



Contact: Maria Schlafly, Executive Director
mschlafly@sullivanfoundation.org or (646) 883-2742

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2017 WILLIAM MATHEUS SULLIVAN FOUNDATION SINGER AWARDS ANNOUNCED
Foundation has supported young singers for over sixty years

The William Matheus Sullivan Musical Foundation awarded **ten \$10,000 grants** to young artists who auditioned for the Foundation in New York on November 12 and 13, 2017. In addition to these cash awards, winners will participate in the five-year program of continued financial aid for coaching in new roles, which is one of the unique features of the Sullivan awards. Judges for the auditions were **Christine Brewer, Eric Mills**, and **Marietta Simpson**, all members of the Foundation's board.

The Sullivan Winners

Winners of **\$10,000 awards** and continuing assistance starting in 2018 are: sopranos **Michelle Bradley, Monica Dewey, Pureum Jo, Felicia Moore**, and **Laura Wilde**; mezzo-sopranos **Kristen Choi** and **Abigail Levis**; tenors **Derrek Stark** and **David Walton**; and baritone **Christian Pursell**. Four awards are named in memory of distinguished former Sullivan Foundation board members: Christian Pursell's award for baritone **Theodor Uppman**; Laura Wilde's award for soprano **Rose Bampton**; Michelle Bradley's award for mezzo-soprano **Betty Allen**, leader of the Harlem School for the Arts; and Pureum Jo's award for soprano **Gail Robinson**, director of the Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artist Development Program.

These winners now join the current roster of artists who have won Sullivan awards in previous years, all of whom may apply to the Foundation for the next five years for preparing new roles in opera or other works with full orchestra. The Foundation was established in 1956 through a bequest from William Matheus Sullivan, a prominent New York lawyer and opera-lover who presented opera performances sung by Metropolitan Opera artists in his country home in Ridgefield, Connecticut.

The panel also awarded **\$5,000 Career Development Grants** to five singers: tenor **Eric Ferring**; baritones **Jorge Espino, Theo Hoffman**, and **Steven LaBrie**; and bass **Anthony Schneider**.

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