



The Art Song Preservation Society of New York  
Presents

The Mary Trueman  
Art Song Vocal Competition Finals

Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014, 1:00 pm

Opera America

330 7th Avenue New York, NY 10001

# The Mary Trueman Art Song Vocal Competition

## Opening Remarks

Fleur Barron, Mezzo-Soprano	Miriam Leskis, Pianist
Benjamin Bloomfield, Baritone	Ming Kwong, Pianist
Leela Subramaniam, Soprano	Eunjung Lee, Pianist
Kara Cornell, Mezzo-Soprano	Joshua Tanis, Pianist
Meredith Mecum, Soprano	Ming Kwong, Pianist
Robert Brandt, Baritone	Julie Nishimura, Pianist
La Toya Lewis, Soprano	Eric Sedgwick, Pianist

## 10 MINUTE INTERMISSION

Amanda Crider, Mezzo-Soprano	Renate Rohlfing, Pianist
Winnie Nieh, Soprano	Eric Sedgwick, Pianist
Elliot Hines, Baritone	Arthur Williford, Pianist
Tami Petty, Soprano	Miori Sugiyama, Pianist
Kelsey Stark, Soprano	J.J. Penna, Pianist
Jacquelin Bolier, Mezzo-Soprano	John Arida, Pianist
Virginie Verrez, Soprano	Arthur Williford, Pianist

## Judges' Deliberation

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS

### Prizes Awarded Today:

Grand Prize

Pierre Bernac Prize

Encouragement Award

*~reception to follow~*



## **In Memoriam: Mary Trueman (1915-2008)**

Born in England, Mary Trueman grew up as an accomplished pianist; and she played for many singers at recitals and music festivals even before receiving formal training. Ms. Trueman attained degrees with Honors in French & German Language & Literature from the University of Birmingham in Birmingham, England. She was a Licentiate of The London Royal Academy of Music in England in Piano Accompaniment, and she earned a Master's degree in Vocal Pedagogy from the Birmingham School of Music.

Following a rich musical performance and teaching career in the UK along with residency in Nancy, France during World War II, Trueman moved to Houston, Texas, in the early 1980s to be closer to her daughter. While in Houston, she developed her own private voice studio and began teaching French, German, Latin, and Spanish classes at St. Pius Catholic College Preparatory High School in Houston. Shortly thereafter, she began teaching voice at Texas Southern University; and it wasn't long before she was invited to teach Diction and Vocal Repertoire classes in French and German at Rice University.

Ms. Trueman believed singers should put forth constant effort towards technical advancement in order to achieve vocal freedom and discover the exuberance of singing. She was a firm believer in the close examination of poetry, speaking the poem aloud to note the rhythm of the words, and that excellence in a singer's interpretation is enhanced and validated by a deep understanding and appreciation of the successive literary movements which influenced the poets' approach to life and art.

Mary Trueman leaves behind a true legacy in her devoted students whom she encouraged and worked relentlessly to help cultivate a deep appreciation for the art song repertoire. It is for these reasons that Mary Trueman is the motivating force and inspiration behind The Art Song Preservation Society, and the beloved namesake of this competition.

# Blair Boone-Migura

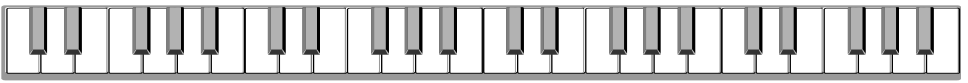
*Founder, President, Executive Director of The Art Song Preservation Society*

Blair began his study of voice and piano in Houston before moving to pursue his Bachelor's in Voice Performance (honors) and Master's in French Language, Literature and Culture at Syracuse University. He went on to study voice and piano at the Strasbourg Conservatory of Music in France. He also holds a second Master's degree in Vocal Pedagogy from Westminster Choir College in Princeton where he graduated with honorary distinction.



In addition to coaching singer's privately in the French vocal repertoire, Blair currently teaches French language at Queensborough College. After accumulating over ten years of project management and client relationship management experience, Blair has also managed to transition into an executive role. He has managed a number of strategic relationships at major firms, publishing and advertising companies, including Yahoo!, MetroSource Publishing, and CIBT, Inc.. He is also a published film and music critic having interviewed a wide range of artists from Grammy-nominated jazz pianist Fred Hersch to Grammy Award-winning Haitian-American singer and producer Wyclef Jean for various publications. In May 2013, Blair assisted the celebrated piano collaborator Dalton Baldwin, along with two of French song's most accomplished sopranos Elly Ameling and Rosemarie Landry, and several other highly notable adjudicators of distinction in the development and execution of the Positively Poulenc Vocal Competition and Recital at the Bruno Walter Auditorium in NYC.

Blair founded ASPS because of his concern and deep interest in promoting this declining area of vocal literature and in honor of his mentor of twenty-two years, master French and German song specialist, Mary Trueman (1915-2008). Blair studied voice with Mary Trueman (Rice University), JoElyn Walkiefied-Wright (Syracuse University), Elisabeth Schroeder (The Strasbourg Conservatory of Music) and Elem Eley (Westminster Choir College), and has sung in master classes with Oren Brown (The Juilliard School) and Phyllis Curtain (Yale University). Blair has coached with Metropolitan Opera mezzo-soprano Barbara Smith Conrad and internationally acclaimed specialist of the French vocal repertoire, Thomas Grubb (The Juilliard School). Blair also studied piano accompaniment with Mary Trueman, Steve Heyman (Syracuse University), and continues to study piano privately with Edward Nemirovsky in NYC.



