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The
**SULLIVAN
FOUNDATION**

2025 WILLIAM MATHEUS SULLIVAN FOUNDATION AUDITION AWARDS

The William Matheus Sullivan Musical Foundation awarded **\$100,000** to **thirteen early career opera singers** who auditioned in New York on October 26 and 27, 2025. 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 nine winners of **\$10,000 Sullivan Awards** and role preparation assistance are:

sopranos **Tiffany Choe, Sunwoo Park, and Anna Thompson;**
mezzo-soprano **Lindsay Martin;**
tenors **Alec Carlson and Travon Walker;**
baritones **Gregory Feldmann and Ricardo José Rivera;** and
bass-baritone **Christopher Humbert Jr.**

The panel also awarded **\$2,500 Career Development Grants** to four singers:

mezzo-soprano **Meg Brilleslyper;** and
baritones **Yazid Gray, Trevor Haumschilt-Rocha, and Ryan Wolfe.**

Audition judges were Sullivan trustees **Christine Brewer** and **Dr. Everett McCorvey**, joined by **Gayletha Nichols**, who served as director of the Santa Fe Opera Apprentice Program and executive director of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. Application judges were Sullivan trustees **Patrick Carfizzi** and **Erie Mills**, joined by **Timothy Long**, artistic and music director of opera at the Eastman School of Music. The collaborative pianists were **Juan José Lázaro** and **Adam Nielsen**. The Foundation's **access fund initiative** provided financial assistance to singers traveling to the auditions.

In recognition of tenor **George Shirley's** outstanding contributions to the Foundation as a trustee and to the field of opera, Travon Walker's award is designated in his honor.

Awards designated in memory of Foundation trustees are Christopher Humbert Jr.'s for mezzo-soprano **Betty Allen**, president of the Harlem School for the Arts; Tiffany Choe's for soprano **Rose Bampton;** Yazid Gray's for **Richard Gaddes**, founding general director of Opera Theatre of Saint Louis and general director of The Santa Fe Opera; Alec Carlson's for tenor **David Lloyd**, director of the Sullivan Foundation and the Juilliard American Opera Center; Sunwoo Park's for soprano **Gail Robinson**, director of the Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artist Development Program and National Council Auditions; Anna Thompson's for **Maggie Stearns**, executive director of the Foundation, communications director at Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, and librettist / translator; and Ryan Wolfe's for baritone **Theodor Uppman.**

About the Foundation

The Foundation was established through the estate of **William Matheus Sullivan**, a New York attorney and opera patron who presented performances at his country home in Ridgefield, Connecticut. More than 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 spring meeting, **Khori Dastoor**, general director and CEO of the Houston Grand Opera, 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.