WHO WILL WIN THE 2019 GEORGE LONDON AWARDS?
THE 48TH ANNUAL GEORGE LONDON AWARDS COMPETITION FOR OPERA SINGERS FINAL ROUND AND AWARDS ANNOUNCEMENT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2019, AT 4:00 PM, AT THE MORGAN LIBRARY & MUSEUM'S GILDER LEHRMAN HALL

The panel of judges includes Harolyn Blackwell, John Hauser, Nora London, and George Shirley; David Holkeboer is the pianist.

George London; the 2018 George London Award winners with Nora London, center

Last February, the 2018 George London Award winners were announced: soprano Lauren Margison, mezzo-sopranos Raehann Bryce-Davis, Rihab Chaieb, and Emily D'Angelo, baritone Benjamin Taylor, and bass-baritone Lawson Anderson (pictured above with Nora London).

On February 22, 2019, some of the best young American and Canadian opera singers will perform with pianist Craig Rutenberg before a panel of judges and an enthusiastic audience at The Morgan Library & Museum. At the event's conclusion, a few of them will be named this year's winners of the **George London Award**, an honor that has been conferred upon hundreds

of the best young singers since 1971. The award, currently a $10,000 prize, is named for the legendary Canadian-American bass-baritone, one of the greatest opera singers of 20th century.

This event is the final round of the 48th annual **George London Foundation Awards Competition**, one of the oldest and most prestigious vocal competitions in the U.S. and Canada. Over three days of preliminary auditions on February 18-20, approximately 90 singers will compete to reach the finals**.** On Friday, February 22, at 4:00 PM, at the Morgan's Gilder Lehrman Hall, each finalist performs one selection, and the audience is invited to a reception while the judges deliberate. The audience is then asked back into the hall for the announcement of the winners.

This year's panel of judges includes soprano Harolyn Blackwell, George London Foundation Executive Director John Hauser, George London Foundation President Nora London, and tenor and voice professor George Shirley. The competition pianist is David Holkeboer.

Many George London Award winners have gone on to international stardom – the list of past winners includes Christine Brewer, Joyce DiDonato, Renée Fleming, Christine Goerke, Catherine Malfitano, James Morris, Matthew Polenzani, Sondra Radvanovsky, Neil Shicoff, and Dawn Upshaw. (See list below.)

To round out the foundation's season of events, the **George London Foundation Recital Series**, which presents pairs of outstanding opera singers, many of whom were winners of a George London Award, continues its 23rd year:

- **Anthony Dean Griffey**, tenor, and **Amy Owens**, soprano, with Warren Jones, piano. Griffey, arguably the world's reigning interpreter of the title role of Britten's *Peter Grimes*, appears in the 2018-19 Metropolitan Opera U.S. premiere production of Nico Muhly's *Marnie*. Amy Owens, who received critical acclaim when she stepped into the U.S. premiere of Milhaud's *La mère coupable* with On Site Opera in New York City last summer, won a $5,000 prize at the 2018 George London competition, and was praised by New York Classical Review for the "steely, pinpoint-accurate rendition of 'I am the wife of Mao Tse Tung,'" from Adams's *Nixon in China*. ***Sunday, March 24, 2019, at 4:00 pm***

- **Julie Adams**, soprano, and **Emily D'Angelo**, mezzo-soprano, with Ken Noda, piano. Adams, a 2015 George London Award winner, starred in the West Coast premiere of Kevin Puts's *Silent Night* with Opera San Jose last year, prompting Opera Today to say, "Her rich, creamy, agile soprano was of the highest quality, the kind that prompts excited 'who-is-she?' intermission chatter (and beyond)." D'Angelo won her George London Award earlier this year, and was praised thus by New York Classical Review: "D'Angelo [was] among the most impressive, with a sublime rendition of Rosina's 'Una voce poco fa' from *Barbiere di Siviglia*, fitting her smoky mezzo-soprano over the contours of the aria like an impeccably tailored glove." ***Sunday, May 5, 2019, at 4:00 pm***

The Legacy of George London
The goal of the London Foundation, the support and nurturing of young singers, was an abiding interest of the great Canadian-American bass-baritone George London, who devoted a great part of the time and energy of his later years to this purpose. "Remembering his difficult road to success, George wanted to devise a way to make the road a little easier for future generations of singers," said George London Foundation President Nora London. Initially created under the auspices of the National Opera Institute, the George London Awards program has been administered since 1990 directly by the Foundation as a living legacy to George London's own exceptional talent and generosity. As The New York Times recently noted, "this prestigious competition … can rightfully claim to act as a springboard for major careers in opera." Visit www.georgelondon.org.

Friday, February 22, 2019, at 4:00 PM
Gilder Lehrman Hall at The Morgan Library & Museum
225 Madison Avenue at 36th Street, New York City

The George London Foundation for Singers Presents
The 48th Annual George London Foundation Awards Competition –
Final Round and Awards Presentation

Tickets: $55
For reservations and information, call 646-461-3578, or e-mail info@georgelondon.org
www.georgelondon.org

George London Award Winners 1971-2018 – A Selected List

Paul Appleby
Dominic Armstrong
Kathleen Battle
Isabel Bayrakdarian
Rockwell Blake
Russell Braun
Christine Brewer
Measha Brüggergosman
Vinson Cole
Barbara Daniels
Alexandra Deshorties
Michelle DeYoung
Joyce DiDonato
Maria Ewing
Ruth Falcon
Renée Fleming
Christine Goerke
Sheri Greenawald
Jill Grove
Eric Halfvarson
Alan Held
Barbara Hendricks
Gwendolyn Jones
Isola Jones
Kyle Ketelsen
Dominique Labelle
Anthony Laciura
Catherine Malfitano
Mary Ann McCormick

Angela Meade
Bejun Mehta
Susanne Mentzer
Erie Mills
Leona Mitchell
Latonia Moore
James Morris
Mark Oswald
Eric Owens
Sean Panikkar
Susanna Phillips
Dimitri Pittas
Deborah Polaski
Matthew Polenzani
Florence Quivar
Sondra Radvanovsky
Gianna Rolandi
Lisa Saffer
Neil Shicoff
Marietta Simpson
Diana Soviero
Maria Spacagna
Richard Stilwell
Dawn Upshaw
James Valenti
Carol Vaness
Willard White
Corinne Winters

Updated February 18, 2019