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[anne-julia@audrayschool.com](mailto:anne-julia@audrayschool.com)  
(646) 678-1000 from 10 am to 7pm Mon-Fri

131 West 72nd street  
New York, NY 10023



## Art Song Vocal Competition Judge: Thomas Grubb

Thomas Grubb is the famed author *Singing in French: A Manual of French Diction and French Vocal Repertoire*, with a Foreward by Pierre Bernac (New York: Schirmer Books, 1979).

Mr. Grubb, presently on the faculty of the Juilliard School, taught previously at the Manhattan School of Music, the Curtis Institute, the Academy of Vocal Arts and New York University. He also coached many productions for both New York City Opera and Houston Grand Opera, and served as adjudicator for the Metropolitan Opera Guild Auditions, the International Paris Voice Competition and the Fulbright Commission. Grubb has given master classes throughout the USA, in Taiwan, Korea, Lithuania, Germany and France. As pianist, he assisted Pierre Bernac in his master classes, collaborated with Renée Fleming, Benita Valente, Eleanor Steber, Elly Ameling, Dawn Upshaw and Maurice André, and recorded for both the Orion and Lyrachord labels.



In addition to his primary mentor Pierre Bernac, Grubb's most influential piano teachers were Magda Tagliaferro, with whom he studied in Paris for three years; as well as Dora Zaslavsky and Artur Balsam, with whom he studied at the Manhattan School of Music where he earned his Master of Music degree in Applied Piano in 1966. In 1962, Mr. Grubb received a Master of Arts degree in French Literature from Yale University Graduate School and in 1960 his Bachelor of Arts in French and Piano from the University of Rochester and the Eastman School of Music. In May of 2002 the Ministry of Culture of the French decorated Mr. Grubb as Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres for his advancement of French culture throughout the world.

Grubb continues to teach at the Juilliard School and maintains a private studio on the Upper West Side of Manhattan not far from Lincoln Center where he has resided since 1974. Mr. Grubb was born in Bridgehampton, New York.

## Art Song Vocal Competition Judge: Thomas Muraco



Thomas Muraco has earned great accolades through a combination of technical virtuosity, tonal beauty, and a unique understanding of the underlying poetry of music. His performances in major concert halls throughout the United States, Canada, Central America, Europe, and Asia reflect his command of a repertoire remarkable for its complete range of musical styles, periods and forms.

Muraco has partnered among others such singers as Adele Addison, John Aler, Martina Arroyo, Arleen Auger, Phyllis Curtin, Faith Esham, Maureen Forrester, Denyce Graves, Ben Heppner, Sumi Jo, Roberta Peters, Hermann Prey, Twyla Robinson, Jennie Tourel, Benita Valente and Dolora Zajick. Highlights of his career include appearances at The White House, the Library of Congress, the Aspen, Banff, Bermuda, Casals, Cincinnati May and Ravinia Festivals, and on recital series at New York's major concert halls and at museums, universities and cultural centers throughout the US, Europe and Asia.

In addition to his busy performing schedule, Muraco has taught at the Cleveland Institute of Music, the State University of New York at Stony Brook, and is presently on the faculty of the Manhattan School of Music. There he trains pianists in the art of accompanying and coaching, as well as singers in all aspects of the art. He has taught master classes for pianists and singers at the Aspen and Banff Music Festivals and the St. Louis Conservatory. In such master classes he emphasizes the unique relationship of poetry and music in all aspects of the vocal repertoire, bringing to bear his extensive knowledge of languages French, Italian, German and Portuguese among others. Influential teachers in Thomas Muraco's own training include Brooks Smith at the Eastman School of Music, from which he graduated with distinction, and Jeaneane Dowis at the Aspen Festival and in NYC, and John Nelson in conducting.

Often asked to judge competitions such as the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, Mr. Muraco has been the chairman of the jury of the annual international vocal competition held in Vivonne, France in October each year, "De Vive Voix." Mr. Muraco had the honor of assisting in the preparation of performances and a recording of *La Bohème* under the direction of Leonard Bernstein.

# Art Song Vocal Competition Judge: Benita Valente

Benita Valente is a distinguished American soprano whose long career has encompassed the operatic stage as well as performance of lieder, chamber music, and oratorio. She is especially lauded for her interpretations of Mozart and Handel, and her exceptional performances in various Verdi roles. The *New York Times* once referred to her "as gifted a singer as we have today, worldwide." Born in California, she became a private pupil of Lotte Lehmann at the age of 18. She continued her studies with Lehmann at the Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara. In 1955 she won a scholarship to the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, where she studied with Martial Singher.



In October 1960 she made her New York concert debut at the New School for Social Research. After winning the Metropolitan Opera Auditions in 1960, years later in 1968 she went on to pursue further studies with Margaret Harshaw and soon established herself as a versatile recitalist, soloist with orchestra, and opera singer. Her interpretation of Pamina was especially well-received, and it was in that role that she made her long-awaited Metropolitan Opera debut in New York in 1973. She continued to sing with the MET through to 1993. Valente received a Grammy Award for her recording of Schoenberg's *Quartet No.2* and a Grammy nomination for her recording of Haydn's *Seven Last Words of Christ*.

