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April 2015

*Regional Winner Soprano Sarah Cambridge:  
A Dream Comes True at the National Semi-Finals*



As a child, I dreamed of singing opera on the greatest stages in the world. This past month, I was fortunate to have my dream when I performed at the Met during the semi-finals of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. I was raised in Vancouver, Canada, and at a young age began singing in choirs and taking voice lessons. Even as a child, I had a large voice that was well suited to classical genres. Since my first Puccini aria I knew there was no going back... I was hooked! My passion brought me to the United States to study with Ken Cox at the University of Denver's Lamont School of Music. The past few weeks have been a whirlwind, and I am so grateful for the

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*Introducing the 2015 National Winners*

On Sunday, March 22nd, 2015, nine singers competed on the Metropolitan Opera stage in what the Met's general manager Peter Gelb called "Grand Opera's answer to 'American Idol.'" 2007 National Winner Angela Meade hosted the event and treated the audience to "Ebben?...Ne andrò lontana" from Catalani's *La Wally* and "Casta Diva" from Bellini's *Norma* while the judges deliberated. Fabio Luisi and the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra accompanied the singers, who presented two arias each. The five winners each received \$15,000 and the four runners-up were awarded \$5000. The National Council auditions, now in their 62nd year, have helped launch many major operatic careers. About 126 singers on the Met's current roster were auditions participants. Here are this year's picks and their winning arias.



Nicholas Brownlee, 25  
Bass-baritone  
Western Region  
Mozart: Catalog Aria  
from *Don Giovanni*  
Rachmaninoff: Cavatina  
from *Aleko*

Virginie Verrez, 26  
Mezzo-soprano  
Eastern Region  
Mozart: "Deh per questo  
istante solo" from  
*La Clemenza di Tito*  
Barber: "Must the winter  
come so soon" from  
*Vanessa*



Reginald Smith, Jr. 26  
Baritone  
Southeast Region  
Verdi: Ford's Aria  
from *Falstaff*  
Gruenberg: "O Lord  
Jesus, heah my  
prayer" from  
*Emperor Jones*

Marina Costa-Jackson, 27  
Soprano  
Middle Atlantic Region  
Tchaikovsky: "Uzh polnoch  
blizitsa" from *The Queen of Spades*  
Puccini: Mi chiamano Mimi from  
*La Boheme*



Joseph Dennis, 30  
Tenor  
Eastern Region  
Gounod: "Salut!  
Demeure chaste et  
pure" from *Faust*  
Lehar: "Dein ist  
mein ganzes Herz"  
from *The Land of  
Smiles*

The Metropolitan Opera  
*National Council Auditions*  
ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

**2016 ROCKY  
MOUNTAIN  
REGIONAL  
AUDITIONS**

**Colorado-Wyoming  
District**

Saturday, January 30 9:30am  
Robert and Judi  
Newman Center for the  
Performing Arts  
University of Denver

**New Mexico District**

January date TBD  
African American  
Performing Arts Center 310  
San Pedro Dr NE,  
Albuquerque

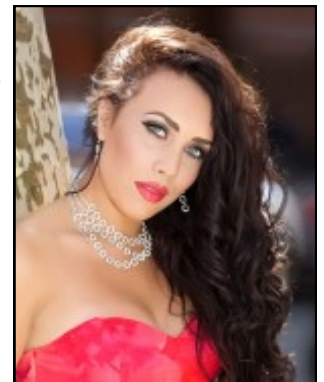
**Nevada District TBD**

**Utah District**

Saturday,  
November 15, 11am  
Libby Gardner  
Concert Hall,  
University of Utah

**Rocky Mountain  
Regional Finals**

Sunday, January 31, 1:30pm  
Robert and Judi  
Newman Center for the  
Performing Arts  
University of Denver



*Sarah Cambridge, continued from page 1*

experience I had at the Regionals and then in New York. I have never been a nervous performer, but it was hard to not feel the jitters at such a prestigious competition. However, I tried to stay in the moment and think of the competition as a concert performance.

While in New York, I was overwhelmed! The staff and organizers went to such great lengths to make our stay one of the highlights of our careers. We attended panel discussions with the industry's best, including a public relations seminar where we learned how to better promote ourselves as musicians. We were able to attend any performance at the Met during our stay – which I took full advantage of!

Every singer had a rehearsal with their accompanists, and on the day of the semi-finals we had the chance to sing a few phrases on the stage before the doors opened to the 200 guests. The feeling of sending your voice into the vast space at the Met and hearing it return to you was astounding! Since returning to Denver, I am inspired and excited to continue my journey of becoming a better singer and musician each day. Thank you to everyone who has continuously supported and encouraged me to work towards my dreams, and especially, thank you to MONC for giving me a taste of what an opera career could be like. I will never forget this experience!

## ***RISING STARS SOCIETY: Supporting your local Met Auditions***

The RISING STARS SOCIETY helps guarantee our expenses and singer awards of \$29,000 per year. If you have not already made a pledge to the Society and would like to do so, please fill out this form and return it with your donation. We have over 30 Rising Stars Society members at this time; 20 more members year will take us to our goal!

\_\_\_\_\_ Creating Opportunities:  
I pledge \$250 per year for 5 years for a total of \$1,250.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Nurturing Talent:  
I pledge \$500 per year for 5 years for a total of \$2,500.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Realizing Dreams:  
I pledge \$1000 per year for 5 years for a total of \$5000.  
\_\_\_\_\_ I am unable to be a Rising Star Society member today; however, I want my support of young singers to matter by pledging \$\_\_\_\_\_ a year for \_\_\_\_\_ year(s) for a total of \$\_\_\_\_\_.  
\_\_\_\_\_ I wish to be an MONC patron for \$75/ year/person. Number of people \_\_\_\_\_

Join by credit card at [www.metoperaauditionsrockies.org](http://www.metoperaauditionsrockies.org) or call Steve Dilts at 720-530-0483.

You may also send this form with your check (payable to MONC-RMR) or credit card information to: Steve Dilts, 16684 Antero Street, Broomfield, CO 80023.

Please include your name(s), address, phone number and email address with your donation. Thank you!

The Metropolitan Opera  
***National Council Auditions***  
ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

Karen Mohr  
6226 West Jefferson Avenue  
Denver, CO 80235

**Save the Date!**  
**Rocky Mountain Regional  
Finals**  
**Sunday, January 31, 2016  
1:30pm**  
**Robert & Judi Newman  
Center for the  
Performing Arts  
University of Denver**

## ***Metropolitan Opera 2015-2016 HD Calendar***

**Verdi:** Il Trovatore  
Saturday, October 3, 2015  
**Verdi:** Otello  
Saturday, October 17, 2015  
**Wagner:** Tannhauser  
Saturday, October 31, 2015  
**Berg:** Lulu  
Saturday, November 21, 2015  
**Bizet:** The Pearl Fishers  
Saturday, January 16, 2016

**Puccini:** Turandot  
Saturday, January 30, 2016  
**Puccini:** Manon Lescaut  
Saturday, March 5, 2016  
**Puccini:** Madama Butterfly  
Saturday, April 2, 2016  
**Donizetti:** Roberto Devereux  
Saturday, April 16, 2016  
**Strauss:** Elektra  
Saturday, April 30, 2016

Encore screenings will be shown Wednesdays at 6:30pm the following week.  
See [www.metopera.org](http://www.metopera.org) for cast information and to find local theaters.