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January 2016

The Metropolitan Opera
National Council Auditions
ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

A Haven for Big Voices: Dolora Zajick's Institute for Young Dramatic Voices

Driving on I-15 from Las Vegas to the desert last month, I recognized one of opera's most distinctive voices being interviewed on the local public radio station. Metropolitan Opera veteran mezzo-soprano Dolora Zajick was in town to teach two master classes during the week prior to the Las Vegas District auditions.



From the interview, I learned of a unique school hosted by the University of Nevada at Reno which specializes in training voices suited for the dramatic repertoire of Strauss, Verdi, and Wagner. Zajick, who lives in Reno, found that her own instrument took time and care to develop, and now has a passion to pass on to younger singers what she's learned from a 40-year career. Zajick noticed the challenges that a lot of dramatic singers faced launching their careers and the problems they were encountering in some conservatories. "Often people don't know what to do with them; they often don't get cast in their school operas because their voices are so big they can't balance them with other people. Sometimes a large voice takes longer to get into control, so they're not usable as soon as the more lyric singers. By the time they're usable, they don't have the experience of their lyric counterparts and they end up not being used because they can't move on stage and these sorts of things. Our job is to help address what they missed so that when the time comes and everything comes together for them, they're not behind in their development."
"Big voices are like the ugly ducklings of the opera world; in fact, we sometimes call our program the 'ugly duckling club.' We specialize in those odd people who don't fit it, who have obvious talent. A lot of these people are not only odd in terms of their vocal endowment, a lot of them are also eccentric and sometimes people don't want to deal with that eccentricity. The truth of the matter is that once that's channeled and once there's a certain level of maturity, they often have the most to say as artists. We've gotten our singers into every (continued pg.2)

Winner Update: 2011 Rocky Mountain Regional Finalist Megan Marino



Recent engagements:
Rosina in Florida Grand Opera's *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, covering
Contessa di Ceprano in the Met's *Rigoletto*, and singing Annina in Chicago Lyric Opera's *Rosenkavalier*.

It's been said, "Many roads lead to Rome." Mezzo-soprano Megan Marino was a regional finalist in 2011, but didn't advance to the Nationals. Recently, in light of a growing career, she reflected on her auditions experience: "Hindsight is 20/20. When I didn't make it past the regional level, I truly believed it meant that I'd never sing at the Met, like I had been 'barred' entry to that stage and places like it. But having some years removed from it and many other wins and losses under my belt, I realize that the non-win in the Met audition (and other competitions), were actually wins for my craft and artistry. The most important thing is just showing up, singing the best we can on that day, feeling the adrenaline while I trying to give an honest, committed performance and then meeting with the panel to receive feedback. The real "win" for me then was in the actual realization that I was indeed *not* ready for those stages yet (and that it was 'OK' to not be ready), and that in order to be ready, I had to work even harder by continuing to study and refine my skills and compare myself to myself alone. I never would have thought back then that today I'd be on the roster at the Metropolitan Opera ... but dreaming it could be possible, working hard consistently to build a technique specific to me, and singing for the right people along the way made it possible. We all have our own paths to explore, and I'm very fortunate that mine has led me to the Met for the time being." Brava Megan, and congratulations on your marriage to baritone Michael Mayes!

2016 ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL AUDITIONS

Colorado-Wyoming District

Saturday, January 30
9:30am

Rocky Mountain Regional Finals

Sunday, January 31,
1:30pm

Robert and Judi
Newman Center for
the Performing Arts
University of Denver

National Grand Finals

Sunday, March 13,
3:00pm

Metropolitan Opera
House

Volunteer and Play YOUR Part at the Met Auditions !

We need *you* on
Saturday, January 30
and Sunday, January
31 at the Newman
Center to greet singers
and attendees, hand out
programs, assist ushers
and collect donations.
Please contact
Karen Bruggenthies at
[kbruggenthies@
kellypipe.com](mailto:kbruggenthies@kellypipe.com)

(continued from page 1) major training program: Chicago, the Met, San Francisco Opera, Houston, Washington National Opera. Our more advanced singers are singing at La Scala, the Met, San Francisco Opera, Covent Garden, Rome Opera — they're all over the world now. We have a very high success rate.” — *Karen Mohr*



A Concert You Won't Want to Miss!
Metropolitan Opera Rising Stars
Saturday, March 5, 2016, 7:30pm
Gates Concert Hall
Robert and Judi Newman
Center for the Performing Arts
University of Denver

A rare opportunity to experience remarkable young artists on the cusp of extraordinary careers. Singers carefully selected from the Met's Lindemann Young Artist Development program — winners of the Met Auditions! Get tickets now at <http://www.newmancenterpresents.com/metropolitan-opera-rising-stars-concert-series/>

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 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; 25 more members 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 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 2016 HD Calendar

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 for cast information and to find local theaters.