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The 50th Annual George London Foundation Competition for American and Canadian Opera Singers Will Take Place In-Person in February 2021 – Application Deadline Is January 15



George London as the Count in The Marriage of Figaro, and 2020 George London Award winners with Nora London

The 50th annual **George London Foundation Competition** for young American and Canadian opera singers, one of the oldest and most prestigious vocal competitions in North America, will take place as scheduled in February 2021 in New York City. The competition's first-prize George London Award, an honor that has been conferred upon hundreds of the best young singers since 1971, is named for the legendary Canadian-American bass-baritone who is one of the greatest opera singers of 20th century.

The deadline for online application submission, at www.georgelondon.org/competition, is January 15. The semi-final auditions for invited singers will take place in person February 15-17, 2021, and the finals will take place (without audience this year) February 19. All events will observe rigorous Covid-19 protocols, with judges, singers, and staff appropriately distanced and masked, except during singing.

The competition will confer five George London Awards of \$10,000 each. The remaining finalists will receive Encouragement Awards of \$1,000. The competition jury includes soprano Harolyn Blackwell, bass James Morris, mezzo-soprano Susan Quittmeyer, and George London Foundation Executive Director John Hauser. The pianist is Michael Fennelly.

The 2020 George London Award winners were sopranos Jessica Faselt and Jana McIntyre and mezzo-sopranos Katherine Beck, Lindsay Kate Brown, and Anne Maguire. The 2020 competition took place in February, just before the Covid-19 pandemic brought concerts to an international halt.

George London Foundation Competition

Since 1971, the annual competition of The George London Foundation for Singers has given more than 300 awards, and a total of more than \$2 million, to an outstanding roster of young American and Canadian opera singers who 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. As The New York Times recently noted, “this prestigious competition ... can rightfully claim to act as a springboard for major careers in opera.”

The George London Foundation Awards Competition offers among the most substantial awards of any international vocal competition. As is seldom the case, no fee is charged to the applicants or competitors, a pianist is provided for the competition rounds, and prizes are awarded immediately.

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. The organization also presents the annual George London Foundation Recital Series, which presents pairs of outstanding opera singers, many of whom were winners of a George London Award. www.georgelondon.org.

December 8, 2020

George London Award Winners 1971-2020 – A Selected List

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