

DCINY

DISTINGUISHED
CONCERTS
INTERNATIONAL
NEW YORK

2012 SEASON

Iris Derke, Co-Founder and General Director
Jonathan Griffith, Co-Founder and Artistic Director

PRESENTS

Co-presented by

NEW YORK OPERA
STUDIO



NICO CASTEL INTERNATIONAL MASTER SINGER COMPETITION

Saturday, February 18, 2012, 8:00 pm
Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall

Bringing the
world's finest
vocalists
together for
a captivating
competition



A. Navarro



E. Piña



C. Mills



L. Miller



S. Schone



E. Jurenas



M. Mootos




I. De Beltran

**Female Finalists: Amaya Arberas Navarro, Courtney Mills, Sara Snider Schone,
and Maryann Mootos**

**Male Finalists: Enrique Piña, LaMarcus Miller, Eric Jurenas,
and Ivan Rivera De Beltran**

Judges: Clay Aiken, Nico Castel, Jonathan Griffith, Timothy Seelig, and Sharon Sweet

Join the conversation:   #DCINY

Distinguished Concerts International New York
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The Art of Performance
The Power of Education

Saturday, February 18, 2012, 8:00 pm
Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall

Distinguished Concerts International New York (DCINY)
Iris Derke, Co-Founder and General Director
Jonathan Griffith, Co-Founder and Artistic Director

and

New York Opera Studio (NYOS)
Nico Castel, Artistic Director
Carol Castel, General Manager

Present

2012 NICO CASTEL INTERNATIONAL MASTER SINGER COMPETITION

ORATORIO

Courtney A. Mills

ROSSINI: INFLAMMATUS

Enrique Pina

VERDI: INGEMISCO

Maryann Mootos

HANDEL: LET THE BRIGHT SERAPHIM

LaMarcus Miller

FAURE: LIBERA ME

Amaya Arberas Navarro

PERGOLES: VIDIT SUUM DULCEM NATUM

Eric Jurenas

HAYDN: FAC ME VERE TECUM FLERE

Sara Snider Schone

MOZART: LAUDAMUS TE

Ivan Rivera De Beltran

HANDEL: THE ENEMY SAID

INTERMISSION

During intermission, you may submit your vote for First Impression Fan Favorite by texting the first name of the contestant to (682) 292-VOTE. Winner will be announced at the conclusion of the program.

Standard text messaging rates apply. One vote per person.

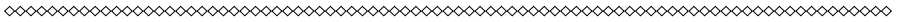
Please make certain your cellular phone or other electronic devices are switched off.

OPERA

Maryann Mootos	VERDI: É STRANO...SEMPRE LIBERA
Enrique Pina	VERDI: LA DONNA É MOBILE
Sara Snider Schone	MOZART: PARTO PARTO
Eric Jurenas	HANDEL: DOVER, GIUSTIZIA, AMOR
Amaya Arberas Navarro	HANDEL: COMBATTI DA FORTE
Ivan Rivera De Beltran	DONIZETTI: UNA FURTIVE LAGRIMA
Courtney A. Mills	VERDI: RITORNA VINCITOR
LaMarcus Miller	VERDI: IL LACERATO SPIRITO

Announcement of Master Singer Winners

Please make certain your cellular phone or other electronic devices are switched off during the performance.



About the Competition

Presented by Distinguished Concerts International New York (DCINY) and the New York Opera Studio (NYOS), the Nico Castel International Master Singer Competition rewards and acknowledges excellent vocal technique and artistry in opera and oratorio. The competition is open to all singers at least 21 years old.

Each 2012 Nico Castel International Master Singer will be awarded \$1000 and a soloist role on the DCINY Concert Season in a major choral master work performed with orchestra.

Previous winners include Holly Sorensen, Mezzo-Soprano, and Nicholas Tamagna, Counter-Tenor.

The 2012 Competition marks the introduction of the First Impression Fan Favorite contest. During intermission, you may submit your vote for First Impression Fan Favorite by texting the first name of the contestant to (682) 292-VOTE. Winner will be announced at the conclusion of the program.

