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## THE GEORGE LONDON FOUNDATION FOR SINGERS ANNOUNCES ITS 2014-15 SEASON OF EVENTS:

- **THE RECITAL SERIES:**  
**AMANDA MAJESKI & RYAN MCKINNY**  
**ANGELA MEADE & NICHOLAS PALLESEN**  
**ANTHONY ROTH COSTANZO & NADINE SIERRA**
- **THE 44<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GEORGE LONDON FOUNDATION AWARDS  
COMPETITION**

Six young singers who have won George London Awards in the past six years headline the 2014-15 season of events presented by the George London Foundation for Singers, which has been honoring, supporting, and presenting the finest young opera singers in the U.S. and Canada for more than four decades.

The foundation's recital series has usually presented an established star alongside a recent George London Award winner at its recital events. The 2014-15 season's artists include singers who are on the leading edge of the current generation of opera stars, and all six of them won George London Awards between 2008 and 2013:

- **Amanda Majeski**, soprano, and **Ryan McKinny**, bass-baritone, with Ken Noda, piano. Ms. Majeski is a 2009 George London Award winner; Mr. McKinny won his award in 2011. This will be Mr. McKinny's New York recital debut. *Sunday, November 9, 2014, at 4:30 PM.*
- **Angela Meade**, soprano, and **Nicholas Pallesen**, baritone, with pianists Danielle Orlando (for Ms. Meade) and Craig Rutenberg (for Mr. Pallesen). Ms. Meade is a 2008 George London Award winner; Mr. Pallesen won his award in 2013. This will be Mr. Pallesen's New York recital debut. *Sunday, January 11, 2015, at 4:30 PM.*
- **Anthony Roth Costanzo**, countertenor, and **Nadine Sierra**, soprano, with Bryan Wagorn, piano. Both Mr. Costanzo and Ms. Sierra won their George London Awards in 2010, and they recently collaborated in a staged performance of Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* at the 2013 Glimmerglass festival. *Sunday, March 22, 2015, at 4:30 PM.*

The 44<sup>th</sup> annual **George London Foundation Awards Competition** begins with three days of preliminary auditions and culminates with the final round and award ceremony open to the public. The 2015 competition takes place February 23—27, and the public is invited to attend the competition finals and awards announcement on *Friday, February 27, 2015, at 4:00 PM.* The 2014 competition winners were Norman Garrett, Cameron McPhail, Marina Harris, Tracy Cox, Jennifer Johnson Cano, Ray Chenez, and Ryan Speedo Green.

All events will take place in Gilder Lehrman Hall at The Morgan Library & Museum, 225 Madison Avenue at 36th Street. A subscription to the series of all three recitals is \$120. Single tickets will be sold beginning September 15 for \$45 each. Tickets to the competition finals are \$20, \$10 for series subscribers.

For tickets to all these events and for information, call (212) 212-956-2809, or e-mail [info@georgelondon.org](mailto:info@georgelondon.org).

### **2014-15 Artists**

Soprano **Amanda Majeski** (2009 George London Award), a native of Gurnee, Illinois, highlighted her 2013-14 season with performances of the role of Vitellia in *La clemenza di Tito* conducted by Andrew Davis with the Lyric Opera of Chicago, about which the Chicago Tribune said, "Vitellia is the dramatic linchpin of 'Clemenza,' and Majeski ... brings fearless vocalism and feistiness to the royal schemer.... Her technique is equal to the murderous demands of Vitellia's bravura arias." Of her performance as the Countess Almaviva in *Le nozze di Figaro* at last summer's Glyndebourne Festival, the Financial Times called the role "a great showcase for her rich, resonant soprano." Next season, she makes her Metropolitan Opera debut as the Countess in a new production of *Le nozze di Figaro*. She returns to the Lyric Opera of Chicago as Marta in *The Passenger* and also to Oper Frankfurt in her first performances of *Der Rosenkavalier* as The Marschallin in a new Claus Guth production. [Amanda Majeski biography](#)

