



INSPIRING FUTURE
GENERATIONS OF SINGERS

SCHMIDT VOCAL COMPETITION

Miami University
Saturday, October 31, 2020

The Schmidt Vocal Competition is pleased and honored to partner with Miami University. Our ability to provide an exceptional vocal competition experience is reliant on our host institution partners. Ranked among the top 50 "Best Values in Public Colleges" by Kiplinger, Miami University of Ohio is recognized as one of the nation's most outstanding undergraduate institutions. The Department of Music encourages its students to develop their relationship to the discipline of music as they explore the world through the lens of a superb liberal arts education. Our faculty foster musical and intellectual skills, through both individual mentorship and group collaboration, inspiring students to become independent thinkers and innovators who discover their voices and reimagine themselves in our global society.

Competition Awards

First Place	\$2,500
Second Place	\$2,000
Third Place	\$1,500
Finalists	\$250
Most Promising Sophomore	\$100
Encouragement Award(s)	\$100

*This competition is made possible by the generous support of the
William E. Schmidt Foundation.*

www.schmidtvocalarts.org

Adjudicators/ Master Class Clinicians

PENELOPE BITZAS: Mezzo-soprano, Penelope Bitzas is an Associate Professor of Music in Voice at Boston University and in 2007 she received the prestigious Metcalf Award, which is Boston University's highest honor for excellence in teaching. She received her Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance and Music Education from Ithaca College, magna cum laude and the Masters of Music in Voice Performance from The New England Conservatory of Music. She has performed in a wide variety of musical genres, including opera, contemporary music, solo recital, orchestral performances and Greek music. She has appeared as a soloist under such notable conductors as Kurt Masur, Seiji Ozawa, Gustav Meier, Luciano Berio, Richard Westenberg and George Tsontakis. Ms. Bitzas has presented master classes for the Master Teachers of Singing at Westminster Choir College, University of Las Vegas, New Orleans Community, Opera Theater of St. Louis, Ithaca College, Classical Singer Convention, NATS Convention, Boston Chamber Ensemble, Longy School of Music, the New England Conservatory Prep and the Walnut Hill School. She has been an adjudicator for the Classical Singer Convention, National NATS Convention, and the Schmidt Vocal Competition. In 2013 she took over the reigns as the director of the Boston University Tanglewood Institute Vocal Program. Ms. Bitzas has been on the faculty of Boston University since 1993 and has previously taught at Gustavus Adolphus College, Wagner College, and Ithaca College.

KATHLEEN HACKER: Kathleen Hacker, soprano, made her New York debut as soloist with the American Symphony Orchestra at Alice Tully Hall and has sung with symphony orchestras across the country, including those of Baltimore, Detroit, Pittsburgh, Kansas City, Cincinnati and Indianapolis. As a chamber musician, where she is most at home, she has appeared at the Marlboro, Bard and Aspen Music Festivals and has been heard on Chamber Music Series throughout the country and abroad, with more than 500 concerts to her credit. Kathleen holds degrees from the Eastman School of Music where she studied with Jan DeGaetani and received the coveted Performers Certificate in both Opera and Voice Performance. She earned her doctorate of music from Indiana University. Kathleen is Professor of Music and Director of Vocal Studies at the University of Indianapolis where she teaches all things vocal, leads professional development and creativity classes, and directs the University of Indianapolis Opera Theatre. An avid supporter of the emerging young singer, she serves as judge and clinician for the Schmidt Vocal Competition, teaching at many sites throughout the country, and since its inception, has been a screener, judge and clinician for the Michael Feinstein American Songbook Foundation and its Songbook Academy Summer Intensive.

MARI OPATZ-MUNI: Mezzo-soprano Mari Opatz-Muni has been a voice professor at Miami University for the past twenty-three years. During this time, she also was the Director of the Miami Opera Program and producer from 1998 through 2012. During her tenure, the opera was selected to receive two highly coveted national awards from the National Association of Opera (NOA). For the past six years at Miami, she has been the Chair/Coordinator of the voice area. Ms. Opatz-Muni has appeared with numerous opera companies in the United States and Europe including Houston Opera, where she was in the original cast of the world premiere, *Nixon in China* by John Adams. The audio recording won a Grammy Award and the opera's national PBS television broadcast was honored with an Emmy. In addition, Ms. Opatz-Muni has appeared with such companies including the New York City Opera, Santa Fe Opera, Atlanta Opera, Portland Opera, Tulsa Opera, Chautauqua Opera, Dallas Lyric Opera, The New Israeli Opera, Toledo Opera, Des Moines Opera, and Mobile Opera. Along with the Emmy and Grammy, Ms. Opatz-Muni is the recipient of other prestigious awards, including grants from the William Matheus Sullivan Foundation, the National Institute for Music Theatre, the National Federation of Music Clubs, and the Beethoven Club. She was a semifinalist in the Metropolitan Opera auditions in both New York City and in her home state of Iowa.

