



North Shore Choral Society

Donald Chen Young Artist Award 2020 Competition

April 5, 2020, 4:00 p.m.

**Trinity United Methodist Church
1024 Lake Avenue, Wilmette**

WELCOME!

Thank you for attending the Donald Chen Young Artist Award competition presented by the North Shore Choral Society.

Dr. Donald Chen retired in 2008 after twenty-four years as the Music Director of the North Shore Choral Society. In his honor, the North Shore Choral Society established the Donald Chen Young Artist Award in 2008.

Donald passionately led the chorus and challenged the group with repertoire ranging from Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* to Fanshawe's *African Sanctus*. In addition to his inspired teaching and superb musicianship, he offered a fresh perspective, and above all, he embodied the joys of music and learning.

Today's finalists have been selected from applications by young singers who reside in the Chicago area. Each of the finalists will sing an operatic aria and a contrasting art song or oratorio aria of their choice. At the conclusion of this afternoon's competition, the panel of judges will give monetary awards for first, second, and third place, and the first-prize winner will also be awarded a solo performance in a future North Shore Choral Society concert.

Following the recital, you are invited to partake in light refreshments while the judges reach their decision and announce the winners.



This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency through federal funds provided by the National Endowment for the Arts

THANK YOU

North Shore Choral Society would like to extend gratitude to the following people for their continued support of the event:

Dr. Donald Chen
Dr. Julia Davids
Dr. Anne Heider
Sharon Rich Peterson
Trinity United Methodist Church
Carli Uphill
John Darrow
Karen Rigotti
Debbie Buesing
Julie McDowell
Marcia Bollo
Linda Faller

PREVIOUS WINNERS OF THE DONALD CHEN YOUNG ARTIST AWARD

Chris Albanese
Sammi Block
Kateri Gormley
Corey Grigg
Elizabeth Jankowski
Ashley Nicole Johnson
Michael Orlinsky
Simonetta Pacek
Jaqueline Piccolino
Onella Piyatilake

Rebecca Robinson
Kyle Sackett
Anne Slovin
Rachel Sparrow
Sean Stanton
Ryan Townsend Strand
Alan Taylor
Alison Wahl
Nathan Ward

SUPPORT FOR THE DONALD CHEN YOUNG ARTIST AWARD

North Shore Choral Society maintains a separate fund to support the Donald Chen Young Artist Award. If you would like to contribute, please use a donation box near the entrance or use one of the options below:

Online:

Go to northshorechoral.website/donations

– OR –

Use the **QR code** below:



When making a donation online, please include in the notes line of the PayPal form that the donation is intended for the Donald Chen Young Artist Award fund.

Via Mail:

North Shore Choral Society
P.O. Box 103
Evanston, Illinois 60204

We appreciate your support!

PROGRAM

Welcome John Darrow
North Shore Choral Society President

Grace Canfield, soprano
"Widmung" from *Myrthen Lieder*..... Robert Schumann
"Ah, think what ills the jealous prove!" from *Hercules*. George Frideric Handel

Sadie Cheslak, mezzo soprano
"O pallida che un giorno mi guardasti" from *L'amico Fritz* Pietro Mascagni
"Trepak" from *The Songs and Dances of Death* Modest Mussorgsky
"City Called Heaven" arr. Hall Johnson

Stephen Hobe, baritone
"A Hundred Thousand Stars" from *For a Look or a Touch* Jake Heggie
"Prologue" from *I Pagliacci*..... Ruggero Leoncavallo

Helaine Liebman, soprano
"C'est l'extase" from *Ariettes oubliées*..... Claude Debussy
"Ach, ich fühl's" from *Die Zauberflöte*..... Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Miya Higashiyama, mezzo soprano
"Qui sedes" from *Gloria*..... Antonio Vivaldi
"Am I in your light?" from *Doctor Atomic*..... John Adams

Kira Neary, soprano
"Non so le tette immagini" from *Il Corsaro*..... Giuseppe Verdi
"A Monk and His Cat" from *Hermit Songs*..... Samuel Barber

Morgan Mastrangelo, tenor
"Si, Ritrovaria io guiro" from *La Cenerentola*..... Gioachino Rossini
"Frohe Hirten, eilt, ach eilet" from *Weinachts-Oratorium*.... Johann Sebastian
Bach

Marin Tack, soprano
"Coyotes"..... Ricky Ian Gordon
"Deh vieni non tardar" from *Don Giovanni*..... W.A. Mozart