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Thank you for joining us for the second year of this prestigious competition!

Meet the Artists



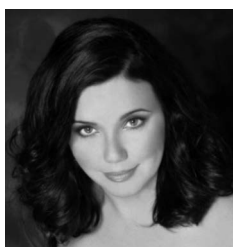
Courtney A. Mills, SOPRANO

Ms. Mills is a native of Illinois and had the opportunity to study at the world-renowned Interlochen Arts Academy. It was there that she discovered her life-long love of opera. After attending Indiana University, Ms. Mills continued her professional studies at the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria, the Metropolitan Opera Lindemann Young Artist Program, Verbier Music Festival Young Artist Program and Cardiff International Academy of Voice. Ms. Mills is equally at home on the operatic stage and in the concert hall. She recently appeared at the Chautauqua Opera as First Lady in *The Magic Flute* and the cover for the title role in Verdi's masterpiece, *Luisa Miller*. While at the Metropolitan Opera, she also made her debut as the High Priestess in Verdi's *Aida*.



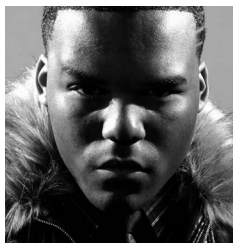
Enrique Pina, TENOR

Mr. Pina began his career in his native Dominican Republic at the Teatro Nacional of Santo Domingo, where he sang a number of roles before he moved to Italy for vocal and musical studies, including six years under the tutelage of the legendary Franco Corelli. After several years of studies Mr. Pina re-emerged as a robust lyric tenor assaying the roles of Gustavo in *Un Ballo in Maschera*, Don Jose in *Carmen*, Edgardo in *Lucia di Lammermoor* in various venues in the New York City area, in Michigan and Florida. Sacco in Anton Coppola's *Sacco e Vanzetti* in Tampa, Florida and Malatestino in Zandonai's *Francesca da Rimini* at the National Theatre in Szeged, Hungary. He has also been active on the concert stage, recently as featured soloist in a concert at Carnegie Hall in New York City and with the National Symphony Orchestra in Santo Domingo.



Maryann Mootos, SOPRANO

Soprano Maryann Mootos has an outstanding voice, capable of both power and beauty. Her versatile and flexible soprano spans many roles, including Micaela, Donna Anna, Marguerite, Nedda, Tosca, Madama Butterfly, and Violetta, among others. She has appeared with Northern Dutchess Symphony Orchestra, Bel Cantanti Opera, Regina Opera, Chelsea Opera, Long Island Opera, Miami Lyric Opera, and Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra. She holds a Master's degree in Opera Performance from Temple University and



LaMarcus Miller, BASS-BARITONE

Mr. Miller has been hailed as “A voice to remember” by The Rockwall Music Festival located in Rockwall, Texas. Mr. Miller is a first year Masters Student at the Manhattan School of Music, studying with Mark Oswald. Operatic repertoire includes: Dancaire in *Carmen*, Il Commendatore in *Don Giovanni* and Simone in *Gianni Schicchi*, also a musical theatre review of *Beauty and The*

Beast debuting as “The Beast.” He has also performed many oratorio works such as Zoltan Kodaly’s *Te Deum*, Handel’s *Messiah*, Haydn’s *Mass no. 6 in G*, Haydn’s *Missa Sancti Nicolai*, and Mozart’s *Requiem*. Upcoming: *Madame Butterfly* (Sugar Creek symphony)



Amaya Arberas Navarro, SOPRANO

Amaya Arberas was born in San Sebastián, Spain, where she pursued studies at the Conservatorio Superior de Música and took voice classes with José Ramón Arteta. In New York, she studied voice with Diana Soviero and Beth Roberts and repertoire with Joan Dornemann. Her repertoire includes opera, zarzuela, oratorio, and concert arias. She sang Handel’s *Messiah*, Mozart’s *Requiem*,

Pergolesi’s *Stabat Mater*, Rossini’s *Petite Messe Solennelle* at various venues in Spain, and interpreted the roles of Barbarina in *Le Nozze di Figaro* (Mozart), Adina in *L’Elisir d’amore* (Donizetti) and Norina in *Don Pasquale* (Donizetti). She has performed at the Conde Duque Auditorium in Madrid, and with the Symphony Orchestra of Puerto Rico. She sang the role of Ana Mari in the zarzuela *El Caserío* by Guridi.



