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GEORGE LONDON FOUNDATION FOR SINGERS 2019-20 SEASON:

- ***THE RECITAL SERIES:***
LATONIA MOORE, Soprano, and RYAN SPEEDO GREEN, Bass-baritone
RIHAB CHAIEB, Mezzo-soprano, and LAWSON ANDERSON, Bass-baritone
- ***THE 49TH ANNUAL GEORGE LONDON FOUNDATION COMPETITION***
- ***GALA BENEFIT RECEPTION CELEBRATING GEORGE LONDON'S 100TH BIRTHDAY***



Latonia Moore, Ryan Speedo Green, Rihab Chaieb, Lawson Anderson ([click for hi-res photos](#))

The legendary Canadian-American bass-baritone George London, one of the greatest opera singers of 20th century, was born on May 30, 1920. After his singing career ended in 1968, he became the artistic administrator of the John F. Kennedy Center, and later, the director of the Washington Opera, but he also devoted much of his time and effort to the support and nurturing of young opera singers. While London passed away in 1985, The George London Foundation for Singers has been honoring, supporting, and presenting the finest young opera singers in the U.S. and Canada with activities including an annual competition and recital series, that Opera News has called “a living testament to the peerless bass-baritone's talent and generosity.”

The 2019-20 season of events presented by the George London Foundation for Singers continues this legacy with two duo recitals featuring four George London Award winners, and the esteemed George London Foundation Competition which, as The New York Times said, “can rightfully claim to act as a springboard for major careers in opera.” And the foundation will also host a gala benefit reception to mark the centennial of its namesake.

The recitals and competition finals take place at Gilder Lehrman Hall at The Morgan Library & Museum in Manhattan. Tickets include admission to the Morgan.

The George London Foundation Recital Series, which presents pairs of outstanding opera singers, many of whom were winners of a George London Award, continues in its 24th year:

- **Latonia Moore**, soprano, and **Ryan Speedo Green**, bass-baritone, with Ken Noda, piano. Moore, a 2002 George London Award winner, this past fall won acclaim in an English National Opera production of *Porgy and Bess*, Anthony Tommasini saying in The New York Times, “Perhaps best of all is the impassioned, radiant soprano Latonia Moore as Serena.” Green, who won his George London Award in 2014, won the Marian Anderson Vocal Prize in 2018 and was the subject of a recent profile on *60 Minutes*. **Sunday, October 20, 2019, at 4:00 pm**
- **Rihab Chaieb**, mezzo-soprano, and **Lawson Anderson**, bass-baritone, with Ken Noda, piano. Both singers are 2018 George London Award winners; in its coverage of the competition, New York Classical Review described Anderson’s voice in his award-winning performance as “like granite, perfectly firm, but with a richly veined tone,” and Chaieb’s performance as “captivating.” **Sunday, April 19, 2020, at 4:00 pm.**

The 49th annual **George London Foundation Competition** begins with three days of preliminary auditions and culminates with the final round and award ceremony open to the public. The 2020 competition takes place February 17-19, and the public is invited to attend the competition finals and awards announcement on **Friday, February 21, 2020, at 4:00 pm.** The 2019 competition winners were soprano Rebecca Pedersen, mezzo-sopranos Samantha Gossard and Carolyn Sproule, and tenors Charles Sy and Kyle van Schoonhoven.

“Celebrating George London’s 100th Birthday,” a gala benefit reception at New York’s famed Metropolitan Club, will gather former colleagues of London’s and past winners of the competition to celebrate the singer’s centennial and honor the work that the foundation continues in his name. **Thursday, March 19, 2020, at the Metropolitan Club**

The George London Foundation Competition and Recital Series - History

The George London Foundation Competition, initiated in 1971, 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 2019 competition, a total of \$61,000 was given in the form of five George London Awards of \$10,000 each and 11 Encouragement Awards of \$1,000 each. 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 recital debut. Each season consists of three events 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, Anthony Dean Griffey, and Dawn Upshaw.