Benita Valente was the 1999 Recipient of Chamber Music America's Highest Award: The Richard J. Bogomolny National Service Award, the first vocalist to receive the award in its twenty-year history. Ms. Valente lives in Philadelphia with her husband, bassoonist Anthony Checchia. Her son, also based in Philadelphia, is an accomplished photographer and artist. Increasingly, she has devoted her time to teaching vocal master classes and as an adjudicator. Increasingly, she has devoted her time to teaching vocal master classes. She has taught at the Marlboro Music School and Festival in Marlboro, Vermont; Cincinnati Conservatory program in Lucca, Italy; the Metropolitan Opera Lindemann Young Artists Development Program; the Stearns Institute for Young Artists at Ravinia and the Young Artist Program of the National Arts Centre's Summer Music Institute in Ottawa.



## Fleur Barron, Mezzo-Soprano



Fleur Barron was the 1st prize winner of the 2013 Liederkrantz Competition. Future engagements include returning to Opera Theater of Saint Louis as a 2nd year Gerdine Young Artist, the title role in *Carmen* with Aspen Opera Theater, and Mallika in *Lakmé* with Lyric Opera Virginia. Fleur recently made her Chicago Symphony Orchestra debut and was chosen by Malcolm Martineau to perform in several recitals and a week of masterclasses in Scotland. In addition to OTSL, Fleur has been a young artist with the Ravinia Festival (Steans Institute), the Caramoor Festival, Lyric Opera Virginia, and the Schubert Institut in Baden-bei-Wien.

### Competition Program

Chi vuol la zingarella (Anon.)	Giovanni Paisiello (1741-1816)
Sehnsucht (Schiller)	Franz Schubert (1797-1828)
Stille Liebe from <i>Zwölf Gedichte</i> (Kerner)	Robert Schumann (1810-1856)
Поехал на палочке from <i>Детская</i> (Muss.)	Modest Mussorgsky (1839-1881)
from <i>La Fraîcheur et le feu</i> (Grindel)	Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)
4. Dans les ténèbres du jardin	
5. Unis la fraîcheur et le feu	
7. La grande rivière qui va	
Hop! Hop! (Trenet)	Charles Trenet (1913-2001)

## Miriam Leskis, Pianist



Pianist Miriam Leskis was born in Moscow and grew up in Israel. She completed her Master's in piano accompaniment at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama with distinction and won the Cunard Carpathia Accompanist Prize and the Cunard Prize for English Song. After graduating, she served as a staff accompanist until relocating to New York in 2012. As a collaborative pianist, Miriam has performed at Carnegie Hall (Weill), the Barbican Hall, Wigmore Hall, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, the Palais de l'Athenee in Geneva, the Toronto Music Festival, the Reicanati Auditorum in Tel Aviv, among others.

## Benjamin Bloomfield, Baritone

Baritone Benjamin Bloomfield has understudied roles at both the Metropolitan Opera (*Lewitsky, Boris Goudonov*) and New York City Opera (*Baron Douphol, La Traviata*). This season included Tonio in *Pagliacci* (Amore Opera, December) and Elder Ott in *Susanna* (St. Petersburg Opera, January). An avid recitalist, he joined Schubert and Co. for their 2012 recital series of Schubert's complete song repertoire. He travelled to Sarajevo in August 2012 to perform *Winterreise* with the Sarajevo Chamber Music Festival, where the cycle had never been performed in its entirety.



### Competition Program

The Green-Eyed Dragon (Charles)	Wolseley Charles (1630-1714)
Der Lindenbaum from <i>Winterreise</i> (Müller)	Franz Schubert (1797-1828)
Denn es gehet from <i>Vier ernste Gesänge</i> (biblical)	Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)
Je me suis embarqué from <i>L'Horizon Chimérique</i>	Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)
Musica proibita	Stanislao Gastaldon (1861-1939)
Chanson à Dulcinée from <i>Chansons de Don Quichotte</i> (Arnoux)	Jacques Ibert (1890-1962)

## Ming Kwong, Pianist

Pianist and coach Ming Kwong most recently assisted Portland Opera's production of *Postcard from Morocco*. A sought-after collaborator, Mr. Kwong plays auditions for Washington National Opera, Aspen Opera Theater, and Glimmerglass Opera; and is regularly engaged by the Metropolitan Opera Guild to accompany their master class series. Past credits include Assistant Coach at Glimmerglass Opera and Assistant to Maestro James Levine at Tanglewood Music Center. In addition to working with Martin Katz and Craig Rutenberg at the 2010 Cleveland Art Song Festival, Mr. Kwong made his Kennedy Center (D.C) debut with Metropolitan Opera Competition Grand Winner Lori Guilbeau in 2011.



## Leela Subramaniam, Soprano



Praised by *Opera News* as a “gleaming, pitch perfect soprano”, Los Angeles native Leela Subramaniam is pursuing her Professional Studies Certificate at Manhattan School of Music under the tutelage of Marlena Malas. This summer, she performs Giannetta (*The Elixir of Love*) and covers Pamina (*The Magic Flute*) at Opera Theatre of St. Louis. Previous credits include the title roles in Massenet’s *Thaïs* and Donizetti’s *Lucia di Lammermoor*; Sœur Constance in (*Dialogues des Carmélites*), and Niece 1 (*Peter Grimes*). A 2013 and 2014 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions District Winner, Ms. Subramaniam earned the Shoshanna Foundation Richard F. Gold Career Grant.