Eric Jurenas, TENOR

As a current student at the College-Conservatory of Music (CCM) in Cincinnati, Ohio, Eric is a frequent performer of both baroque and newly written works. He has worked with several groups as featured soloist, including American Bach Soloists, Kentucky (Lexington) Bach Choir, Bel Canto Chorus of Milwaukee, UC Davis Ensembles, St. Andrews Arts Council, and several Cincinnati-area

groups. Honors include 1st place in the Dayton Opera Guild Competition, 1st place in the Lexington Bach Choir Competition, and 1st place in the Bel Canto Chorus of Milwaukee Competition. He is a student of William McGraw and George Gibson, including early studies with his mother Joan Jurenas.



Sara Snider Schone, MEZZO-SOPRANO

Sara's recent performances include solo and comprimario roles with Chattanooga Symphony and Opera, Jo March in *Little Women* at UT at Chattanooga, the premier of a chamber opera Dekacophony at the New Dischord Music Festival, and soloist with Southern Adventist University Symphony Orchestra in Poland. Last season she placed 3rd at The International Franz Liszt Competition, was quarter finalist in the American Traditions Competition, and placed 5th at the Bauru-Atlanta Competition. She studies voice with David Pennebaker and Reinaldo Macias in Chattanooga, and coaches with Gwendolyn Halstead in Atlanta. She holds a bassoon performance degree from Southern Adventist University.



Ivan Rivera De Beltran, TENOR

Born in Yauco, Puerto Rico, Ivan Rivera was most recently seen as Ferrando in Opera Manhattan's concert version of *Così fan tutte*, Don Basilio in *The Marriage of Figaro* with OperaMission at the Bryant Park Festival, Don Almaviva in Atlantic Opera's production of *Barber of Seville* and Ferrando in the Underworld Productions' mounting of *Così fan tutte* at Symphony Space. *Opera News* applauded Mr. Rivera as "tight, deft tenor who handled Ferrando's music well." Other roles include Tony (*West Side Story*), Tamino (*Die Zauberflöte*), Il Duca (*Rigoletto*), Ralph (*HMS Pinafore*), Don Ottavio (*Don Giovanni*), Tybalt (Romeo et Juliette), Nathanael (*Les Contes d'Hoffmann*), and Nermorino (*L'elisir D'amore*). He's performed as tenor soloist in Bruckner's *Te Deum* and Schubert's *Mass in G* for the Masterwork Chorale Summer Sing Program and sang in Assisi, Italy as part of the 2011 Assisi Music Festival.

Meet the Judges

Clay Aiken, RECORDING ARTIST

Since coming to national attention on the second season of American Idol in 2003, Clay Aiken has evolved into a versatile and beloved popular entertainer. He earned the distinction of being only the eighth artist to ever have his first four albums debut in the Billboard Top 5; his albums have sold over 6 million units as of 2011. In addition to taking the stage on nine separate tours, in 2008 Clay Aiken began his critically lauded stint as the inept yet endearing Sir Robin in the Broadway musical "Monty Python's Spamalot." Aiken penned a memoir in 2004, *Learning to Sing: Hearing the Music in Your Life*, which was an instant New York Times bestseller and held the prestigious spot for seven weeks. A longtime activist on behalf of children, Clay has been an ambassador for UNICEF since 2004.

Nico Castel, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, NYOS

A multi-talented artist and scholar, Nico Castel has been a member of the Metropolitan Opera Company as staff diction coach and artist for the past 37 years. Mr. Castel is the undisputed and internationally acclaimed expert on language, diction and style for singers. Currently on the faculty of The Juilliard School of Music, he teaches master classes in diction and style for singers at universities and opera companies throughout the world. Mr. Castel has authored 20 volumes of Opera Libretti translations as well as the "Manual for Spanish Lyric Diction."

