

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About Schmidt Vocal Competition

The Schmidt Vocal Competition has impacted the lives of thousands of young students over the past two decades, offering awards, scholarships, and educational experiences for more than 150 students annually. The Schmidt Vocal Competition is held annually in 17 locations throughout the U.S. in partnership with regional colleges and universities and is open to sophomore, junior, and senior high school singers. Competitors perform in front of a live audience in two rounds and participate in educational master classes with some of today's most renowned professionals between the preliminary and finalist rounds.

Schmidt Vocal Competition participants have gone on to gain entrance into the world's finest music schools and include winners of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, the George London Competition, the National Association of Teachers of Singing Artist Awards, Classical Singer, and the National Opera Association Award. The Schmidt Vocal Competition is a program of Schmidt Vocal Arts and is funded by the William E. Schmidt Foundation, which encourages aspiring young singers to pursue their passion in vocal arts and provides support and inspiration to future generations of singers.

About Elizabeth Minerman

Elizabeth Grace Minerman is a 12th grader at the Orange County School of the Arts and is part of the Classical Voice Conservatory. This is her second year participating in the Schmidt Vocal Competition. Currently, Elizabeth studies with Monica McCullough (voice teacher), Cheryl Lin Fielding (opera coach), Vera Calabria (dramatic coach), and Dolora Zajick (voice coach). Elizabeth has attended Dolora Zajick's Institute for Young Dramatic Voices Summer Program since 2017. She has participated in master classes with Susan Graham, Frederica von Stade, and Jake Heggie. Elizabeth participates in vocal competitions and school opera productions. Her dream is to become a world-class opera performer.

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