

# Song Scape

NEWSLETTER OF THE LOTTE LEHMANN FOUNDATION


[www.lottelehmann.org](http://www.lottelehmann.org)

## SONG COMPOSITION CONTEST

**F**rances Richard, ASCAP Vice President and Director of Concert Music and Daron Hagen, President of the Lotte Lehmann Foundation have announced the creation of the first ASCAP/Lotte Lehmann Foundation Song Cycle Competition for 2005. The competition was established to recognize talented young composers who write for the human voice. Winning works will be selected by a juried national competition from among eligible composers under the age of thirty.

First Prize is a \$3,500 commission for a song cycle for voice and piano, publication



Daron Hagen, Frances Richard and Margo Garrett

by E.C. Schirmer of the completed work, and performances of the song cycle in three major American cities, including New York. Second Prize (\$1,000) and Third Prize (\$500) will be awarded to

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### LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

In November of 1963, in a speech given in tribute to the recently-slain President Kennedy, Leonard Bernstein vowed, "This will be our reply to violence: to make music more intensely, more beautifully, more devotedly than ever before." Thirty years later, his message to musicians and music lovers is more crucial than ever.

Lotte Lehmann left her native Germany for the US in 1938 and became an American citizen. Sixty years later, Gary Hickling founded the Lehmann Foundation to preserve and extend her dream of bringing song and its power to heal to people everywhere. During the past year, I have been grateful for the opportunity to serve the Foundation as its board works to encourage people to sing, compose, and celebrate vocal music. For, as Melville wrote, "Where there is happiness there cannot be harm."

The past year has been a genuinely exciting period of growth and clarification of mission for the Lehmann Foundation. Here is what has been accomplished:

- The formation of the New York City-based Board of Directors
- The creation—in partnership with ASCAP, the national performing rights organization—of one of the three largest art song composition contests in America
- The first Fall Event, held this year at the Leonard Bernstein family's beautiful penthouse in New York City, attended by many old and new friends of the Foundation, who met with board members and celebrated our arrival on the scene
- The successful conclusion of our international art song singing competition, CyberSing 2004
- The engagement of a paid Executive Director and the adoption by the board of a formal one year Development Plan for 2005 which, taken together, will dramatically enhance the Foundation's efforts
- The inauguration of a two-year plan—in partnership with Arabesque Records, the internationally-distributed record label—to record and release commercially a Lotte Lehmann Tribute CD featuring performances and reminiscences by luminaries such as Jeanine Altmeier, Dalton Baldwin, Julianne Banse, Grace Bumbry, Wolfgang Holzmair, Speight Jenkins, Warren Jones, Lotfi Mansouri, Marni Nixon, Kurt Ollmann, Christoph Prégardien, Paul Sperry, Robert White, and others

During the next few months, the Foundation will:

- Honor the great soprano Phyllis Curtin at our first New York Spring Benefit, May 10, at the Century Association, with performances by the winner of this year's Joy In Singing competition and our own CyberSing 2004, as well as a special tribute to Ms. Curtin, written for the occasion and delivered by board member Ned Rorem
- Begin the exciting and important task of formalizing the framework of our educational outreach program, with a special emphasis on collaborations with sister organizations who already have programs in place
- Continue to develop relationships with other organizations in order to further Lehmann's dream of bringing art song to people everywhere a reality

On behalf of the board and our many valued advisors, thank you for your support. I know that everyone involved with the Foundation looks forward in the coming months to making music more intensely, more beautifully, and more devotedly than ever before.

Sincerely yours,  
*Daron Arie Hagen*  
Daron Hagen

## LEHMANN NEWS

**Lehmann Week in Perleberg** The Seventh Annual Lotte Lehmann Week took place this past summer in her hometown of Perleberg, Germany. An opening recital featuring Lieder and arias from Lehmann's repertoire was followed by daily master classes for young singers. These covered such diverse topics as *bel canto*, movement for singers, Schumann and Debussy songs, and lessons in French and Italian diction. A film called "Lotte Lehmann - from Perleberg to the Stages of the World" was screened and an evening of comparisons of Lehmann recordings with other singers was presented. One evening was spent in Gross Pankow, the mansion where Lehmann sang for her first sponsor, Konrad zu Putlitz. His grandson, Dr. Bernhard von Barsewisch, the current resident, was the host to students and teachers. Another concert was given at nearby Wolfshagen Castle. On 5 August 2004 the "Lotte-Lehmann-Promenade" was officially dedicated with singing provided by the students.

