



# NEWS

## Opera Theater of Pittsburgh

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### OPERA THEATER PRESENTS THIRD ANNUAL MILDRED MILLER INTERNATIONAL VOICE COMPETITION DURING NATIONAL OPERA WEEK, NOVEMBER 2 & 3

*FREE PUBLIC SEMI-FINALS ON NOVEMBER 2 • TICKETS ON SALE FOR NOVEMBER 3 FINALS*

PITTSBURGH, PA (October 16, 2013) — **The future stars of opera will shine during the third annual Mildred Miller International Voice Competition presented by Opera Theater of Pittsburgh and the Gailliot Family Foundation on Nov. 2 and 3 during National Opera Week. Three top winners receive cash prizes totaling \$9,000 and resident artist positions in Opera Theater's SummerFest 2014.**

Named in honor of the Opera Theater's founder, the **Mildred Miller International Voice Competition** attracted 183 emerging young professionals (ages 19-35) from throughout North America (US, Canada, Mexico), Bulgaria, France, Russia, Korea, and Taiwan.

The international panel of judges includes **Mildred Miller Posvar, Robert Chafin, Marianne Cornetti, Robert Croan, Kevin Glavin, Eugene Perry, and Maria Spacagna.**

Three prizes to be awarded are sponsored by regional arts patrons:

- The Ralph Zitterbart First Prize of \$5,000, made possible by Lynn Beckstrom and Brian C. Schreiber.
- The Drs. Michelina Fato and Carl Synderman Second Prize of \$3,000.
- The Robert Chafin Third Prize of \$1,000, made possible by the Grambrindi Davies Fund.

Prize winners are also offered the opportunity to perform roles in SummerFest 2014 productions.

Semi-final and final rounds take place Sat. and Sun., Nov. 2–3 at Carnegie Mellon University's Mellon Institute Auditorium, 4400 Fifth Ave., Oakland (Pittsburgh, PA 15213). **Semi-finals** feature up to 20 competitors on Sat., Nov. 2, 11 am–1 pm and 3–5 pm, and are open to the public free of charge.

Up to six singers continue on to the **Finals**, taking place on Sun., Nov. 3 from 3 to 5 pm. In addition to arias by the competitors, the final round features Opera Theater artist **Anna Singer**, soprano, who returns as emcee for the event, and **Jennifer Cherest**, a soprano and Carnegie Mellon University Music alumna who placed second in the 2011 Miller Competition. General admission tickets for finals are \$35 and are available online, by phone, and at the door. Students with a valid ID may purchase tickets at the door for \$10.

A VIP package for \$125 includes preferred seating and a post-concert reception hosted by **Mildred Miller Posvar** at her home—where audience members can meet the contestants and judges. All events take place at Carnegie Mellon University's Mellon Institute Auditorium in Oakland at 4400 Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh PA, 15213, entrance on Bellefield St. (not Fifth Ave). Order by phone at: (412) 326-9687 or online at [otsummerfest.org](http://otsummerfest.org), where competition details and a review of 2011 and 2012 winners can be found.

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Previous competition winners are already embarking on stellar careers. Countertenor **Andrey Nemzer**, 2011 first-place winner, was cast in leading roles in SummerFest productions and went on to win the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. Nemzer now has a contract at the Met. Tenor **Juan José de León**, 2012 winner, was showcased at SummerFest, moved on to Wolf Trap Opera, and has also won a contract at the Met.

“Our competition is different – as well as awarding monetary prizes, we offer young singers leading roles in productions, helping them develop their performing experience and build their repertoire,” says Opera Theater’s Artistic Director **Jonathan Eaton**.

**Mildred Miller Posvar**, one of America’s best-loved opera stars with a 25-year long career at the Metropolitan Opera, says about ‘her’ international voice competition: “It is wonderful to be able to support a new generation of talented young singers, and to help launch their careers onto the professional opera stage.”

### **About National Opera Week**

National Opera Week, Oct. 25-Nov. 3, 2013, is led by **OPERA America**, the national service organization for opera, with support from the National Endowment for the Arts. National Opera Week celebrates the vibrancy of opera in America today, and brings the inventiveness and excitement of opera to a national audience. The strength and diversity of established opera companies, community opera ensembles, and opera training programs across the United States will be shared through free, dynamic activities designed to engage novices, opera lovers, and everyone in between.

### **About Opera Theater of Pittsburgh and SummerFest**

Since its founding in 1978 by [Mildred Miller Posvar](#), Opera Theater of Pittsburgh has served a diverse market of music drama audiences in Western Pennsylvania. In its 35-year history, Opera Theater has presented more than 50 Pittsburgh premieres, many of them American operas that would not have been produced by other regional companies.

SummerFest productions feature a company of performers that includes top national and regional singers, Mildred Miller International Voice Competition winners, and rising stars from its Young Artist Program. The six-week Young Artist Program combines performance opportunities for emerging professionals with comprehensive training. Thirty-five young artists—including singers, pianists and stage directors from nine countries—took part in the program during the second annual SummerFest in 2013.

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