Reception with light refreshments

Closing Remarks Dr. Julia Davids
North Shore Choral Society Music Director

Awards Dr. Donald Chen

TODAY'S COMPETITORS

Grace Canfield received her Bachelor of Music degree from the Juilliard School where she appeared in Haydn's *La fedeltà premiata* and Ravel's *L'enfant et les sortilèges*. In 2018 she debuted with Miami Music Festival as Monica in *The Medium*, and with Sinfonietta Bel Canto as Giorgetta in *Il Tabarro*. Ms. Canfield was featured at Lincoln Center Jazz in *Wayne Shorter; the Early Years* and has sung in Urbana, Italy, appearing as Giannetta in *L'elisir d'amore*. She studied at the Chautauqua Voice School from 2012-2015 and made a cameo appearance in Castleton Opera's *Seven Deadly Sins* under the baton of the late Lorin Maazel.

Sadie Cheslak, mezzo soprano, is a well-rounded vocalist who has been described as "a fine musician with a rare low voice". She completed her Master of Music degree under Dr. Ollie Watts Davis at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in May, and holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Concordia College where she studied with Dr. Holly Janz. While at UIUC, Sadie performed in main stage productions with Lyric Theatre Illinois as the title role in *The Rape of Lucretia*, and Kate in *The Pirates of Penzance*, as well as scenes from *Carmen*, *Dialogues of the Carmelites*, *Falstaff*, *Eugene Onegin*, *War and Peace*, and *Prince Igor* in LTI's Opera Scenes productions. Reviews of her work describe her as follows: "Sadie was excellent in every way: musically detailed, dramatically compelling, vocally beautiful." Miss Cheslak is passionate about newly composed opera, and sang in the workshops and premieres of many new works. She performed Lumee in a Beth Morrison Project and Pulitzer Prize-winning work titled *p r i s m* by Ellen Reid, the title role in *The Surrogate* by Sky Macklay, Jane Doe in *Black Square* by Ilya Demutsky, and Mary in *The New Motive Power* by Elizabeth Gartman. Sadie Cheslak has a strong choral background, and loves performing as a soloist in larger choral and orchestral works. During her time in Champaign Urbana, Sadie sang with The Oratorio Society in their Russian Choral Festival singing the Rachmaninoff *Vespers* and Ivan Moody's *Vespers Sequence*, and again performing Maria in Respighi's *Lauda per la Natività del Signore*. With the University of Illinois Philharmonia Orchestra, she sang a concert of *Carmen* suites, and was the alto soloist for the Sinfonia da Camera and Chamber Singers production of Bach's *Weinachts-Oratorium*. With the Baroque Artists of Champaign Urbana in their November concert series, she sang as the alto soloist in CPE Bach's *Magnificat* and JS Bach's *Jesu, meine Freude*, as well as Handel's *Messiah*. Sadie Cheslak has previously sung with the Lyric Theatre Illinois, Lyric Opera of the North and Fargo-Moorhead Opera Company, singing the roles of Lucretia (*The Rape of Lucretia*), Kate and Ruth (*Pirates of Penzance*), and Mother (*Amahl and the Night Visitors*). She continues to sing the role of Fairy Godmother/Madame in

an Opera for the Young® production of Massenet's *Cinderella* with the Lyric Opera of the North this past fall and again in February. Sadie will perform as a Young Artist with Pittsburgh Festival Opera this summer 2020, singing the role of Lampito in Mark Adamo's *Lysistrata*, as well as with Opera on the Bluff as a Resident Artist, performing the role of Little Buttercup in Gilbert and Sullivan's *H.M.S. Pinafore*.

Stephen Hobe has flourished in classical and crossover repertoire in hometown Chicago. Mr. Hobe is "a generous performer," lauded for his charismatic and often quirky performances of particularly English and Italian repertoire. Mr. Hobe studied paleontology and music theatre at Carthage College, then furthered his operatic repertoire in his Master's degree at Roosevelt University's Chicago College of Performing Arts, studying with Kurt Link. Mr. Hobe is in his second season as a Studio Artist with Madison Opera, where he has previously performed *Cavalleria Rusticana*, *Pagliacci*, and *A Little Night Music*. This season, he sings in *La Traviata*, *Fellow Travelers*, and *Orpheus in the Underworld*, as well as in concert with the Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestra. Next season, Mr. Hobe will understudy Sharpless in Indianapolis Opera's production of *Madama Butterfly* as a resident artist for the fall semester. Other recent regional concert performances include Handel's *Messiah*, DuBois' *The Seven Last Words of Christ*, and Rutter's *Mass for the Children*. Mr. Hobe has also performed with St. Petersburg Opera, Florentine Opera, MIOpera, Music Theatre Works, Third Eye Theatre Ensemble and Transgressive Opera-Theatre. www.stephenhobe.com