Bass-baritone **Ryan McKinny** (2011 George London Award), a native of southern California, garnered praise for his debut as Kurwenal in Christof Loy's Houston Grand Opera production of *Tristan und Isolde* alongside Ben Heppner and Nina Stemme in 2013, and for performances also with that company in the title role of *Rigoletto* in early 2014, the Houston Chronicle saying, "Ryan McKinny's deep, resonant tones and bursts of power made Rigoletto's inner darkness hit home without theatrical gimmicks." Of last summer's Glimmerglass Opera performance in the title role of *Flying Dutchman*, The Wall Street Journal said, "the production boasted an excellent Dutchman, Ryan McKinny, whose rich bass-baritone and imposing presence brought unusually human, sexy and even pitiable depths to this cursed ship's captain." He also recently made his debut at the Canadian Opera Company as Melot in Peter Sellars's production of *Tristan und Isolde* under Jiří Bělohlávek. [www.ryanmckinny.com](http://www.ryanmckinny.com)

Soprano **Angela Meade** (2008 George London Award), a native of Centralia, Washington, is the winner of the 2012 Beverly Sills Artist Award from the Metropolitan Opera and the 2011 Richard Tucker Award. Her performances in the title role of *Norma* at the Metropolitan Opera in fall of 2013 were met with acclaim, and of her performance as Alice Ford in *Falstaff* at the

Met in December, The New York Times said, "The soprano Angela Meade, fresh from an enormous success as Bellini's 'Norma' at the Met, is a plush-voiced, wise Alice Ford." This season also saw her Frankfurt Opera debut as Fidelia in concert performances of Puccini's *Edgar*, and she makes her Italian debut in May at the Teatro Regio di Torino as Mathilde in Rossini's *Guglielmo Tell*. She also makes her debut in the title role of *Lucrezia Borgia* at the 2014 Caramoor festival in July. <http://angelameade.com>

Baritone **Nicholas Pallesen** (2013 George London Award), a native of Riverside, California, this past season made his Metropolitan Opera debut as Lysander in *The Enchanted Island* and his Lyric Opera of Chicago debut as Baron Douphol in *La Traviata*, and reprised the title role in Marschner's *Der Vampyr* with the New Orleans Opera, about which the Times-Picayune said, "In the title role, Nicholas Pallesen offers a resounding baritone and a commanding presence ... he does evoke the erotic appeal of vampire legends, not merely preying on his victims but seducing them." Last season, Mr. Pallesen made his title-role debut in *Rigoletto* with the Shreveport Opera. He is a 2012 recipient of a Richard Tucker Career Grant from the Richard Tucker Foundation and as a former Grand Finalist in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions can be seen in the documentary *The Audition*. <http://nicholaspallesen.com>

Countertenor **Anthony Roth Costanzo** (2010 George London Award), a native of Durham, North Carolina, this past season played Prince Orlofsky in the Metropolitan Opera's new production of *Die Fledermaus* (which was presented live in HD), and reprised the role of Ferdinand in the Met's *The Enchanted Island*, about which performance the New York Classical Review said, "Roth's light tone and long-breathed mezza-voce lines wove a spell that brought on a huge ovation." At last summer's Glimmerglass Festival he performed in a staged version of Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*, with Nadine Sierra, about which The New York Times said, "The Pergolesi work ... fluctuates between somberness and ecstasy, shadow and light: a complex mix brilliantly personified by the soprano Nadine Sierra and the countertenor Anthony Roth Costanzo," and Opera Today said, "Mr. Costanzo can sing with full-throated abandon with no loss of color, his florid passages are dramatically charged perfection, and his introspective musings are achingly beautiful." This summer he makes his European debut as Eustazio in *Rinaldo* at Glyndebourne. [www.anthonyrothcostanzo.com](http://www.anthonyrothcostanzo.com)

Soprano **Nadine Sierra** (2010 George London Award), a native of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in January made her debut at the Seattle Opera as Gilda in *Rigoletto*; the Seattle Times said, "Nadine Sierra proved an appealing, vulnerable Gilda with the ability to float a lovely coloratura line (even while lying on the stage)." This past March, she returned to the Boston Lyric Opera for *Rigoletto*, about which The Boston Globe said, "Nadine Sierra sang Gilda with wide-eyed innocence, lucid phrasing, and a sweetness of tone that won over this opening night crowd in a big way." The season also saw her debut at the Virginia Opera as Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte*. She recently made debuts at the Teatro di San Carlo in Naples in *Rigoletto*, and with the San Francisco Symphony in concerts with Michael Tilson Thomas. [Nadine Sierra biography](#)