### Competition Program

L’invito from <i>Serate Musicali</i> (Conte)	Gioacchino Rossini (1792-1868)
Suleika I from <i>Zwei Lieder</i> (Willemer)	Franz Schubert (1797-1828)
Meine Liebe ist grün from <i>Neun Lieder und Gesänge</i> (F. Schumann)	Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)
Soir (Samain)	Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)
Spleen from <i>Ariettes oubliées</i> (Verlaine)	Claude Debussy (1862-1918)
Let the florid music praise! from <i>On This Island</i> (Auden)	Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

## Eunjung Lee, Pianist



Born in Seoul, Korea, Eunjung received her Bachelor of Music from Ewha Womans University, her Master of Music in Piano Accompanying at Manhattan School of Music with Dr. Heasook Rhee, and a ‘Specialist in Collaborative Pianist’ program with Martin Katz at the University of Michigan. Ms. Lee has made appearances on BBC Radio, Marilyn Horne Foundation Recital Series, and Live Broadcast in Chicago Art Channel; and has been featured in music festivals such as Mozarteum Sommer Akademie, Aspen Music Festival, and Kyung-joo Music Festival. She worked with Opera Holland Park, British Youth Opera, Riverside Opera, and Hampstead Garden Opera.  
[www.eunjunglee.com](http://www.eunjunglee.com)

## Kara Cornell, Mezzo-Soprano

Kara Cornell is an operatically trained cross-over artist who is known for her rich, easily produced voice, and engaging dramatics. Her expressive performances have hailed her “a consummate actress” and a singer with “an infectious enthusiasm”, with roles ranging from a “totally endearing” Cinderella in *Into the Woods* to a “seductive, wounded, damaged and dangerous” Carmen. Ms. Cornell’s national performing schedule keeps her busy: she is currently collaborating with talented contemporary composers on operas, art song, and jazz. Upcoming performances include the soloist in Karl Jenkin’s *Stabat Mater* with the Octavo Singers, and soloist with the Cape Cod Symphony.



### Competition Program

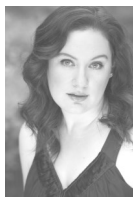
Anzoleta avanti la regatta from <i>La regata veneziana</i> (Piave)	Gioacchino Rossini (1792-1868)
An die Musik from <i>Vier Lieder</i> (Schober)	Franz Schubert (1797-1828)
Le spectre de la rose from <i>Les Nuits d'Été</i> (Gautier)	Hector Berlioz (1803-1869)
Er, der Herrlichste von allen from <i>Frauenliebe und -leben</i> (Chamisso)	Robert Schumann (1810-1856)
Chanson triste (Lahor)	Henri Duparc (1848-1933)
Once upon a universe from <i>Of Gods and Cats</i> (Dillard)	Jake Heggie (b. 1961)

## Joshua Tanis, Pianist

Collaborative pianist Joshua Tanis is currently a Master’s student at Hunter College pursuing a dual degree program in Music Theory and Collaborative piano, under the tutelage of Geoffrey Burleson. In the summer months, Mr. Tanis serves as a staff pianist for the Phoenicia International Festival of the Voice. He is currently working on a recital/recording project entitled “The Great American Poet Sings”, which will be showcased at The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center. Mr. Tanis also enjoys working in the field of musical theatre. [www.joshuatanis.com](http://www.joshuatanis.com)



## Meredith Mecum, Soprano



Soprano Meredith Mecum's performances include Contessa (*Le Nozze di Figaro*) with LOFTOpera and New York Lyric Opera; Donna Anna (*Don Giovanni*) with the Banff Centre Opera and Ash Lawn Opera (cover); Mimi (*La Bohème*), Berta (*Il Barbiere di Siviglia*) with Opera New Jersey, Rosalinde (*Die Fledermaus*) with the Martina Arroyo Foundation, and Rose Segal (*Later the Same Evening*) at Manhattan School of Music. Awards include a 2012 Solti Foundation Grant, Second Place in the New York Lyric Opera Competition, Second Place in the Ades Competition (Manhattan School of Music), and an Encouragement Award from the Gerda Lissner Foundation Competition.

### Competition Program

L'abbandono (Anon.)	Vincenzo Bellini (1801-1835)
Die junge Nonne from <i>Zwei Lieder</i> (Craigher)	Franz Schubert (1797-1828)
Breit' über mein Haupt from <i>Sechs Lieder aus "Lotosblätter" von Adolf Friedrich Graf von Schack</i> (Schack)	Richard Strauss (1864-1949)
Chanson triste (Lahor)	Henri Duparc (1848-1933)
Fleur Jetée (Silvestre)	Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)
The Lament of Ian the Proud from <i>Three Poems of Fiona Macleod</i> (Sharp)	Charles Griffes (1884-1920)

## Ming Kwong, Pianist



Pianist and coach Ming Kwong most recently assisted Portland Opera's production of *Postcard from Morocco*. A sought-after collaborator, Mr. Kwong plays auditions for Washington National Opera, Aspen Opera Theater, and Glimmerglass Opera; and is regularly engaged by the Metropolitan Opera Guild to accompany their master class series. Past credits include Assistant Coach at Glimmerglass Opera and Assistant to Maestro James Levine at Tanglewood Music Center. In addition to working with Martin Katz and Craig Rutenberg at the 2010 Cleveland Art Song Festival, Mr. Kwong made his Kennedy Center (D.C) debut with Metropolitan Opera Competition Grand Winner Lori Guilbeau in 2011.