Helaine Liebman recently won first place at the IAET Joseph P. Glimco Jr. Vocal Competition 2020 and received the 2019 Italian Executives of Transportation Scholarship. She is also excited to be a Britten-Pears Young Artist 2020 at the Aldburgh Festival in England and to be a Young Artist at the Berlin Opera Academy performing in Berlin the role of Rosalinde from Strauss' *Die Fledermaus* this summer. In 2019, Helaine performed in Portugal with CantoFest and in the opera *Cendrillon* at the Northwestern University Vocal Performance Seminar. Helaine was a 2018 Outreach Artist and 2017 Studio Artist with the Savannah Voice Festival with Sherrill Milnes and Maria Zouves. Additionally, Helaine participated in the Castleton Music Festival 2013 under the direction of Lorin Maazel and Nancy Gustafson. Her other engagements include Nella in Gianni Schicchi, Rosalinde in *Die Fledermaus* and Micaela in *Carmen*. Helaine is a graduate of the Royal College of Music in London and Northwestern University in Evanston, IL.

Mezzo-soprano **Miya Higashiyama** is currently a first year Master's student at Northwestern University's Bienen School of Music studying with Theresa Brancaccio. This year at Northwestern Opera Theatre Miya covered Orlovsky in *Die Fledermaus* by J. Strauss II and will be singing

Silvia/La Messaggera in Monteverdi's *L'Orfeo*. In past performance seasons, Miya sang the alto soloist in Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with the Olympia Symphony Orchestra, Third Spirit in *The Magic Flute* at Vashon Opera, and Zita in *Gianni Schicchi*, Hansel in Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel*, Ruggiero in Handel's *Alcina*, and Rosina in Rossini's *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* with Pacific Lutheran University Opera where she received her Bachelors of Music in 2017. Miya has also had the pleasure of participating in master classes with Stephanie Blythe and Joyce DiDonato, the latter of which was streamed worldwide from Carnegie Hall by medici.tv in 2016. This summer, Miya will be joining the Janiec Opera Company at the Brevard Music Festival to continue her artistic training, performing as a soloist in cabaret/opera scene performances, and participating in Bizet's *Carmen*, and Mozart's *The Abduction from the Seraglio*. She is especially thrilled to be playing the fiery, leading lady of Aldonza in Brevard's season closer, *Man of La Mancha*.

Hailed by Vocal Arts Chicago for her "precocious vocal glamour" and by the South Florida Classical Review for having a "sizeable soprano of striking beauty", **Kira Neary** is currently finishing her Bachelor of Music degree in Voice Performance from the Bienen School of Music at Northwestern University, studying with Theresa Brancaccio. In the summer of 2019, she sang the role of Poppea in Monteverdi's *L'Incoronazione di Poppea* as a studio artist with Miami Music Festival. With Northwestern University Opera Theatre, she has previously appeared as the Mother in David T. Little's cutting-edge opera *Dog Days* conducted by Alan Pierson, as the title role in Handel's *Theodora*, and in a cameo appearance as an opera diva in *Die Fledermaus*. This coming spring at Northwestern, she will portray La Musica in Monteverdi's 1607 opera *L'Orfeo*. With the student theatre group OPUS, she performed the role of Phyllis in Gilbert and Sullivan's *Iolanthe*. This past spring, she placed in the finals of Northwestern's Concerto and Aria Competition. A dedicated performer of new music, in the winter of 2019 she sang the Midwest premiere of Kate Soper's *The Ultimate Poem is Abstract* with Northwestern University's Contemporary Music Ensemble, under the baton of Benjamin Bolter. With the Bienen Contemporary/Early Vocal Ensemble, she sang the First Wren in a workshop of Justine F. Chen's new opera *The Life and Death(s) of Alan Turing* with Chicago Opera Theater. She is also a member of the student group The Renaissance Singers. Originally from New York City, Kira is a graduate of Manhattan School of Music's Precollege program. She has also attended various summer programs, including Russian Opera Workshop, Accademia Vocale Lorenzo Malfatti, AIMS in Graz, the Boston University Tanglewood Institute, Interlochen Center for the Arts, and the Bel Canto Institute. In the summer of 2020, she will attend the Chautauqua Institution's festival school of music.