### **The George London Foundation Awards and Recital Series**

The George London Foundation Awards competition is one of the oldest vocal competitions in the United States and Canada, and it offers among the most substantial awards. Through the annual juried competition for outstanding young American and Canadian opera singers (under

the age of 35 who must have performed at least one professional engagement), awards are given to the most promising performers: at the 2014 competition, a total of \$83,000 was given in the form of seven George London Awards of \$10,000, and eight Encouragement Awards of \$1,000, with Honorable Mention awards of \$500 going to the 10 remaining finalists.

As is not always the case in musical competitions, no fee is charged to the applicants or competitors, a pianist is provided for the competition rounds, and the prizes are awarded immediately.

The recital series began at the Morgan in 1995 as a way to give grantees exposure and experience, and, in many cases, a New York debut. Each season consists of three recitals featuring recent award winners sometimes paired with a well-known international artist – often a past George London Award winner – that have in recent years included Joyce DiDonato, Eric Owens, Stephen Costello, Ailyn Perez, Matthew Polenzani, Christine Brewer, Renée Fleming, Thomas Hampson, Ben Heppner, René Pape, Samuel Ramey, Frederica von Stade, Bryn Terfel, and Dawn Upshaw.

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***George London Award Winners 1971-2014 – A Selected List***

Paul Appleby	Mary Ann McCormick
Dominic Armstrong	Bejun Mehta
Kathleen Battle	Susanne Mentzer
Isabel Bayrakdarian	Erie Mills
Rockwell Blake	Leona Mitchell
Russell Braun	Latonia Moore
Christine Brewer	James Morris
Measha Brüggergosman	Eric Owens
Vinson Cole	Sean Panikkar
Barbara Daniels	Susanna Phillips
Alexandra Deshorties	Dimitri Pittas
Michelle DeYoung	Deborah Polaski
Joyce DiDonato	Matthew Polenzani
Maria Ewing	Florence Quivar
Ruth Falcon	Sondra Radvanovsky
Renée Fleming	Gianna Rolandi
Christine Goerke	Emalie Savoy
Jill Grove	Neil Shicoff
Eric Halfvarson	Marietta Simpson
Alan Held	Diana Soviero
Barbara Hendricks	Maria Spacagna
Gwendolyn Jones	Richard Stilwell
Isola Jones	Dawn Upshaw
Kyle Ketelsen	James Valenti
Dominique Labelle	Carol Vaness
Anthony Laciura	Willard White
Catherine Malfitano	Corinne Winters

## THE GEORGE LONDON FOUNDATION FOR SINGERS 2014-15 SEASON

Sunday, November 9, 2014, at 4:30 PM

The Morgan Library & Museum

***George London Foundation Recital***

**AMANDA MAJESKI, Soprano**

**RYAN MCKINNY, Bass-baritone – *New York Recital Debut***

**Ken Noda, Piano**

Tickets: \$45

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Sunday, January 11, 2015, at 4:30 PM

The Morgan Library & Museum

***George London Foundation Recital***

**ANGELA MEADE, Soprano**

**NICHOLAS PALLESEN, Baritone – *New York Recital Debut***

**Danielle Orlando, Piano**

**Craig Rutenberg, Piano**

Tickets: \$45

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Friday, February 27, 2015, at 4:00 PM

The Morgan Library & Museum

**44<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GEORGE LONDON FOUNDATION AWARDS COMPETITION**

**Final Round and Awards Announcement**

Tickets: \$10 for series subscribers, \$20 for general public

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Sunday, March 22, 2015, at 4:30 PM

The Morgan Library & Museum

***George London Foundation Recital***

**ANTHONY ROTH COSTANZO, Countertenor**

**NADINE SIERRA, Soprano**

**Bryan Wagorn, Piano**

Tickets: \$45

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***Subscription to the three-recital series: \$120***

***For tickets and information, call: (212) 212-956-2809, or E-mail: [info@georgelondon.org](mailto:info@georgelondon.org)***

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