

Song Scape

NEWSLETTER OF THE LOTTE LEHMANN FOUNDATION



www.lottelehmann.org

New York City Board of Directors Convenes First Meeting

Nine experts in the field of art song assembled with founder/director Gary Hickling for the first official meeting of the new board of directors of the Lotte Lehmann Foundation on 16 March 2004. Officers were elected and the new president, Daron Hagen, set forth the strategy for the immediate future, outlined in his letter included in this newsletter.

The board is honored to welcome as its Honorary Chairpersons Benita Valente and Dalton Baldwin.

Soprano Benita Valente's distinguished career encompassed four decades in opera, concert and oratorio at the most important venues throughout the world. Her repertoire ranged from Handel operas to world premieres of works commissioned especially for her. She was the 1999 Recipient of Chamber Music America's Highest Award: The Richard J. Bogomolny National Service Award, the first vocalist to receive the award in its twenty-year history. Ms. Valente studied for several years with Lotte Lehmann.

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Dear Friends:

As the new President of the Board of Directors of the Lotte Lehmann Foundation, it is a great pleasure to send you this informal report on the exciting events of the past few months.

Warmest thanks go to Past President Gary Hickling for his tireless efforts to lay the groundwork for the creation of the new board, to the new officers and to the new Board of Directors that have consented to serve, to the distinguished advisors that have given the Foundation the benefit of their expertise during this transition, and to the many dedicated supporters of the Foundation's efforts.

Like my colleagues, I am serving because I believe deeply in the important mission of the Lotte Lehmann Foundation: to preserve and promote worldwide the artistic and pedagogical legacy of Lotte Lehmann, and to preserve and promote worldwide the singing and composition of art song in every language.

Since this is an introductory letter, I've been asked to share a little of my background. Although I have composed five operas and a large catalogue of instrumental works, I have for the past twenty years considered the composition of art song to be central to my life as a creative artist. My principal mentors were Ned Rorem and Leonard Bernstein. Along with fulfilling commissions, giving master classes to composers and singers around the country, conducting, and accompanying my songs, I am proud to serve as a Member of the Corporation of Yaddo, an artist's retreat in upstate New York. My website address is: <http://daronhagen.com>. My wife is a professional composer and singer. We live in New York City.

As President, I will rely upon everyone's support and counsel in order to effectively serve. I am grateful to Gary Hickling for agreeing to advise me on all Foundation matters. I urge all advisors and directors to contact me with your advice and look forward to meeting all of you personally in time.

On March 16th, the new board convened for the first time. Consequently, it is still in the

process of inventing itself and a lot of practical work still needs to be done so that the Foundation's affairs will continue to be smoothly managed. Committees were formed, officers elected, and the floor was opened for a discussion about the future of the Foundation and what we could do to not only continue, but to strengthen the carrying out of its mission.

Our immediate goals are: (1) to complete the organizational work that has begun, (2) to approach and elect to the board a number of new members, to further strengthen and broaden the Foundation's financial, artistic, and professional base, (3) to inaugurate a bi-annual international art song composition contest to alternate with CyberSing, (4) to begin planning the Foundation's first New York City Benefit, (5) to meet with sister organizations in an effort to find ways to jointly promote our missions.

"I believe deeply in the important mission of the Lotte Lehmann Foundation."

— Daron Hagen



An enormous amount has already been accomplished: the potential new board members that have been approached will strengthen and invigorate our board, and my meetings with sister foundations and institutions about the composition contest have met with enthusiastic support.

I look forward to reporting to the board at its next meeting in May, to the election of our newest members, and to our continued close collaboration.

All best wishes,
Daron Hagen

Lotte Lehmann in "Die toten Augen"



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LEHMANN COMMEMORATED IN OPERA NEWS ARTICLE

Lotte Lehmann is believed to have pioneered the modern-day master class at the Music Academy of the West, which she helped found in 1947. Her tenure there is remembered by some of her prize students in an April 2004 article in *Opera News* by journalist David Noh entitled "Sieglinde in Santa Barbara". Among those interviewed are Lehmann Foundation Honorary Chairperson Benita Valente and Lehmann Foundation advisors Marni Nixon and Grace Bumbry. Several rare and choice photos are reproduced, including one of Lehmann frolicking in the Pacific surf.