Morgan Mastrangelo is a vocalist, actor, and musician whose aspirations are squarely aimed at the performance of both opera and musical theatre. A current senior at Northwestern University, he is earning a Bachelor of Music in Voice under Pamela Hinchman, as well as a Certificate in Musical Theatre through the School of Communications. Throughout his time in the Midwest, he performed the roles of Prince (*Dog Days*) and Blind (*Die Fledermaus*) with Northwestern Opera Theatre, as well as over 10 music theatre productions with the Northwestern School of Communication. Last summer, he made two role debuts with the La Musica Lirica in Novafeltria, Italy, singing Rinuccio (Gianni Schicchi) and Basilio (*Le Nozze di Figaro*) as part of their Young Artists Program. A versatile concert artist as well, Morgan made his symphonic debut as a guest soloist with the Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra, (singing *Granada*, by A. Lara) and also sung Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Ten Blake Songs* in a joint concert with Northwestern University and the Block Museum of Art. Morgan trained in classical piano for 10 years before studying voice, and also plays guitar and alto saxophone to varying degrees of competence. morganmastrangelo.com

Marin Tack, soprano, is a second year Master's student hailing from Traverse City, Michigan, studying under Nancy Gustafson. Ms. Tack received her BM in Vocal Performance in 2018 from DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana. Ms. Tack's roles with NU Opera Theatre include Miss Jessel in *The Turn of the Screw*, Héro in *Béatrice et Bénédict*, Hanna Hunyani in the party scene of *Die Fledermaus*, and Lisa in the Chicago premiere of *Dog Days* by David T Little, in which Vocal Arts Chicago highlighted Tack's "emotional depth and courage" in her "harrowing performance." In recent years, Ms. Tack has sung with the Grant Park Chorus, has traveled across Europe and South Africa for her voice studies, and has appeared in several masterclasses with artists such as Warren Jones, Barbara Bonney, Frederica Von Stade, Laura Osnes, Alice Ripley, and Laura Bell Bundy. Currently, Ms. Tack is the resident soprano in *Brio*, a women's trio performing Andrew's Sisters, folk, popular, and classical repertoire across the Chicago region. This spring, Ms. Tack will finish her time with NU Opera Theatre as Speranza in the spring production of *L'Orfeo*, and will spend her summer in Central City, Colorado as a Bonfils-Stanton Foundation Studio Artist with Central City Opera.

Arts Reach Evanston

North Shore Choral Society, Evanston Symphony Orchestra, Evanston Dance Ensemble and Actor's Gymnasium spent a year exploring inequity in the arts through the "Enrich Evanston" diversity initiative. In May of 2017, NSCS hosted an annual Chicago Community Trust "on the table" luncheon. The chosen topic of discussion was inequity in the arts, and the 17 diverse participants zeroed in on the realization that you have to bring the arts to underserved students at their location, rather than expecting those students to come to your organization. NSCS Music Director Dr. Julia Davids proposed bringing fine arts exposure to the underserved students in our neighborhood, at the historically black Evanston fifth ward Fleetwood-Jourdain Community Center.

The goal of the *Arts Reach Evanston* program is to bring the performing arts to the students, in their location, introducing and encouraging them to develop a lifelong appreciation of the arts. Students leave the Fleetwood-Jourdain after-school program, remembering fun interactive *Arts Reach Evanston* sessions, and retaining a positive affinity for the arts. In the *Arts Reach Evanston* students, we have seen increased focus, more sustained attention, better emotional and physical self-regulation, the cultivation of imagination and increased self-esteem.

We thank our enthusiastic NSCS volunteers who work with the Fleetwood-Jourdain students and Mudlark Theater personnel Felix Mayes and Dru Smith in an 8-week musical theater residency. A facilitated Free Play residency (Lessons on Creativity, Connection, & Community) will start in late March and finish out the school year. Our program is complemented by bucket drums graciously provided by Millen Hardware, Wilmette.

**Still to come in
North Shore Choral Society's 84th Season**

“What Happens When...”

Happy 75th Birthday, John Rutter!

Sunday, June 7 at 3:00 PM
First Presbyterian Church
1427 Chicago Ave, Evanston

What happens when beloved British composer John Rutter turns 75 years old? The NSCS hosts a musical birthday bash! Join us for a celebration of some of the works of John Rutter, including his *Requiem*, featuring Sharon R. Peterson, organist, and guest instrumentalists.

For further information about North Shore Choral Society or to buy tickets, please visit our website at:

northshorechoral.org