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 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. Visit www.georgelondon.org.

2019-20 Recital Artists

Latonia Moore, soprano, a native of Houston, TX, made her debut in 1998 at the Palm Beach Opera in West Palm Beach, and was engaged as a student in the same year at the Houston Ebony Opera. She continued as a student of Bill Schuman at the Academy of Vocal Arts, in Philadelphia, where she graduated in 2005. In 2000 she won the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. Moore won critical praise for her 2008 performance with the Opera Orchestra of New York in Puccini’s *Edgar*, and in 2012 she made her Metropolitan Opera debut as a late replacement for Violeta Urmana on short notice in the title role of *Aïda* in a live broadcast. In 2016, Moore performed for the newly revived New York City Opera in Puccini’s *Tosca* at the Rose Theater in Lincoln Center; later that year, she sang the lead role of Cio-Cio San in the San Diego Opera’s performance of Puccini’s *Madama Butterfly*. In addition to her George London Award and Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions win, she has won a Richard Tucker Foundation Grant (2005), and the first prize and audience award at Concours International d’Opéra in Marseille (2003), among others. [Management page](#)

Ryan Speedo Green, bass-baritone, a native of Suffolk, VA, has been praised by Anthony Tommasini of the New York Times for his “robust voice” and Anne Midgette of The Washington Post as an artist “fully ready for a big career,” and is quickly establishing himself as an artist of international demand at the world’s leading opera houses. In the 2018 – 2019 season Mr. Green returns to the Metropolitan Opera to sing the King in *Aïda*, conducted by Nicola Luisotti

and broadcast to theaters around the world as part of the Met's Live in HD program, and for a reprise of Colline in *La bohème*. Mr. Green also returns to the Wiener Staatsoper as a member of the ensemble with roles including Sarastro in *Die Zauberflöte*, Raimondo in *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Der Einarmige in *Die Frau ohne Schatten*, and Lodovico in *Otello*, among others. In the fall of 2016, Little, Brown published *Sing for Your Life*, by New York Times journalist Daniel Bergner. The book tells the story of Mr. Green's personal and artistic journey: from a trailer park in southeastern Virginia and from time spent in Virginia's juvenile facility of last resort to the Met stage. www.ryanspeedogreen.com

Rihab Chaieb, mezzo-soprano, a native of Montréal, Quebec, is a recent graduate of the Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artist Program, and a Third Prize winner at the 2018 edition of Plácido Domingo's Operalia Competition. Rihab Chaieb is a former member of the Canadian Opera Company's Ensemble Studio and participant in San Francisco Opera's Merola Program where she made important role debuts as Sesto (*La clemenza di Tito*) and Cherubino (*Le nozze di Figaro*) respectively. A Glyndebourne Festival debut as Mércédès in David McVicar's production of *Carmen* under Jakub Hruška was followed by an acclaimed Metropolitan Opera debut as Zulma in Rossini's *L'italiana in Algeri*, with further experience including Flora (*La traviata*) at Glyndebourne, Lola (*Cavalleria rusticana*), Laura (*Luisa Miller*) and Sandman (*Hänsel und Gretel*) at The Met, Tebaldo (*Don Carlo*) at Opéra National de Bordeaux, and Juno and Ino (*Semele*) in Toronto. The 2018-19 season included debuts as Offenbach's *Fantasio* at Opéra et Orchestre National de Montpellier and Kasturbai in Philip Glass' *Satyagraha* at Opera Vlaanderen, alongside productions of *Così fan tutte* (Dorabella), *Le nozze di Figaro* (Cherubino) and *Don Giovanni* (Zerlina) at Teatro Santiago de Chile, Cincinnati Opera and The Met respectively. Marking her company debut at Houston Grand Opera, Chaieb also creates several roles in the world-premiere of Tarik O'Regan's *The Phoenix*. www.rihabchaieb.com

