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October 2015

The Metropolitan Opera
National Council Auditions

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

Karen Mohr, Editor

Welcome to our newest District!
New Mexico joins Colorado, Wyoming, Utah and Nevada
to expand the Rocky Mountain Region Auditions



Renato N. Estacio, President and Artistic Director, Southwest Arts Group and Vice Chair/Music Commissioner of New Mexico, spearheaded the establishment of the New Mexico district.

The Southwest Arts Group in Albuquerque wanted to make a difference in the cultural offerings and artistic landscape in New Mexico. According to Mr. Estacio, the group's goal "is to give opportunities to young and emerging artists so that they can further their enjoyment of the arts, as well as their careers

in the arts." In his role as Commissioner, Mr. Estacio looks for ways to strategically align opportunities in music that will encourage community growth. When a colleague reached out to him regarding the Nevada district, the Southwest Arts Group looked to see if New Mexico had a district. When it was discovered that local singers needed to travel to other cities to audition, the organization saw an opportunity to help them. They sent an inquiry to the Met and subsequently discussed the Auditions and timelines. After the new district was established, the State Music Commission provided a letter of support to endorse the Auditions. The Auditions are being coordinated with the help of the resident arts group at the African American Performing Arts Center, the Del Norte Rotary Club and the staff of the performing arts center. The resident program is spearheaded by the Southwest Arts Group, and has started to work closely with the University, local opera companies and other performing arts groups to publicize the Auditions. Leading up to the Auditions, the Southwest Arts Group will be giving several performances to raise funds and build community awareness of the Auditions. They are also hosting master classes at the performing arts center as part of the resident program and inviting two to three singers from outside the program to participate in the master classes on a lottery basis.

The Rocky Mountain Region welcomes this newest member of the Metropolitan Opera Auditions "family," and looks forward to hearing the New Mexico District winners compete on the Gates Hall stage in January!

Winner Update: Speedo's Engaged
(and not only at the Vienna State Opera)!



On August 29th, bass-baritone Ryan Speedo Green announced his engagement to Irene Fast. Ryan was the 2011 Rocky Mountain Regional winner and went on to win the National Grand Finals in New York. After completing the Met's Lindemann Young Artist Development Program, he joined the Vienna State Opera as an ensemble member in the 2014 – 2015 season and was featured as Sparafucile in a new production of *Rigoletto*, Basilio in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, Fouquier

Tinville in *Andrea Chénier*, the Monk in *Don Carlo*, the Pope in *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk*, Angelotti in *Tosca*, and the King in *Aida*. He also made a return to the Metropolitan Opera as Rambo in *The Death of Klinghoffer*. Ryan returned to the Vienna State Opera as an ensemble member in the 2015-2016 season for Basilio in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* (continued on page 2)



2016 ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL AUDITIONS

Utah District

Saturday,
November 14, 11:00am
Libby Gardner
Concert Hall,
University of Utah

Nevada District

Saturday, December 5,
11:00am
Beam Music Center
University of Nevada Las
Vegas

New Mexico District

Saturday, January 9,
10:00am
African American
Performing Arts Center
310 San Pedro Dr NE
Albuquerque

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
New York, NY

Volunteer and Play YOUR Part at the Met Auditions!

Ever wonder what goes on behind the scenes at the auditions? Here's your chance to find out while you help make the event successful and enjoyable for all. We need people on **Saturday, January 30** and **Sunday, January 31** to greet singers and attendees, stuff and hand out programs, assist the ushers and collect donations. All volunteers will be rotated so everyone has a chance to hear the singers. Contact Karen Bruggenthies at kbruggenthies@kellypipe.com

(continued from page 1) Rochefort in *Anna Bolena*, Angelotti in *Tosca*, Hans in *Undine*, and Fifth Jew in *Salome*, and additional engagements with the company. Ryan will also sing Ferrando in *Il Trovatore* with Opera de Lille's traveling production, and make his Salzburg Festival debut as the Third King in *Die Liebe der Danae*. Congratulations, Ryan!



**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! Tickets 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
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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

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 for cast information and to find local theaters.