

The
SULLIVAN
FOUNDATION

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2024 WILLIAM MATHEUS SULLIVAN FOUNDATION AUDITION AWARDS

The William Matheus Sullivan Musical Foundation awarded **\$95,000** to **fourteen early career opera singers** who auditioned for the Foundation in New York on October 17 and 18, 2024. 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 eight winners of **\$10,000 Sullivan Awards** and role preparation assistance are sopranos **Meryl Dominguez**, **Brittany Olivia Logan**, and **Lauren Margison**; mezzo-soprano **Aubrey Odle**; countertenor **Chuanyuan Liu**; tenor **Daniel O'Hearn**; and bass-baritones **Joseph Parrish** and **Christian Simmons**.

The panel also awarded **\$2,500 Career Development Grants** to six singers: mezzo-sopranos **Gabrielle Beteag** and **Kaswanna Kanyinda**; tenor **Ben Reisinger**; baritones **Yonathan Astatke** and **Eleomar Cuello**; and bass **John Mburu**.

Audition judges were Sullivan trustees **Andrew Jorgensen**, **Craig Rutenberg**, and **Marietta Simpson**, joined by **J'Nai Bridges**, mezzo-soprano and Sullivan award winner. Application judges were Sullivan trustees **Bruce Donnell** and **Susanne Mentzer**, joined by **Kathleen Clawson**, artistic director of the Dayton Opera. The collaborative pianists were **Juan José Lázaro** and **Jinhee Park**. The Foundation continued its **access fund initiative**, providing financial assistance to singers traveling to the auditions.

In celebration of tenor **George Shirley**'s milestone birthday, and in recognition of his outstanding contributions to Foundation as a trustee and to the field of opera as a groundbreaking artist, teacher, and advocate for early career singers, the Foundation is designating Joseph Parrish's award in his honor.

Awards designated in memory of distinguished Sullivan Foundation trustees are Meryl Dominguez's for soprano **Gail Robinson**, director of the Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artist Development Program and National Council Auditions; Brittany Olivia Logan's for mezzo-soprano **Betty Allen**, the second president of the Harlem School for the Arts; Aubrey Odle's for soprano **Rose Bampton**; Daniel O'Hearn's for tenor **David Lloyd**, director of the Sullivan Foundation and of the Juilliard American Opera Center; Christian Simmons's for baritone **Theodor Uppman**; and John Mburu's for **Richard Gaddes**, founding general director of Opera Theatre of Saint Louis and general director of The Santa Fe Opera.

About the Foundation

The Foundation was established through the estate of **William Matheus Sullivan**, a New York attorney and opera patron who presented performances in his country home in Ridgefield, Connecticut. Nearly 1,100 early career singers have earned Sullivan funding since 1957. The Foundation was recognized with the **Philanthropy Award** at the **2023 International Opera Awards**.

At the Foundation's fall meeting, baritone and Sullivan award winner **Patrick Carfizzi** was elected to the board as a new trustee. **Evans Mirageas**, the Harry T. Wilks Artistic Director of Cincinnati Opera, is the Foundation's president.