Lotte Lehmann

LOCAL SONG CONTEST

The seventh Local Song Contest, co-sponsored by the Lotte Lehmann Foundation and Hawaii Public Radio is currently underway. During April and May singers throughout the state of Hawaii are recording their performances of art song for consideration in the competition. Recordings of the semi-finalists will be heard on Hawaii Public Radio's *Great Songs* program on 30 June and the four winners will share a recital in September in the Orvis Auditorium on the University of Hawaii campus.

Samples of the Winners' Recital will be posted to the Lehmann Website and will be broadcast on HPR in December 2004.

More information on this competition, which is entirely separate from CyberSing, can be found on the Hawaii Public Radio website, www.hawaiipublicradio.org. Sound samples of winners from previous years can be heard on the Lehmann Foundation website, www.lottelehmann.org.



2002 Art Song Contest winner Patrick Mason signs autographs for young fans

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Pianist Dalton Baldwin's collaborative work with French baritone Gérard Souzay and Dutch soprano Elly Ameling, among others, has set an unsurpassed standard for art song performance. A distinguished master teacher, he is currently on the faculty of Westminster Choir College. In honor of his seventieth birthday, he was awarded the Lotte Lehmann Foundation's first World of Song Award.

The new board includes the following members:

PRESIDENT DARON HAGEN, prolific internationally-performed American composer of concert music, opera, and of over two hundred published art songs.

VICE PRESIDENT BRIAN ZEGER, Lehmann Foundation Advisor, collaborative pianist of international standing, faculty member at Juilliard and Mannes, critical essayist and frequent host of the Metropolitan Opera Quiz.

SECRETARY, J.J. PENNA, collaborative pianist of superb reputation who teaches at Westminster Choir College and Yale University, has worked with many pre-eminent American singers and has dedicated much of his career to the performance of new music.

TREASURER, REGIS SCHULTIS, long time treasurer and president of CRI (Composers Recordings, Inc.) who has had a distinguished career as an investment research executive for Smith Barney, Citicorp, J.P. Morgan, as well as an independent portfolio manager.

ROBERT BULLINGTON, an Information Technology expert who currently works for Lehman Brothers and is a fine amateur baritone who has cultivated a love of art song as a disciple of Dalton Baldwin.

LINDSEY CHRISTIANSEN, mezzo-soprano, music historian and art song specialist who has taught and performed around the world, is a clinician and master teacher for NATS and currently teaches at Westminster Choir College.

DANIEL GUNDLACH, countertenor of international repute who has performed throughout Europe, the United States and Canada; he is also a vocal coach and accompanist and the author of the forthcoming memoir, *A Perfect Heart*.

PETER KAZARAS, tenor, stage director, vocal and dramatic coach who has specialized in the works of Janáček and Britten, and who has performed at the Metropolitan Opera, Deutsche Staatsoper Berlin, Seattle Opera and throughout the world.

JUDITH KELLOCK, soprano, advisor to the Lehmann Foundation, protégée of the late Jan DeGaetani, intrepid and widely-recorded interpreter of new music "including contemporary art song" and faculty member at Cornell University.

CyberSing 2004 Prizes Funded

This year's CyberSing comprises two separate divisions. Young singers up to the age of 23 are invited to enroll in Division I, while Division II is for all other applicants. Funding for the prizes of both divisions has been generously underwritten by various advisors, board members and friends as follows:

In Division I, anonymous donors have funded the Top Prize (\$1,000) and the Required Song Prize; other awards are the Mélodie Prize in Honor of Paul Vellucci given by Mary Dibbern; the American Song Prize "In Memory of Musicians We've Lost from AIDS" given by Albert Schütz; the Collaborative Pianist Prize given by Beebe Freitas; and the Audience Prize given by Nathalie Stutzmann (all \$250).

