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May 2016

The Metropolitan Opera
National Council Auditions

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

Karen Mohr, Editor

And then there were five: Introducing the 2016 Metropolitan Opera National Council Winners



From left to right: Sol Jin, baritone, 30; Yelena Dyachek, soprano, 24; Jakub Jozef Orlinski, countertenor, 25; Emily D'Angelo, mezzo-soprano, 21; Sean Michael Plumb, baritone, 24

We sadly report the passing of Dr. James List, husband of long-time MONC patron and volunteer Sarita List. Jim was a well-respected radiologist in Denver for 45 years. He is survived by Sarita, his wife of 61 years, daughters Sharon (Michael) Hoffman and Terri (Ronald) Green; sons Steve (Ann) List and Tom (Amy) List, 10 grandchildren and one great granddaughter. A generous donation to support the Metropolitan Opera auditions has been made in his name by Jacqueline and Gary Greer.

Over 1500 singers compete each year in 42 districts and 12 regions in North America for a chance to sing on the Metropolitan Opera stage and walk away with \$15,000 and a major catapult of their careers. On March 13, the nine singers who advanced from the prior week's semifinals in New York sang two arias each, accompanied by the Met Opera Orchestra conducted by Anthony Walker. Soprano Deborah Voigt, herself a 1985 National Council winner, hosted the concert and reminisced about the excitement (and terror) of her first Met appearance. 1996 winner bass-baritone Eric Owens sang "O, tu Palermo" from Verdi's *I Vespri Siciliani* while the judges deliberated. Among the winners, baritone Sol Jin, a native of South Korea, was a major standout, lending a warm and resonant tone and a wide emotional range to both "Di Provenza il mar" from Verdi's *La Traviata* and "Ya vas lyublyu" from Tchaikovsky's *The Queen of Spades*. Hailing from Toronto, mezzo-soprano Emily D'Angelo sang "Contro un cor" from Rossini's *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* with remarkable control (especially for a 21 year-old), and then demonstrated beautiful legato and expression in "Must the winter come so soon?" from Barber's *Vanessa*. Sean Michael Plumb, a baritone from Philadelphia, delivered a sensitive and stylish "Bella siccome un angelo" from Donizetti's *Don Pasquale* and further impressed with a devilishly challenging aria from Tchaikovsky's *Iolanta*. Originally from Poland and a Fulbright Scholar at Juilliard, countertenor Jakub Jozef Orlinski gave a mesmerizing performance of "I know a bank where the wild thyme grows" from Britten's *A Midsummer Night's* (continued on page 2)

Rocky Mountain Regional Winner Updates



Soprano Sarah Cambidge, who received her BA and MA from the University of Denver's Lamont School of Music, was last year's Rocky Mountain Regional winner. In March, Sarah took home another first prize at the Denver Lyric Opera Guild competition. This summer, she will be participating in the Merola Program at the San Francisco Opera as part of the Schwabacher Summer Concerts.



2011 Regional and National Winner Rachel Willis-Sorensen was praised for her "radiant" portrayal of Eva in San Francisco Opera's *Die Meistersinger* last fall and appeared as the Countess in *The Marriage of Figaro* at the Met this winter.

(continued from page 1) *Dream*, and then thrilled the audience with melismatic virtuosity and vocal pyrotechnics in “A dispetto d’un volto ingrato” from Handel’s *Tamerlano*. In addition to his musical accomplishments, Jakub is an award-winning professional breakdancer, a feat acknowledged by the Met’s Executive Director Peter Gelb at the champagne reception following the concert. The final singer, soprano Yelena Dyachek, is originally from Ukraine and an alumna of the Aspen Opera Theatre Center where she appeared last summer as Fiordiligi in Mozart’s *Così fan tutte* and the previous summer as Tatiana in Tchaikovsky’s *Eugene Onegin*. She chose arias from each of those operas (“Come scoglio” and the Letter Scene), and managed Mozart’s wild leaps and Tchaikovsky’s dramatic and vocal challenges with equal assurance and a creamy and vibrant tone.



Ellie Caulkins with finalist Theo Hoffman, a 22 year-old baritone from New York whose heartfelt “Mein Sehnen, mein Wänen” from Korngold’s Die Tode Stadt, and “Dieux! Qui me poursuivez” from Gluck’s Iphigénie en Tauride drew warm applause.

RISING STARS SOCIETY: Supporting your local Met Auditions

The RISING STARS SOCIETY helps guarantee our expenses and singer awards of \$33,000 per year. If you have not already made a pledge to the Society and were inspired by our singers this year, please fill out this form and return it with your donation. We have over 30 Rising Stars Society members at this time; 25 more members will take us to our membership goal.

Creating Opportunities:

I pledge \$250 per year for 5 years for a total of \$1,250.

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_____ 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 \$_____.

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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 for your generosity.

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Denver, CO 80235

Save the Date!
**Rocky Mountain Regional
Finals**
**Sunday, January 29, 2017,
1:30pm**
**Robert & Judi Newman
Center for the
Performing Arts
University of Denver**

Metropolitan Opera 2016-2017 HD Calendar

Wagner: Tristan und Isolde
Saturday, October 8, 2016, 10:00am

Mozart: Don Giovanni
Saturday, October 22, 2016, 10:55am

Saariaho: L’Amour de Loin
Saturday, December 10, 2016, 10:55am

Verdi: Nabucco
Saturday, January 7, 2017, 10:55am

Gounod: Romeo et Juliette
Saturday, January 21, 2017, 10:55am

Dvorak: Rusalka
Saturday, February 25, 2017, 10:55am

Verdi: La Traviata
Saturday, March 11, 2017, 10:55am

Mozart: Idomeneo
Saturday, March 25, 2017, 10:55am

Tchaikovsky: Eugene Onegin
Saturday, April 22, 2017, 10:55am

Strauss: Der Rosenkavalier
Saturday, May 13, 2017, 10:30am

**Encore screenings will be shown Wednesdays at 6:30pm the following week.
See www.metopera.org for cast information and to find local theaters.**