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November 2017

The Metropolitan Opera
National Council Auditions
ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

Karen Mohr, Editor

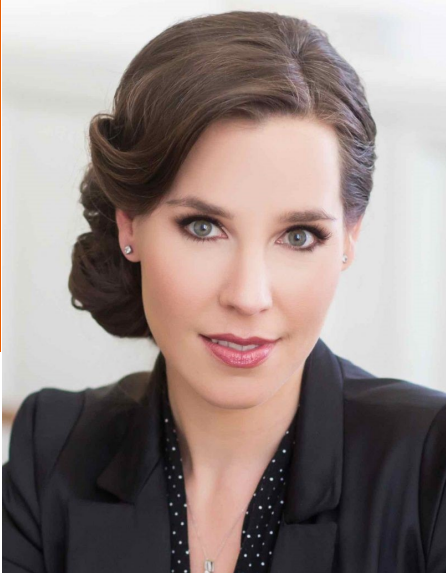
Rocky Mountain Region Says Goodbye to Nevada District, Welcomes Arizona District



2017 Arizona district winners (l-r): bass-baritone Alan Williams, mezzo-soprano Alyssa Martin, and soprano Asleif Willmer, District Director Kimberley Smith, Encouragement Award winners Laura McCauley and Emily Rosenberg, Arizona District President Judy Wolf

With the Nevada district now part of the Western Region and the New Mexico district on hiatus, we are delighted to welcome the Arizona district to the Rocky Mountain Region. Arizona is a vibrant district with a board of directors of over 20 members headed by (retired) Colonel Kimberley Smith. Annual fundraiser concerts are held to generate interest in and donations for the auditions. Singers come primarily from three major colleges: Arizona State University, University of Arizona and Northern Arizona University. The Arizona Opera Studio Singers are also frequent participants. Auditions are held at the Musical Instrument Museum in northern Phoenix. Founded by former CEO and Chairman of Target Corporation Robert Ulrich, the Museum opened to great acclaim in 2010. It is the largest museum of its kind in the world and the only global instrument museum. The collection of over 15,000 instruments and associated objects includes examples from nearly 200 countries and territories, representing every continent. The museum is the #1 ranked Phoenix attraction on Tripadvisor and one of the top 20 museums in the U.S. The 2017 auditions were held there on November 4 with 24 singers participating and three winners chosen. They will compete in the Rocky Mountain Regional auditions on January 28 in Denver. Welcome, Arizona!

Winner Update: Christie Conover and the Fine Tuned Society



A 2011 Rocky Mountain Region Third Place Winner and 2012 Finalist, Christie Conover (nee Hageman) was a member of the Opera Colorado Young Artists program in 2010-2011 and the Minnesota Opera Resident Artist program in 2012-2014. She was hailed by *Opera News* for her “probing and elegant” portrayal of Pamina in Mozart’s *The Magic Flute* with Minnesota Opera, by the *San Francisco Examiner* for her “radiant vocalism” in Weiser’s *Where Angels Fear to Tread* with Opera San Jose, and by *San Francisco Classical Voice* for “the sweet purity of her strong, winning instrument” as Micaela in Livermore Valley Opera’s *Carmen*. Along with Margot Crowe, Christie co-founded the Fine Tuned Society, which for three seasons has presented house concerts in Boulder showcasing outstanding regional talent and featuring many vocal performers. The series has recently expanded to St. Aidan’s Church in Boulder and a penthouse location overlooking Cheesman Park in Denver, and gone from one (*continued on page 2*)

2017-2018 ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL AUDITIONS

Arizona District
(held November 4, 2017)
Utah District
(held November 11, 2017)
Colorado-Wyoming District
Saturday, January 27,
9:30am
Robert and Judi
Newman Center for the
Performing Arts
University of Denver
**Rocky Mountain
Regional Finals**
Sunday, January 28,
1:30pm
Robert and Judi
Newman Center for the
Performing Arts
University of Denver
National Grand Finals
Sunday, April 29, 3:00pm
Metropolitan Opera
House
New York, NY

(continued from page 1) to two performances a month. Audience members gather at 2pm for a delightful potluck tea; concerts begin at 2:45 and last about two hours. A requested contribution of \$20 per guest goes directly to the performers. This is a wonderful opportunity to hear some of our finest local talent in a wide variety of both standard and unfamiliar repertoire. You'll also get to know more about these rising stars and their blossoming careers in short interviews with Christie between each piece. Upcoming recitals feature Christie and 2016 Opera Colorado Young Artist mezzo-soprano Danielle Lombardi on December 2 in Boulder, and MONC winner, Met Opera singer, and DU faculty member tenor Matthew Plenk with Christie on December 3 in Denver. Discover this gem of the Denver-Boulder cultural scene, support young artists, and meet other opera fans. More info and reservations at finetunedociety.org.



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 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 28, 2017,
1:30pm**
**Robert & Judi Newman
Center for the
Performing Arts
University of Denver**

Metropolitan Opera 2017-2018 HD Calendar

Ades: The Exterminating Angel
Saturday, November 18, 2017, 10:55am
(Encore: Wednesday, November 29, 6:30pm)
Humperdinck: Hansel and Gretel (holiday encore)
Saturday, December 9, 2017, 10:55am
The Opera House (documentary)
Saturday, January 13, 10:55am, Wednesday, January
17, 2018, 12:55pm and 6:30pm
Pucini: Tosca
Saturday, January 27, 2018 10:55am
Donizetti: L'Elisir d'amore
Saturday, February 10, 2018, 10:00am

Puccini: La Boheme
Saturday, February 24, 2018, 10:30am
Rossini: Semiramide
Saturday, March 10, 10:55am
Mozart: Cosi fan tutte
Saturday, March 31, 10:55am
Verdi: Luisa Miller
Saturday, April 14, 10:30am
Massenet: Cendrillon
Saturday, April 28, 10:55am

Except where noted, encore screenings will be shown Wednesdays at 6:30pm the following week.