A culminating recital in the St. Jacobi Church featured the young prize winners of the Lehmann Week in performance. Festival director Angelo Raciti especially praised the talent of the young tenor Jan Proporowitz, who excelled in his Lieder contributions as well as his performances of a Handel aria and an Italian song.

Press coverage for the event was extensive, focusing not only on the performances, but also the special exhibit of Lehmann photos, books, paintings and memorabilia in the Perleberg city museum.

Details of the Lotte Lehmann Week, including the opportunity to contribute in support of the program, can be obtained at its website: [www.lotte-lehmann-woche.de](http://www.lotte-lehmann-woche.de).

*Lehmann in master class*

### Lehmann Tribute CD "The Music of History"

The Lotte Lehmann Foundation and Arabesque Recordings have announced their collaboration on "A Lotte Lehmann Tribute," which will gather new performances of songs performed by a host of admirers and former students of Lehmann, who ended her career as one of the foremost teachers of interpretation the world has known.

Each of these artists (many of whom are Foundation Advisors) was asked to choose a song that best represented their relationship to Lotte Lehmann--a song they had studied with her, had heard her sing live, or one in which Lehmann had otherwise influenced their interpretation. The list of participating artists includes some of the foremost singers of our time, as well as lesser-known figures who have crucial insights on Lehmann. Spoken

introductions from each of the participants will give the recording added historical interest.

The resulting recording will be used as a fundraiser for the Lehmann Foundation and provide an historic document for the Lehmann Archive at the University of California Santa Barbara, for the Lehmann Archive in Perleberg, Germany, and for the Lehmann Foundation Archive. "We expect to receive a lot of spoken memories that won't fit on the CD," said project coordinator Gary Hickling, "but all of it will be presented on the website and preserved in the archives for future generations." Arabesque Recordings plans to release the CD commercially and distribute the recording internationally, with all artist proceeds going to the Lotte Lehmann Foundation.


Lotte Lehmann

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## Phyllis Curtin Honored

**Save the Date: The Lehmann Foundation's First Spring Benefit**  
by Peter Kazaras

With delight and anticipation, I write to announce the first annual Benefit for the education outreach of the Lotte Lehmann Foundation.

We are delighted to have as our honored guest, the great soprano Phyllis Curtin, well-known and greatly beloved as a champion of American art song, both as performer and, at Boston University and Tanglewood, as an educator. When told that the benefit would be held at the Century Association in New York, Ms. Curtin replied happily, "Oh, yes, that sounds very nice—I remember performing the Dickinson Songs there with Aaron [Copland] many years ago!"

A cozy candlelight dinner in the Century's Billiard Room will be followed by a champagne and dessert reception in the spacious Art Gallery where, surrounded by beautiful paintings and sculpture, Lehmann board member Ned Rorem will deliver a tribute to Ms. Curtin especially written for the occasion, and we'll be treated to a brief performance by not only the winner of our CyberSing contest this year, but also the winner of Joy In Singing's most recent competition.

Benita Valente and Dalton Baldwin, both of who serve as Honorary Chairs of the Lehmann Foundation Board of Directors, are among the other eminent song proponents who will be featured guests. Guests will have the chance to meet an array of experts in the field of classical song, because the entire board plans to attend.

The Lehmann Foundation Benefit will take place on Tuesday 10 May 2005 at 7 pm in the spacious and friendly surroundings of the Century Club at 7 West 43 Street in Manhattan. If you are unable to join us for the entire evening, please do consider joining us for the champagne and dessert reception at 8:30.

The Dinner and Reception together cost \$250 per person (\$1750 per table); the Reception alone costs \$100 per person (\$150 per couple). Please reserve your seats by contacting the Lotte Lehmann Foundation in New York at (212) 760-4720.

