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The
**SULLIVAN
FOUNDATION**

2026 WILLIAM MATHEUS SULLIVAN FOUNDATION AUDITION AWARDS

The William Matheus Sullivan Musical Foundation awarded **\$112,000** to **sixteen early career opera singers** who auditioned at the National Opera Center in New York on October 15 and 16, 2026.

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 **\$11,000 Sullivan Awards** and role preparation assistance are:

sopranos **Alissa Goretsky**, **Magdalena Kuźma**, and **Shiyu Zhuo**;
tenors **Morgan Mastrangelo**, **Demetrious Sampson Jr.**, and **Andrew Turner**; and
baritones **Sihao Hu** and **Geonho Lee**.

The panel also awarded **\$3,000 Career Development Grants** to eight singers:

sopranos **Tess Levine** and **Amanda Sheriff**;
mezzo-sopranos **Ashlyn Brown**, **Alexis Peart**, and **Lauren Randolph**;
bass-baritones **Sam Dhobhany** and **Robert Frazier**; and
bass **Will Ryan**.

Audition judges were Sullivan trustees **Anthony Fogg** and **Marietta Simpson**, joined by soprano **Latonia Moore**. Application judges were Sullivan trustees **Patrick Carfizzi** and **Dr. Everett McCorvey**, joined by **Dr. Katherine Jolly**, soprano and associate professor of voice at Oberlin Conservatory. The collaborative pianists for the auditions were **Adam Nielsen** and **Eric Sedgwick**. 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, Andrew Turner's award is designated in his honor.

Awards designated in memory of Foundation trustees are Alexis Peart's for mezzo-soprano **Betty Allen**, president of the Harlem School of the Arts; Alissa Goretsky's for soprano **Rose Bampton**; Will Ryan's for **Richard Gaddes**, general director of Opera Theatre of Saint Louis and The Santa Fe Opera; Morgan Mastrangelo's for tenor **David Lloyd**, director of the Sullivan Foundation, Lake George Opera, and the Juilliard American Opera Center; Shiyu Zhuo's for soprano **Erie Mills**, artistic director of Livermore Valley Opera, teacher, and English diction coach; Magdalena Kuźma's for soprano **Gail Robinson**, director of the Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artist Development Program and National Council Auditions; Ashlyn Brown's for **Maggie Stearns**, executive director of the Foundation and communications director at Opera Theatre of Saint Louis; and Sihao Hu'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.

In 2027, the Sullivan Foundation will celebrate 70 years of supporting early career singers; more than 1,125 artists have earned funding since 1957. The Foundation received the **Philanthropy Award** at the **2023 International Opera Awards**.

Evans Mirageas, the Harry T. Wilks Artistic Director of Cincinnati Opera, is the Foundation's president.