

The
SULLIVAN
FOUNDATION

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2021 WILLIAM MATHEUS SULLIVAN FOUNDATION AUDITION AWARDS

The William Matheus Sullivan Musical Foundation awarded **\$80,000 to early career opera singers** who auditioned for the Foundation in New York on November 14 and 15, 2021. Sullivan Award winners participate in a five-year program of grants for preparing new roles, a unique feature of the Foundation's professional development support.

The six winners of **\$10,000 Sullivan Awards** and continuing assistance for five years starting in 2022 are: sopranos **Katerina Burton** and **Chelsea Lehnea**; mezzo-soprano **Alice Chung**; countertenor **Key'mon W. Murrah**; tenor **Errin Duane Brooks**; and bass-baritone **Nicholas Newton**.

The panel also awarded **\$2,500 Career Development Grants** to eight singers: sopranos **Erika Baikoff** and **Marlen Nahhas**; tenors **SeokJong Baek**, **Terrence Chin-Loy**, **Aaron Crouch**, and **Anthony León**; baritone **Timothy Murray**; and bass-baritone **Christian Simmons**.

Judges for the auditions were **Vinson Cole**, **Bruce Donnell**, **Erie Mills**, and **Dr. Everett McCorvey**, who was recently elected to the Foundation's board, joining the other three judges as a trustee.

Awards designated in memory of distinguished former Sullivan Foundation board members are: Katerina Burton's award for soprano **Rose Bampton**; Chelsea Lehnea's award for soprano **Gail Robinson**, former director of the Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artist Development Program and National Council Auditions; Key'mon Murrah's award for mezzo-soprano **Betty Allen**, the second president of the Harlem School for the Arts; Errin Duane Brooks' award for tenor **David Lloyd**, late executive director of the Sullivan Foundation; and Nicholas Newton's award for baritone **Theodor Uppman**.

Pandemic Response

Recognizing the extraordinary challenges facing singers due to COVID-19, the Foundation provided **\$170,000 in special pandemic relief grants in 2020-2021** to its roster of singers eligible for continuing support. In addition, travel reimbursement assistance was offered to singers traveling to New York for the 2021 auditions.

About the Foundation

The Foundation was established in 1956 through the estate of William Matheus Sullivan, a New York attorney and opera lover who presented performances sung by Metropolitan Opera artists in his country home in Ridgefield, Connecticut. More than one thousand early career singers have earned funding from the Sullivan Foundation.

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