### UCSB Announcement

Copies of the Lotte Lehmann Centennial Album, prepared for the 100th Anniversary of Lehmann's birth in 1988 by the UCSB Libraries are still available. Transferred from rare 1941 Columbia radio transcriptions, the LPs include songs and commentary by Lehmann, accompanied by Paul Ulanowsky at the piano. The set is available on LP only. While the LP format may be less convenient than CDs, the only CD reissue of these recordings was a poor quality bootleg. If you'd like copies of the LP set, please send a check for \$5 (per set) to cover shipping, payable to the UC Regents. David Seubert, Davidson Library, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA 93106-9010, seubert@library.ucsb.edu

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commission two new songs for voice and piano. The deadline for entries is September 15, 2005. Applicants must be US citizens, permanent residents of the US, or enrolled students with student visas. One original work per composer may be submitted. A panel of professionals will be convened to select the composers to be commissioned. Guidelines and application can be found at [www.ascap.com/concert/lottelehmann](http://www.ascap.com/concert/lottelehmann).

Frances Richard stated: "ASCAP welcomes the opportunity to encourage today's gifted young composers to perpetuate the tradition of the classical art song, in memory of the great Lotte Lehmann." 2004 marked the 90th anniversary of the founding of ASCAP, the world's largest Performing Rights Organization, with

### New Board Member

Scott Dunn was elected to the board in September 2004. He is a distinguished conductor and pianist who made his Carnegie Hall debut in 1999 with Dennis Russell Davies and the American Composers Orchestra playing the world premiere of his own orchestration of Vernon Duke's "lost" Piano Concerto in C. From 1999-2001 he served as associate music director to maestro Lukas Foss for the Music Festival of the Hamptons. Dunn's first European orchestral conducting engagements in 2000-2001 were followed in 2002 with his appointment as conducting assistant for the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra in Los Angeles. Also a noted vocal collaborator and solo recitalist, Dunn makes frequent appearances at major venues through the US and Europe. His new solo recording of the complete piano works of Lukas Foss is scheduled for a February 2005 release by Naxos.

### New Adviser

Eminent composer, conductor and pianist Lukas Foss was unanimously elected to the Board of Advisors at the December meeting. "Lukas was delighted to accept the Foundation's invitation when I spoke with him this morning," commented Daron Hagen. "Lukas is an ardent admirer of Lehmann's artistry and enthusiastically supports the Foundation's mission. I look forward,

as president of the Board, to the privilege of receiving the Maestro's advice, just as I have gratefully benefited from it for years as a composer."



Lukas Foss and Daron Hagen

### Board News

- Mild mannered assistant-vice president in information security by day... Robert Bullington has been a busy baritone lately, performing in the Gérard Souzay memorial at the Foliage Art Song Festival in Vermont in September and singing solo recitals in Pennsylvania, Connecticut and New Jersey in October, November and January. His pianists for these recitals included Dalton Baldwin, Sara Kohane and Arthur Wilson.

- During November, Alex Farkas journeyed to the UK, where he gave classes and lessons for singers and instrumentalists in the Alexander Technique, including two days of classes for choir members of the Sheffield Cathedral. These classes were followed by a presentation in Paris for the French Society of Teachers of the Alexander Technique. A similar trip in January included classes and lessons at the Musik-Akademie of Basel, Switzerland.

- Composer/pianist Craig Urquahrt was accepted for two nominations on the 47th annual Grammy Awards Entry list. His nominations included Best New Age Album for his "Streamwalker" and Best New Artist.
- Countertenor Daniel Gundlach has been engaged by Oper Frankfurt to perform in Cavalli's Giasone in the 2005-06 season.

nearly 200,000 composer, lyricist and music publisher members representing all genres of music. ASCAP is committed to protecting the rights of its members by licensing and collecting royalties for the public performance of their copyrighted works, and distributing them to the Society's members based on performances.

Composer Daron Hagen, said, "The Lehmann Foundation is proud to launch this important competition in partnership with ASCAP. We are grateful to Lehmann Foundation board member Margo Garrett for generously underwriting the commission prizes, and to EC Schirmer for pledging to publish the Song Cycle created through this initiative."

