



2009 MONC Finalists at the Met

The Metropolitan Opera



Membership

The Metropolitan Opera National Council was founded in 1952 by Mrs. August Belmont to increase national interest in and support for the Metropolitan Opera. Through the generous contributions of its members, the Council provides direct support for the Metropolitan Opera and the National Council Auditions.

The National Council membership is comprised of opera lovers from across the continent who have a special interest in young singers. Many members are directly involved with their local District and Region auditions through administrative and financial support. These members see first hand how the National Council assists young singers at such a crucial time in their artistic development.

Auditions Program

The National Council Auditions is a program designed to discover promising young opera singers and assist in the development of their careers. The auditions are held annually in fifteen Regions of the United States and Canada. There are forty-five Districts within these Regions, each providing an opportunity for talented singers to enter the auditions at the local level. The auditions are administered by National Council members and volunteers in each Region.

Winners of the fifteen Region Finals each receive the \$800 Mrs. Edgar Tobin Award from the Tobin Endowment and advance to New York to compete in the National Semi-Finals, a competition held on the stage of the Metropolitan Opera. Approximately ten of the Semi-Finalists are selected as National Finalists and compete the following Sunday in a public concert accompanied by the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, at which time the jury awards up to five Grand Winner awards of \$15,000 each. The remaining National Finalists receive \$5,000 each, and National Semi-Finalists who did not advance to the National Finals are given \$1,500 to further their studies.

Many of the world's foremost singers, among them Renée Fleming, Thomas Hampson, Susan Graham, Ben Heppner, Deborah Voigt, Samuel Ramey and Frederica von Stade have received awards from the National Council. Annually, approximately 100 former auditioners appear in Metropolitan Opera productions.

Support for this program is generously provided by the Charles H. Dyson National Council Audition Program Endowment Fund at the Metropolitan Opera.



MONC National Advisor and 1969 Winner Frederica von Stade

For more information about membership in the Metropolitan Opera National Council, please contact:

The Metropolitan Opera National Council
 Lincoln Center, New York NY 10023
 Call: 212-870-4515
 Fax: 212-870-7648
 Email: ncouncil@metopera.org
www.metopera.org

Contributions to the Metropolitan Opera are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. The organization's most recent annual report may be obtained by writing to: The Metropolitan Opera, Lincoln Center, New York, New York 10023 or to the Office of the Attorney General, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271.

Photos: Cover photo by Micaela Rossato/Metropolitan Opera, Frederica von Stade by Robert Miller; all other photos by Marty Sohl/Metropolitan Opera

NATIONAL COUNCIL

Join and Be More Involved

Members' Merchandise Discount

National Council Members enjoy a discount on Met Opera Shop merchandise.*

Receive *Opera News* magazine

Get all the latest news about the world of opera, including details on rising stars and performance reviews. In addition, when you go online at www.operanews.com, you'll be able to enter member and subscriber only areas that let you search topics of interest and share ideas with fellow opera lovers.

Attend our annual National Council Weekend in New York City

Join the National Council membership as it celebrates another year of auditions. See the opera stars of the future take the stage at the annual National Council Grand Finals Concert.

Priority ticketing for Met performances

National Council members can take advantage of Met ticket priority according to membership level. Order your tickets during an advanced booking period before tickets go on sale to the general public. Members may purchase tickets by mail, phone or through the Met's website.

Advance booking for the *The Met: Live in HD* transmissions in movie theaters (U.S. and Canadian locations only)

During a priority sale period, members may purchase up to 4 tickets per performance. All tickets are subject to availability.



2008 MONC Winner Simone Osborne coaches with Maestro Stephen Lord

*Some restrictions apply

Membership Privileges

Associate Member—\$500

Invitation to the annual National Council Weekend, with performances and special activities with artists, management and Board members

Associate Member priority ticket service

Discount on Met merchandise

Admission to the Belmont Room before performances and during intermissions

Priority invitation to the Grand Finals Concert during the National Council Weekend

Subscription to *Opera News* magazine

Annual Met Season Book, HD and Radio Guide and Season Calendar

Passes to selected dress rehearsals and invitations to **Metropolitan Opera Galas and Special Events**

Metropolitan Opera Gold Card, your invitation to enjoy upgrades, bonuses and discounts at restaurants, hotels, airlines and car rentals—nationwide

Full Member—\$1,000

All of the above, plus:

Increased ticket priority

Additional dress rehearsal passes

Patron—\$2,250

All of the above, plus:

Personalized Patron ticket service by telephone and mail for all performances at the Metropolitan Opera House

Priority in requests for subscription series and seat improvements

Admission to the Patron Lounge pre-performance and during intermissions

Complimentary Patron coat check

Panel discussions on new productions

Invitations to recitals by members of the Lindemann Young Artist Development Program

Invitation to annual National Patron Weekend for Patrons living outside the New York City Metro area



1988 MONC Finalist Patricia Racette in *Madama Butterfly*



2009 MONC Winner Sung Eun Lee

Privileges and benefits for all categories are annual.

\$40 of National Council Full/Associate Membership contributions is designated for *Opera News* and the Met Season Book.

National Council Patron gifts are fully tax deductible.

Under Federal Law, your gift is tax deductible as a charitable contribution to the extent it exceeds the fair market value of goods and services provided by the Met.

For information regarding gifts of securities, please call 212-870-4502.

Membership Form

Yes, I/We wish to participate in the National Council.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
TEL (DAY) _____ TEL (EVENING) _____
COMPANY _____
TITLE _____ TEL (COMPANY) _____
COMPANY ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
EMAIL _____

My preferred mailing address is: Home Company

Contribution Level

- \$2,250 National Council Patron
 \$1,000 National Council Full Member
 \$500 National Council Associate Member
- I am not joining the National Council, but I do want to support the Metropolitan Opera with a Guild Membership gift of \$125 and take advantage of benefits such as *Opera News*, priority ticketing and a priority invitation to the National Council Grand Finals Concert. All but \$20 is tax deductible.

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____
MADE PAYABLE TO THE METROPOLITAN OPERA

Please charge my contribution of \$ _____

PLEASE CHARGE MY
 Amex Discover MasterCard Visa

NAME (AS IT APPEARS ON CARD) _____

CARD NUMBER _____ EXPIRATION DATE _____

BILLING ADDRESS (OR CHECK IF ONE OF THE ABOVE) HOME COMPANY

SIGNATURE _____

- My company would like to match my contribution. I have attached a matching gift form.
- I have included the Metropolitan Opera in my will.
- Please send me information on how I may receive tax benefits by providing for the Met in my will through a trust or planned gift.
- I decline *Opera News* and any other goods and services that are non-deductible.

Please complete this form and return it with your gift to:
The Metropolitan Opera National Council
Lincoln Center, New York NY 10023