## Robert Brandt, Baritone

Baritone Robert Brandt has garnered attention for his performances on both the concert and operatic stages. *Opera News* praised his “innate musical honesty and simplicity” and “incredible clarity of diction”. His great love is researching, discovering, and performing Art Song. Recent song recitals include Schubert’s *Winterreise* with pianist Roger Vignoles, Mendelssohn and Schumann lieder at Mendelssohn’s former home in Leipzig, Germany, and an American song recital highlighting composers from Foster and Ives to Musto and Hoiby. Dr. Brandt is on the vocal faculty at the University of Delaware where he directs the graduate song literature curriculum.



### Competition Program

Im Freien from <i>Drei Lieder</i> (Seidl)	Franz Schubert (1797-1828)
Belsazar (Heine)	Robert Schumann (1810-1856)
En Sourdine from <i>Cinq mélodies "De Venise"</i> (Verlaine)	Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)
Ideale (Errico)	Francesco Tosti (1846-1916)
General William Booth enters into Heaven (Lindsay)	Charles Ives (1874-1954)
Le paon from <i>Histoires naturelles</i> (Renard)	Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)

## Julie Nishimura, Pianist

Pianist Julie Nishimura is faculty accompanist at the University of Delaware Department of Music. In addition to recital work, she is the rehearsal pianist for the opera theatre and instructor of the accompanying/chamber music class as well as a sight-reading course. An in-demand collaborative pianist, she performs regularly with members of the Delaware Symphony and Philadelphia Orchestra, as well as workshops and festivals around the world. She studied with Paul Hersh at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and with Leonard Shure at the New England Conservatory. Julie is co-artistic director of Wilmington, Delaware-based Distant Voices Touring Theatre - [dvtt.net](http://dvtt.net).



# LaToya Lewis, Soprano



Soprano La Toya Lewis was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY. Recently off of tour with jazz legend Wynton Marsalis, Ms. Lewis is keeping the ball rolling by spearheading successful recitals around NYC. Career highlights include: Donna Elvira in *Don Giovanni* with Tri-Cities Opera, Soloist with San Juan Symphony, and the Abyssinian Mass tour with the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra. Ms. Lewis holds a Master of Music from Binghamton University and a Bachelor of Music from SUNY Purchase. Ms. Lewis also runs her own lifestyle blog and is the Social Media Manager for Opera Singers Initiative.

## Competition Program

Gretchen am Spinnrade (Goethe)	Franz Schubert (1797-1828)
Botschaft from <i>Fünf Lieder</i> (Daumer)	Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)
Fleur Jetée (Silvestre)	Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)
Не пой, красавица, при мне (Pushkin)	Sergei Rachmaninov (1873-1943)
O del mio amato ben from <i>36 Arie di Stile Antico</i> (A. Donaudy)	Stefano Donaudy (1879-1925)
Air grave from <i>Airs chantés</i> (Papadiamantopoulos)	Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)

# Eric Sedgwick, Pianist



Eric Sedgwick is a New York-based pianist, accompanist and vocal coach who has performed in concert with some of some of music's biggest talents, including Leona Mitchell, Marni Nixon, Sarah Rice, and Thomas Stacy. He is a staff coach at Manhattan School of Music, where he rehearses and musically directs Catherine Malfitano's performance classes. He also coaches and musically directs productions for the cutting-edge OperaWorks training program in southern California. Mr. Sedgwick performs regularly with several companies in New York City, including Opera Singers Initiatives, The Art Song Preservation Society of New York, The Stonewall Chorale, and Broadway Concerts Direct.

# Amanda Crider, Mezzo-Soprano

Amanda Crider has sung with Dallas Opera, New York City Opera, Florida Grand Opera, Glimmerglass Opera, Opera Omaha, Des Moines Metro Opera, Gotham Chamber Opera, Charlotte Symphony Orchestra, Eugene Symphony, and Apollo's Fire. Her current season includes appearances with New World Symphony, Castleton Festival, and Bach Festival Society of Winter Park. She has been a recitalist at Trinity Church, the Joy in Singing Foundation, and Marilyn Horne's "The Song Continues". In addition to receiving a Shoshana Foundation career grant, Ms. Crider gained recognition in several competitions, including the Jensen Foundation, Oratorio Society of New York, and the Jose Iturbi Foundation.



## Competition Program

Suleika I from <i>Zwei Lieder</i> (Willemer)	Franz Schubert (1797-1828)
Vaga luna che inargenti from <i>Tre Ariette</i> (Anon.)	Vincenzo Bellini (1801-1835)
Liebeszauber from <i>Sechs Lieder</i> (Geibel)	Clara Schumann (1819-1896)
L'invitation au Voyage (Baudelaire)	Henri Duparc (1848-1933)
Fantoches from <i>Fêtes Galantes I</i> (Verlaine)	Claude Debussy (1862-1918)
Love went a-riding (Coleridge)	Frank Bridge (1879-1941)

# Renate Rohlfing, Pianist

Renate Rohlfing has performed with many renowned artists, including James Conlon, Anna Netrebko, Alan Gilbert, and John Adams. Recent highlights include recitals under the auspices of the Cincinnati May Festival, as well as recitals and chamber music concerts at the Ravinia Festival. She has served as pianist-in-residence for Marilyn Horne's "The Song Continues" series at Carnegie Hall, as a Piano Fellow at Songfest in Malibu, and on staff as Assistant Conductor at Los Angeles Opera. Upcoming engagements include New York, Boston, Philadelphia, and Washington recitals with sopranos Julia Bullock and Kathryn Guthrie; and as opera staff of the Spoleto Festival.