Lawson Anderson, bass-baritone, a native of Atlanta, GA, hailed for his "powerful, darkly-hued voice and nobility of phrasing and carriage" (Cleveland Classical), is quickly establishing himself as one of the leading bass-baritones of his generation. A former management consultant with an MBA from Columbia Business School, Anderson has made waves in the opera world coming off of his George London Award win at the 2018 George London Foundation Competition; First Prize award from the Gerda Lissner Foundation's 2017 International Vocal Competition; 2017 Opera Index Top Prize Arthur E. Walters Memorial Award; representing the USA as a finalist of the 2017 Hans Gabor Belvedere finals in Moscow and the 2018 Viñas Contest in Barcelona; a Grand Finalist of the 2017 Anita Cerquetti Voice Competition; 2017 Grant Winner from the Giulio Gari Foundation; and 2017 Eastern Region Finalist in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. In 2019, Anderson joins the principal roster of the Semperoper Dresden, taking on the roles of Figaro (*Le nozze di Figaro*), Guglielmo (*Così fan Tutte*), Schaunard (*La bohème*), Angelotti (*Tosca*), Marcel (*Les Huguenots*), Sprecher (*Die Zauberflöte*), Barone Doupohl (*La traviata*), and more. www.lawsonanderson.com

George London Award Winners 1971-2019 – A Selected List

Julie Adams	Catherine Malfitano
Lawson Anderson	Mary Ann McCormick
Paul Appleby	Angela Meade
Dominic Armstrong	Bejun Mehta
Kathleen Battle	Susanne Mentzer
Isabel Bayrakdarian	Erie Mills
Rockwell Blake	Leona Mitchell
Michelle Bradley	Latonia Moore
Russell Braun	James Morris
Christine Brewer	Eric Owens
Measha Brüggergosman	Sean Panikkar
Rihab Chaieb	Ailyn Perez
Vinson Cole	Susanna Phillips
Emily D'Angelo	Dimitri Pittas
Barbara Daniels	Deborah Polaski
Alexandra Deshorties	Matthew Polenzani
Michelle DeYoung	Florence Quivar
Joyce DiDonato	Sondra Radvanovsky
Maria Ewing	Gianna Rolandi
Ruth Falcon	Emalie Savoy
Renée Fleming	Neil Shicoff
Christine Goerke	Marietta Simpson
Ryan Speedo Green	Diana Soviero
Alan Held	Richard Stilwell
Barbara Hendricks	Dawn Upshaw
Isola Jones	James Valenti
Kyle Ketelsen	Carol Vaness
Dominique Labelle	Willard White
Anthony Laciura	Corinne Winter
Will Liverman	

GEORGE LONDON FOUNDATION FOR SINGERS 2019-20 SEASON

Sunday, October 20, 2019, at 4:00 pm

The Morgan Library & Museum

George London Foundation Recital

LATONIA MOORE, Soprano

RYAN SPEEDO GREEN, Bass-baritone

Ken Noda, Piano

Tickets: \$55

Friday, February 21, 2020, at 4:00 pm

The Morgan Library & Museum

49th ANNUAL GEORGE LONDON FOUNDATION COMPETITION

Final Round and Awards Announcement

Tickets: \$55

Thursday, March 19, 2020

Metropolitan Club

“Celebrating George London’s 100th Birthday”

Gala Benefit Reception

Tickets: \$350. For information: info@georgelondon.org, (646) 461-3578

Sunday, April 19, 2020, at 4:00 pm

The Morgan Library & Museum

George London Foundation Recital

RIHAB CHAIEB, Mezzo-soprano

LAWSON ANDERSON, Bass-baritone

Ken Noda, Piano

Tickets: \$55

Subscriptions to the series of three events, the two recitals and competition finals, are \$150. Tickets and information: (646) 461-3578, info@georgelondon.org

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