Jonathan Griffith, CO-FOUNDER, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, AND PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR, DCINY

Jonathan Griffith is an active conductor, educator, lecturer, and consultant. His many conducting credits in this country and abroad include the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, Salt Lake City; Manhattan Philharmonic and New England Symphonic Ensemble, both in performances at Carnegie Hall; The European Symphony Orchestra, Spain; Virtuosi Pregensis Chamber Orchestra, Karlovy Vary Symphony Orchestra, and Dvorák Chamber Orchestra, Czech Republic; Bialystok State Philharmonic, Poland; and several regional orchestras and choruses in the U.S. In the summer of 2009, Maestro Griffith led his vocal ensemble, the Jonathan Griffith Singers, on a tour to Uruguay and Argentina in performances of Mozart's *Requiem*.

Timothy Seelig, COMPOSER AND CONDUCTOR, MUSICAL DIRECTOR OF THE SAN FRANCISCO GAY MEN'S CHORUS

Timothy Seelig is a conductor, singer, teacher and motivational speaker. In addition to serving as Artistic Director and Conductor of the Golden Gate Performing Arts and San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, he continues an extremely busy guest-conducting schedule throughout the U.S., Canada and Europe. He has written numerous books and DVDs on choral technique including best-sellers *The Perfect Blend*, and *The Perfect Rehearsal*. In 2011, his new book and DVD, *The Language of Music*, was released. While conducting regularly at Carnegie Hall, Dr. Seelig made his Lincoln Center conducting debut in June of 2011 with DCINY. Dr. Seelig's early training was as a singer. He made his European operatic debut at the Staatsoper in St. Gallen, Switzerland, and his solo recital debut at Carnegie Hall. He has two solo recordings, *Everything Possible* and *Two Worlds*.

**Sharon Sweet, SOPRANO, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF VOICE AT WESTMINSTER
CHOIR COLLEGE OF RIDER UNIVERSITY**

Dramatic soprano Sharon Sweet bowed at the Metropolitan Opera in the spring of 1990 in *Il Trovatore*. She has returned to that theater each subsequent season in a variety of works such as *Don Giovanni* (Donna Anna), *Un Ballo in Maschera*, *Tannhauser*, and *Aida*. She sang the title role in Strauss' *Ariadne auf Naxos* for the first time in the summer of 1999 in concert performances under Zubin Mehta with the Israel Philharmonic. Sharon Sweet has devoted a substantial part of each season to her appearances in concert. She has collaborated with some of the most important musicians of our time such as Claudio Abbado, Daniele Gatti, James Levine, Zubin Mehta, Sir Colin Davis, Rafael Frubeck de Burgos, Helmut Rilling, and the late Sir Georg Solti. Ms. Sweet's discography includes complete recordings of *Don Giovanni* under Sir Neville Marriner for Philips, and *Falstaff*, *Lohengrin*, *Beethoven's Symphony No. 9*, *Mahler's Symphony No. 8* and *Der Freischutz* under Marek Janowski for BMG.

Distinguished Concerts International New York

With over 25 combined years of experience, DCINY is a creative producing entity with unmatched integrity that is a talent incubator, a star-maker, and a presenter of broadly accessible, world-class musical entertainment.

DCINY ARTIST SERIES: DCINY offers performance opportunities for soloists and chamber ensembles of excellence at venues throughout New York City. For more information, contact Johanna Kodlick, Director of Artistic Operations, at Johanna@DCINY.org or 212-707-8566 x 305.

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New York Opera Studio

Designed for the singer who is already studying vocal technique and committed to a professional career, the New York Opera Studio helps young artists bridge the gap between conventional voice education and the professional operatic stage. It is set up as an "open conservatory," offering classes and workshops taught by some of the finest names in opera and theater.

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