# Winnie Nieh, Soprano



Winnie Nieh, soprano from Hong Kong and a Harvard graduate, made her European solo debut with Maestro Helmuth Rilling in Bach's *Cantata 147*. She participated in "The Song Continues" at Carnegie Hall, appeared as a soloist in the 2013 Amherst Early Music Festival staged lute song production, and will be performing a staged Schubert Goethe-Lieder production at the Austrian Embassy in D.C. and joining SongFest as a Professional Fellow. Ms. Nieh won First Place in the 2012 St. Andrews Arts Council International Aria Competition, and Third Place and Audience Favorite in the 2013 Madison Early Music Festival's Handel Aria Competition.

## Competition Program

Sweeter than roses from <i>Incidental Music to Pausanius, the Betrayer of his Country</i> (Anon.)	Henry Purcell (1659-1695)
Per pietà, bell' idolo mio from <i>Sei Arie</i> (Metastasio)	Vincenzo Bellini (1801-1835)
Versunken (Goethe)	Franz Schubert (1797-1828)
Nacht und Träume from <i>Zwei Lieder</i> (Kasimir)	Franz Schubert (1797-1828)
Notre amour (Silvestre)	Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)
En prière (Bordèse)	Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)

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Eric Sedgwick is a New York-based pianist, accompanist and vocal coach who has performed in concert with some of some of music's biggest talents, including Leona Mitchell, Marni Nixon, Sarah Rice, and Thomas Stacy. He is a staff coach at Manhattan School of Music, where he rehearses and musically directs Catherine Malfitano's performance classes. He also coaches and musically directs productions for the cutting-edge OperaWorks training program in southern California. Mr. Sedgwick performs regularly with several companies in New York City, including Opera Singers Initiatives, The Art Song Preservation Society of New York, The Stonewall Chorale, and Broadway Concerts Direct.

## Elliott Hines, Baritone

Baritone Elliott Carlton Hines is a second-year master of music student studying with Ms. Edith Wiens. Hines has performed as bass soloist in Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* with Juilliard 415, as well as the Duruflé *Requiem* and Mozart's *Coronation Mass* with the Oberlin Musical Union. He has been presented in recital by the Rhinebeck Chamber Music Society, and recently performed the role of Farasmane in Handel's *Radamisto* with Juilliard Opera. A native of Houston, Texas, Hines began his vocal training with Dr. Timothy Jones; and received his B.M. from Oberlin Conservatory, studying with Mr. Salvatore Champagne.



### Competition Program

In darkness let me dwell from <i>Robert Dowland's Musical Banquet</i> (Anon.)	John Dowland (1562-1626)
Quanto è folle quell'amante (Anon.)	Bernardo Pasquini (1637-1710)
Der entsühnte Orest (Mayrhofer)	Franz Schubert (1797-1828)
Phidylé (Leconte de Lisle)	Henri Duparc (1848-1933)
Ballade de Villon à s'amyé from <i>Trois Ballades de François Villon</i> (Villon)	Claude Debussy (1862-1918)
Ach Gott, wie graust mir vor dem Tod from <i>Sechs Monologe aus "Jedermann"</i> (Hofmannsthal)	Frank Martin (1890-1974)

## Arthur Williford, Pianist

Art Williford is a collaborative pianist and composer originally hailing from Houston, Texas. He received his BM in composition from Eastman. He spent much of his time at Eastman accompanying singers, which led him to the Collaborative Piano program at Juilliard, where he currently studies with Jonathan Feldman, Margo Garrett, and Diane Richardson.



## Tami Petty, Soprano



Tami Petty made her 2010 Lincoln Center debut singing Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle*. *New York Times* praised Petty's "powerful soprano," and *Classical Music Network* declared, "Such a beauty and purity of tone is so rare that I could only listen in ethereal pleasure." Upcoming performances include Strauss's *Fier letzte Lieder* with St. Joseph Symphony, Mozart's *Requiem* with Sacred Music in a Sacred Space, and Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle* with St. George Choral Society. A Sorel Organization's Emerging Artist, she has won career grants from Richard Tucker Foundation, Lotte Lehmann Foundation, Chautauqua Opera Guild, Lotte Lenya Competition, and Merola Opera Program.

### Competition Program

Amarilli, mia bella (Guarini)	Giulio Caccini (1546-1618)
Die Allmacht from <i>Zwei Lieder</i> (Pyrker)	Franz Schubert (1797-1828)
Liebst du um Schönheit from <i>Fünf Rückertlieder</i> (Rückert)	Gustav Mahler (1860-1911)
Violon from <i>Fiançailles pour rire</i> (Vilmorin)	Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)
Fêtes galantes from <i>Deux Poèmes de Louis Aragon</i> (Aragon)	Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)
Соловей и роза (Pushkin)	Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

## Miori Sugiyama, Pianist



A graduate of the Juilliard School, pianist Miori Sugiyama is an active soloist and collaborative artist in the US and abroad. Recent highlights include solo debut recitals at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall and Merkin Concert Hall as well as appearances at Bargemusic and Galapagos Art Space. Praised as 'excellent' pianist by the *New York Times*, she is a member of the critically acclaimed Brooklyn Art Song Society. She holds Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Maryland-College Park. She serves as staff pianist for the vocal department at Queens College, where she has also coached chamber music.