Division II includes the Jan de Gaetani Prize for the Best Performance of an American Song given by Marni Nixon and Paul Sperry; the Lieder Prize in Honor of Jan Popper given by Natalie Limonick; the Mélodie Prize given by Dalton Baldwin; the Pianist Award given anonymously in Honor of Dalton Baldwin; the Required Song Prize given by Nancy Bannick and the Audience Prize given by Guy Merola and Mark Wong. These are all \$500. Funding is still sought for the top prize of \$5,000.

In addition, Gene Leupp of Honolulu has underwritten a limited number of scholarships to cover the cost of the entry fee. Those singers and pianists

who have difficulties sending currency out of their country, or for whom the \$25 entry fee is not affordable, are requested to write to info@lottelehmann.org explaining their situation; each applicant will be considered individually.

CyberSing Rules and Applications are now available in Russian, Korean, Japanese, Mandarin, German, Spanish, French and English and are posted on the Lehmann Foundation website at www.lottelehmann.org/CyberSing2004. Music conservatories, voice teachers, agents and singers themselves, are being contacted directly to ensure the widest possible dissemination of this information.

CyberSing is unique in that it celebrates art song rather than opera. As such, repertoire for the competition includes a "required" song that the Lehmann Foundation commissions for the contest. In 2002 the composer was Ned Rorem; this year it is Libby Larsen. Singer and pianist duos are judged on the basis of CDs submitted for judging.

Because good recording quality is necessary for serious consideration, and because in the previous CyberSing, many worthy participants were eliminated on the basis of poor sound quality, the Lehmann Foundation has issued a series of pointers on achieving the best sound possible for recorded submissions. These suggestions have been compiled by Board Member Robert Bullington and are available online at www.lottelehmann.org/CyberSing2004.

Semi-finalists are heard on the Lehmann Foundation website during October and November. Visitors to the website may vote for their favorite duo; the most popular receives the special Audience Prize.

Recordings of CyberSing winners will be posted on the Lehmann Foundation website through 2005.

*The
Lehmann
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for competitors
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NED ROREM JOINS BOARD

The venerated American composer Ned Rorem recently posed for photos with the Lehmann Foundation World of Song Award which he received in 2003. During Hickling's visit to his apartment he also agreed to join the Board of Directors.

At that time he said, "With all the dumbering down of the world it's good to see an organization that gives a damn about the things that we consider crucial."

Having just completed the Mallet Concerto for Evelyn Glennie and celebrated recent premieres of his Cello Concerto and Flute Concerto, Rorem is now collaborating with poet and librettist J.D. McClatchy on an opera based on Thornton Wilder's *Our Town*.



Lehmann Research in New York



In addition to adding performance dates to the growing chronology, the researchers discovered several surprises in the Constance Hope correspondence in the Rare Books and Manuscripts Division of Columbia University's library.

A different version of Lehmann's poem "Wie schön ist dieser tiefe Schummer" was discovered. It begins "Wie schöne dieser tiefe Schimmer". Both versions may be now found on the Lehmann Website at www.lottelehmann.org/lehmann/llf/biography/writings/llf_writings25.html.

Other findings were rare photographs, including one that shows Lehmann with Hermann Prey, Rita Streich and Leontyne Price and another with Jan Popper.

There was a hitherto unknown Lehmann quote, obviously written during the strife of World War II, but applicable to our present-day world as well: "Music, the inner language of the heart, is the deepest and most living expression of all human experience. It inspires and consoles us. From out of the gloom and confusion of our tortured world it lifts us into its sanctuary of peace and freedom and eternal beauty."

Additional manuscripts in the collection include a document regarding Lehmann's collapse during a 1938 Covent Garden *Rosenkavalier* performance, an article on Lehmann in Salzburg and other letters to and from Lehmann's personal agent, Constance Hope.

*Researchers
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While in New York in March, Gary Hickling continued his Lehmann Chronology research with the help of Jerry Minkoff, who has provided research services for the Foundation over the years.