## CYBERSING PRIZE WINNERS

This year's competition was in two separate divisions. Valerie Komar, mezzo soprano, won the Division II Top Prize of \$5,000 as well as the Natalie Limonick Lieder Prize in Honor of Jan Popper. In Division I (for singers up to the age of 23), baritone Ari Harkov took the \$1,000 Top Prize in addition to the Required Song Prize and the Albert Schütz Prize for the Best American Song Performance: In Memory of Musicians We've Lost from AIDS. You may hear and read more about these fine singers, as well as the other prize winners on the CyberSing website: [www.lottelehmann.org/artsong/cybersing](http://www.lottelehmann.org/artsong/cybersing).

### Audience Favorite Prize

The Lehmann Foundation website had almost 10,000 "unique visits" in October, with 2,140 visitors voting for the Audience Favorite Prize. In Division I soprano Heather Newhouse was the winner. The Division II Audience Prize was awarded to Christine Monteiro.

### Special Prizes

Division I Winners: Heather Newhouse also won the Nathalie Stutzmann Lieder Prize. Corinne Schaefer was the recipient of the Mary Dibbern Mélodie Prize in Honor of Paul Vellucci and

Kristin Ditlow won the Beebe Freitas Prize for the Best Collaborative Pianist.

Division II Winners: Shannah Tarvin-Pace won the Required Song Prize and the Marni Nixon/Paul Sperry Prize for the Best American Song Performance; Risa Renae Harman tied with Rhonwen Derbez for the Dalton Baldwin Mélodie Prize. Alexandra Ismer won the Lindsey Christiansen Prize for the Best Collaborative Pianist in Honor of Dalton Baldwin.

Besides sharing \$9,750 in prize money, the winners will have their performances, photos and biographies featured on the Lehmann Foundation's website during the coming year.



Ari Harkov



Valerie Komar

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR APPOINTED



William Rhoads was engaged by unanimous vote of the Board of the Foundation at the December meeting as the Lehmann Foundation's Executive Director. Mr. Rhoads is Managing Member of Bill Rhoads & Associates, a representation and project management company, which brings together an exclusive roster of composers, publishers, web designers, and record labels in repertoire, image

promotion, representation of business interests in all use venues, and event/tour production.

Mr. Rhoads has represented the interests of Frank Zappa, Michael Torke, John Zorn, Daron Hagen, Ornette Coleman, Arabesque Records, Subito Music Corporation, and C.F. Peters, along with a host of other prominent artists and firms in the music industry. Rhoads served as Director of the Concert Music Division for Carl Fischer, LLC, New York, NY, and has served the music industry throughout his career in various capacities, including Board Member and Editorial Advisor for CRI (Composers Recordings, Inc.), Co-Artistic Director for Composers Concordance in New York City, Assistant Mastering Engineer for Sony Classical, Board Member of the Music Publishers Association, and Honorary Advisory Board Member of The Women's Philharmonic.

*"I look forward to working with the Lotte Lehmann Foundation in increasing awareness and support for the important initiatives put forth by Gary Hickling, Daron Hagen, and the Board"*

WILLIAM RHOADS

### Donor Support

**STARS** (\$10,000+): Bauer Foundation

**SUPPORTERS** (\$1,000 +): Anonymous; Ruth Ballard; Janet Cooke, Gary Hickling

**CONTRIBUTORS** (\$100+): 2 Anonymous, Tom & Karen Ackland, Dalton Baldwin, Nancy Bannick, Morton Berman, Steven Blier, Violet Chang, Mary Dibbern, Scott Dunn, Alex Farkas, Beebe Freitas, Peter C. Gould, Daron Hagen, John & Rosemary Harbison, Nancy Hedemann, B. Lam Hoffman, Shauna Holiman, Gene Leupp, Natalie Limonick, Music Academy of the West, Norma Nichols, Lorraine Nubar, Mia Owens, Russell Platt, Annabelle F. Prager, Christoph Prégardien, Hans Ramm, Hilde Randolph, Albert Schütz, Paul Sperry, Nathalie Stutzmann, Judith Sutcliffe, Benita Valente, Dan Welcher, Claudia Whitnah, Mark Wong and Guy Merola, Brian Zeger

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**You too can help!**

Your help is needed to keep the projects of the Lotte Lehmann Foundation active. We reach thousands of people with the gift of song through the support of people just like you.

Please take a moment to send your check in the enclosed envelope, or if you prefer, contribute by credit card on our website: [www.lottelehmann.org](http://www.lottelehmann.org).

Many thanks for your support.