# Kelsey Stark, Soprano

Soprano Kelsey Stark recently received her master's degree from Westminster Choir College, where she performed Olympia/Antonia (*Les contes d'Hoffmann*), Helena (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*), Alcina (*Alcina*), and Pamina (*Die Zauberflöte*). Additional roles include the title role in Tchaikovsky's *Iolanta* with Opera Slavica, Donna Anna (*Don Giovanni*), Fiordiligi (*Così fan tutte*), and Arminda (*La finta giardiniera*). Ms. Stark completed her bachelor's degree at Oberlin Conservatory in 2011, where she studied with Salvatore Champagne. She is a two-time Co-OPERative Fellow, and a former participant in Songfest, Oberlin in Italy, and Opera in the Ozarks. She is a student of Laura Brooks Rice.



## Competition Program

Suleika I from <i>Zwei Lieder</i> (Willemer)	Franz Schubert (1797-1828)
L'invitation au Voyage (Baudelaire)	Henri Duparc (1848-1933)
Als mir dein Lied erklang from <i>Sechs Lieder nach Gedichten von Clemens Brentano</i> (Brentano)	Richard Strauss (1864-1949)
Notte from <i>Sei Liriche, seconda serie</i> (Negri)	Ottorino Respighi (1879-1936)
Il vole from <i>Fiançailles pour rire</i> (Vilmorin)	Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)
Otherwise from <i>Briefly It Enters</i> (Kenyon)	William Bolcom (b. 1938)

## J.J. Penna, Pianist

J.J. Penna has collaborated with such notable singers as Kathleen Battle, David Daniels, Denyce Graves, Andreas Scholl, and Indra Thomas. He has been heard at the Kennedy Center, Weill Hall, Merkin Recital Hall, and the Palacio de Bellas Artes in Mexico City; as well as on concert tours spanning five continents. Mr. Penna has performed and held fellowships at Tanglewood, Chautauqua Institution, Banff Center for the Arts, Norfolk, Music Academy of the West, and the Merola Program. He has served on the faculties of the Juilliard School, Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, Yale University School of Music, and Westminster Choir College.



## Jacqueline Bolier, Soprano



Jacqueline Bolier graduated from Curtis Institute of Music, where she performed Anna Gomez (*The Consul*), Lauretta (*Gianni Schicchi*), Musetta (*La Bohème*), and la Pastorelle (*L'enfant et les sortilèges*). She is a Licia Albanese Puccini Foundation Encouragement Award Winner, and a first place winner in both the Queens College Vocal Heritage Competition and the Friday Woodmere Music Club Vocal Competition. Ms. Bolier has performed at the Portland Opera Performing Institute with Tito Capobianco, as well as the Académie Internationale d'été de Nice under Dalton Baldwin. An active recitalist, she is currently an Artist-In-Residence of the South Kent School in Connecticut.

### Competition Program

Amarilli, mia bella from <i>Le nuove musiche</i> (Guarini)	Giulio Caccini (1546-1618)
Gretchen am Spinnrade (Goethe)	Franz Schubert (1797-1828)
Notre amour (Silvestre)	Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)
Ständchen from <i>Sechs Lieder von Adolf Friedrich Graf von Schack</i> (Schack)	Richard Strauss (1864-1949)
Tu vois le feu du soir from <i>Miroirs brûlants</i> (Grindel)	Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)
Saint Ita's vision from <i>Hermit Songs</i> (Kallman)	Samuel Barber (1910-1981)

## John Arida, Pianist



John Arida has performed at Carnegie Hall's Weil Hall, Alice Tully Hall, WMP Hall and toured Australia with the Boston City Singers. Mr. Arida has participated in the Aspen Music School and Festival and Music Academy of the West; as well as the Emerging Artist Program at Virginia Opera, where he his responsibilities included Educational Tour Music Director. He received his Bachelor of Music magna cum laude in Vocal/Opera performance from SUNY Purchase and his Master of Music in Collaborative Piano from the Juilliard School, where he holds a fellowship position with the Marcus Institute for Vocal Arts.

## Virginie Verrez, Mezzo-Soprano

A native from France, mezzo-soprano Virginie Verrez has appeared in recitals in Paris, Baden bei Wien, in Vienna, and in Rheinbeck; and sang in Vivaldi's *Dixit Dominus* in Limoges. In 2013, Ms. Verrez performed at The Juilliard School the role of Beatrice in Wolf-Ferrari's *Donne Curiose* as well as the role of Zenobia in Handel's *Radamisto*. She also appeared in Juilliard's "Wednesdays at One" series in Alice Tully Hall and in the 2013 New York Festival of Song. She won The Lissner Charitable Fund of the 2013 Opera Index competition.



### Competition Program

Der Zwerg from <i>Zwei Lieder</i> (Kasimir)	Franz Schubert (1797-1828)
Hexenlied from <i>Zwölf Gesänge</i> (Hölty)	Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)
Au pays où se fait la guerre (Gautier)	Henri Duparc (1848-1933)
L'invitation au Voyage (Baudelaire)	Henri Duparc (1848-1933)
Skogen sover from <i>Sju dikter av Ernest Thiel</i> (Thiel)	Hugo Alfvén (1872-1960)
Dolce Cominciamento from <i>Quattro Canzoni Popolari</i> (Anon.)	Luciano Berio (1925-2003)

## Arthur Williford, Pianist

Art Williford is a collaborative pianist and composer originally hailing from Houston, Texas. He received his BM in composition from Eastman. He spent much of his time at Eastman accompanying singers, which led him to the Collaborative Piano program at Juilliard, where he currently studies with Jonathan Feldman, Margo Garrett, and Diane Richardson.