BENJAMIN SMOLDER: Bass-Baritone Benjamin Smolder has appeared in productions and concerts all over the world. Internationally he has appeared at the Santander Festival, Spoleto Festival, Festival Internacional de Música Pau Casals, Festival de Mao, Teatro Municipal of San Feliú de Guixols, Almudena Cathedral, Teatre Principal de Mao, Festival de Moiá de Valles, Voces Para la Liturgia, Castell de Belver, and El Escorial. He has appeared in principal operatic roles in Prague, Vienna, Cairo and Italy. In this country, he has performed as a soloist in concerts at the Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall, for the National Association of Choral Conductors, the Detroit Institute of Arts, with the Cincinnati Symphony and May Festival, Detroit Symphony, and Spoleto Festival. He has appeared on numerous recordings including *The Tender Land* in the role of Grandpa with Albany Records and American Tapestry with the Vocal Arts Ensemble. In his career he has appeared as a soloist for two United States Presidents, the King of Spain and the Sheik of Abu Dhabi. Benjamin Smolder is Associate Professor of Voice at Miami University where he teaches private voice, lyric diction, and opera workshop and conducts opera and musical theater productions. Recently, his conducting of *Paul Bunyan* by Benjamin Britten and *Albert Herring* by Benjamin Britten received awards from the National Opera Association for Best Collegiate Production.

Emelia Aceto, Sophomore

Spring Sorrow
Placido zeffiretto

Sasha Antonyuk, Senior

Si mes vers avaient des ailes
Bel piacere

Sarah Arend, Sophomore

Amorosi miei giorni
Heart, we will forget him

Emma Beers, Senior

Sure on this shining night
Notre amour

Dominic Catrone, Sophomore

Blow Blow, Thou Winter Wind
O kühler Wald

Joanna Chu, Sophomore

Where the Music Comes From
Porgi, amor

Maura Connors, Sophomore

O del mio dolce ardor
Du Ring an meinem Finger

Neenah Fusté, Sophomore

Alma del core
The Little Horses

Elizabeth Gill, Sophomore

The Crying of Water
Quella fiamma

Nicholas Gundrum, Junior

But Who May Abide
Le charme

Carlin Holton, Junior

Vergebliches Ständchen
Silent Noon

Sana Jaffrey, Sophomore

O del mio dolce ardor
Psyché

Polina Kornyushenko, Sophomore

Quella fiamma
An die Nachtigall

Diana Kwak, Senior

Già il sole dal Gange
Sure on this shining night

Mary Julia Lashley, Senior

Tell Me, Oh Blue, Blue Sky
Una donna a quindici anni

Hinckley, OH

John Ireland
Vincenzo Righini

Galloway, OH

Reynaldo Hahn
G.F. Handel

Plain City, OH

Stefano Donaudy
Aaron Copland

Royal Palm Beach, FL

Samuel Barber
Gabriel Fauré

New Albany, OH

Roger Quilter
Johannes Brahms

Pleasanton, CA

Lee Hoiby
W. A. Mozart

Austin, TX

C.W. Gluck
Robert Schumann

Tomahawk, WI

Antonio Caldara
Aaron Copland

Dublin, OH

Louis Campbell-Tipton
Benedetto Marcello

Cincinnati, OH

G.F. Handel
Ernest Chausson

Magnolia, TX

Johannes Brahms
Ralph Vaughan Williams

New Vernon, NJ

C.W. Gluck
Émile Paladilhe

Broadview Height, OH

Benedetto Marcello
Franz Schubert

Downers Grove, IL

Alessandro Scarlatti
Samuel Barber

Marysville, OH

Vittorio Giannini
W.A. Mozart

Andrew Martin, Junior

Per la gloria d'adorarvi
Du bist wie eine Blume

Megan Mestuzzi, Sophomore

Everywhere I Look
Bel piacere

Natalie Monell, Senior

O del mio amato ben
Love's Philosophy

Rachel Price, Senior

Se Florindo è fedele
The Red Dress

Jenna Reitler, Junior

Must the Winter Come So Soon?
Amorosi miei giorni

Devin Sadler, Sophomore

The Sky Above The Roof
Non posso disperar

Jacob Turner, Senior

The Vagabond
La serenata

Ella Vaughn, Sophomore

À Chloris
Vergebliches Ständchen

Syndi Vo, Junior

By an' By
Nina

Mary Wilkens, Senior

I Never Saw A Moor
Vaghissima sembianza

Emma Winder, Senior

Vezzosette e care
A Spirit Flower

Emily Wrede, Senior

Verborgenheit
Se tu m'ami

Gabriella Xavier, Junior

Tu lo sai
Die Lotosblume

Angeline Xu, Senior

Bel piacere
American Lullaby

Anika Yadati, Sophomore

O Ma Belle Rebelle
Care selve

Louisville, KY

Giovanni Bononcini
Robert Schumann

Marietta, OH

Molly Carew
G.F. Handel

Louisville, KY

Stefano Donaudy
Roger Quilter

Paden City, WV

Alessandro Scarlatti
Ricky Ian Gordon

Gahanna, OH

Samuel Barber
Stefano Donaudy

Alton, IL

Ralph Vaughan Williams
Giovanni Bononcini

Pinckney, MI

Ralph Vaughan Williams
Francesco Paolo Tosti

Cincinnati, OH

Reynaldo Hahn
Johannes Brahms

Portland, TX

Harry Burleigh
Giovanni Battista Pergolesi

Cincinnati, OH

Richard Pearson Thomas
Stefano Donaudy

Powell, OH

Andrea Falconieri
Louis Campbell-Tipton

Lexington, KY

Hugo Wolf
Alessandro Parisotti

New Haven, CT

Giuseppe Torelli
Robert Schumann

Irvine, CA

G.F. Handel
Gladys Rich

Beachwood, OH

Charles Gounod
G.F. Handel