# About Us

## Our Mission

The Art Song Preservation Society of New York (ASPS) is a nonprofit arts organization dedicated to preserving, revitalizing, and promoting the art song repertoire and the art song recital. We do this by providing a variety of enriching and engaging programs, services, and events that promote the education and performance of classical vocal concert repertoire.

## What Is Art Song?

An art song is a music composition for voice and instrumental accompaniment. The text of these songs is derived from poetry resulting in the unification of two art forms: the poetic text and music. This makes the art song a dual art and one of the greatest (albeit oftentimes most neglected) gifts in the realm of classical music. When the ideal proportions are met – the heartfelt piano accompaniment, the exquisite voice, and the endearing poetry – one cannot help but be affected by it. It touches the mind. It touches the soul. It touches humanity.

## What We Do

The Art Song Preservation Society serves the New York City area by creating opportunities for education and performance in the genre of classical art song vocal literature to classical singers, piano collaborators, and art song aficionados. Our organization also generates exposure for emerging and established composers of art song to their key public – singers, teachers, accompanists, and enthusiasts!

With the financial support of grants and generous patrons of the arts, we offer opportunities for artistic development such as private and group voice lessons, workshops, a master class series, and educational lectures through the year. In addition to creating performance opportunities for emerging artists, we also sponsor both the Mary Trueman Vocal Arts Competition and a mentoring program for singers and pianists.

Finally, we share our passion for art song with everyone within our reach: recital and concert performances open to the public; community outreach and music therapy partnerships; and an exciting and informative internet-radio podcast show entitled "A Toast To Song" that has allowed us to expand beyond the New York City area.

## ***"If Music Be The Food of Love, Sing On, Sing On, Sing On!"***

ASPS is a beacon of light and an invaluable resource for emerging concert recitalists, piano collaborators, teachers, students, and anyone who cares to witness the pinnacle of artistic beauty. So if you have a genuine interest in the fusion of word and tone, rhythm of language, and the quality and beauty of the human voice, come experience the exuberance and joy of art song singing with The Art Song Preservation Society of New York: **where music speaks and words sing!**

# The Art Song Preservation Society Creative Team and Executive Board

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## GRANT AWARDS



The Florence Gould Foundation

Spring Into Song 2014 has been made possible in part with private funds generously granted by **The Florence Gould Foundation**.

Spring into Song 2014 is made possible in part with public funds from the **Manhattan Community Arts Fund**, supported by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council and administered by **Lower Manhattan Cultural Council**.

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Spring Into Song 2014 and every musically enriching ASPS program is made possible by the generosity of **supporters like you**. Our deepest gratitude is extended to all of our patrons!



# Spring Into Song 2014 Season Program

## *The Mary Trueman Art Song Vocal Competition Finals Recital*

Judged by Benita Valente, Thomas Grubb, & Thomas Muraco

**Date:** Saturday, March 29th, 1-5:00pm

## *French Mélodie Master Class – An Homage to Pierre Bernac*

with **Thomas Grubb**

The Juilliard School, Accompanying & Vocal Coaching Faculty

**Date:** Saturday, April 5th, 1-4:30pm

## *German Lied Master Class*

with **Baritone Elem Eley**

Westminster Choir College, Voice Teaching Faculty

**Date:** Saturday, April 26th, 1-4:30pm

## *Cross-Over Repertoire Master Class*

with **Soprano Marni Nixon**

Broadway Performer & Recording Artist

**Date:** Saturday, May 3rd, 1-4:30pm

## *Mélodies of Claude Debussy Master Class*

with **Dalton Baldwin**

Westminster Choir College, Accompanying & Vocal Coaching Faculty

**Date:** Saturday, May 17th, 1-4:30pm

## *Romantic & Post-Romantic European Song Master Class*

with **Thomas Muraco**

The Manhattan School of Music, Accompanying & Vocal Coaching Faculty

**Date:** Saturday, May 31st, 1-4:30pm

Unless otherwise indicated, all events take place at **Opera America** at 330 7th Avenue New York, NY 10001.

For more information and to purchase tickets, please contact Blair Boone at [aspsny@gmail.com](mailto:aspsny@gmail.com) or visit [www.artsongpreservationsociety.org](http://www.artsongpreservationsociety.org).

# Give the Gift of Music

If you ever wanted to become a patron of the arts, now is the time! With the rapid decline and tragic loss of many of our country's finest institutions of the arts, we need your assistance now more than ever to continue being a beacon of light to both musicians and music lovers in New York. The Art Song Preservation Society satisfies an aching need for resources, and creates unique opportunities to cultivate the beauty of art song education and performance in our community. Please consider giving the gift of music to honor or remember someone you love, or to simply celebrate your joy and appreciation for beautiful music!

## **Where Does My Donation Go?**

All donations made to the Art Song Preservation Society of New York will help us fulfill our missions of preserving, revitalizing, and promoting the art song repertoire and the art song recital. Individual donors help pay for the operational costs, educational and development programs, and community outreach services that grant funding does not cover. Your support will enable us to continue providing a variety of enriching and engaging programs, services, and events that promote the education and performance of classical vocal concert repertoire.

## **Your Contribution to the Arts is Tax-Deductible!**

The Art Song Preservation Society of New York (ASPS) has been incorporated and awarded nonprofit 501(c)(3) status. Financial support is provided by the generosity of individuals who seek to cultivate the talent of musicians interested in the arts. It is only by your donations that we can continue to fulfill our mission of preserving and revitalizing art song. Your gift in the amount that is right for your budget is greatly appreciated!

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