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**THE 2020 GEORGE LONDON AWARD FINALS TAKE PLACE FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21**  
*The 49<sup>th</sup> Annual George London Foundation Competition for Opera Singers Final Round and Awards Announcement Is a Public Event at The Morgan Library & Museum's Gilder Lehrman Hall*

*The panel of judges includes Harolyn Blackwell, Susan Quittmeyer, Lenore Rosenberg, Richard Stillwell, John Hauser, and Nora London.*



*George London; the 2019 George London Award winners with Nora London, center*

On February 21, 2020, some of the best young American and Canadian opera singers will perform with pianist Lydia Brown before a panel of judges and an enthusiastic audience at The Morgan Library & Museum. At the event's conclusion, a few of them will be named this year's winners of the **George London Award**, an honor that has been conferred upon hundreds of the best young singers since 1971. The award, currently a \$10,000 prize, is named for the legendary Canadian-American bass-baritone, one of the greatest opera singers of 20th century.

This event is the final round of the 49th annual **George London Foundation Competition**, one of the oldest and most prestigious vocal competitions in the U.S. and Canada. Over three days of preliminary auditions on February 17-19, approximately 90 singers will compete to reach the finals. On Friday, February 21, at 4:00 PM, at the Morgan's Gilder Lehrman Hall, each finalist

performs one selection, and the audience is invited to a reception while the judges deliberate. The audience is then asked back into the hall for the announcement of the winners.

This year's panel of judges includes soprano Harolyn Blackwell, mezzo-soprano Susan Quittmeyer, Spoleto Festival Artistic Administrator Lenore Rosenberg, tenor Richard Stillwell (one of the first George London Award winners), George London Foundation Executive Director John Hauser, and George London Foundation President Nora London. The competition pianist is Lydia Brown.

The 2019 George London Award winners were soprano Rebecca Pedersen, mezzo-sopranos Samantha Gossard and Carolyn Sproule, and tenors Kyle van Schoonhoven and Charles Sy (pictured above with Nora London).

As The New York Times recently noted, "this prestigious competition ... can rightfully claim to act as a springboard for major careers in opera."

Many George London Award winners have gone on to international stardom – the list of past winners includes Christine Brewer, Joyce DiDonato, Renée Fleming, Christine Goerke, Catherine Malfitano, James Morris, Matthew Polenzani, Sondra Radvanovsky, Neil Shicoff, and Dawn Upshaw. (See list below.)

Continuing the foundation's season of events are a gala benefit reception marking George London's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, and the final event in the season's George London Foundation Recital Series, which presents pairs of outstanding opera singers, many of whom were winners of a George London Award:

- **"Celebrating George London's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday,"** a gala benefit reception at New York's famed Metropolitan Club, will gather former colleagues of London's and past winners of the competition to celebrate the singer's centennial and honor the work that the foundation continues in his name. **Thursday, March 19, 2020, at the Metropolitan Club**
- **Rihab Chaieb**, mezzo-soprano, and **Lawson Anderson**, bass-baritone, perform a duo-recital with Ken Noda, piano. Both singers are 2018 George London Award winners; in its coverage of the competition, New York Classical Review described Anderson's voice in his award-winning performance as "like granite, perfectly firm, but with a richly veined tone," and Chaieb's performance as "captivating." **Sunday, April 19, 2020, at 4:00 pm at The Morgan Library & Museum**

### ***The Legacy of George London***

The goal of the London Foundation, the support and nurturing of young singers, was an abiding interest of the great Canadian-American bass-baritone George London, who devoted a great part of the time and energy of his later years to this purpose. "Remembering his difficult road to success, George wanted to devise a way to make the road a little easier for future

generations of singers,” said George London Foundation President Nora London. Initially created under the auspices of the National Opera Institute, the George London Awards program has been administered since 1990 directly by the Foundation as a living legacy to George London’s own exceptional talent and generosity. Visit [www.georgelondon.org](http://www.georgelondon.org).

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***Friday, February 21, 2020, at 4:00 pm***

***Gilder Lehrman Hall at The Morgan Library & Museum  
225 Madison Avenue at 36th Street, New York City***

***The George London Foundation for Singers Presents  
The 49th Annual George London Foundation Competition –  
Final Round and Awards Presentation***

***Tickets: \$55***

***Buy online: <https://www.glfoundationstore.org/product/49th-annual-george-london-competition-finals/1?cs=true>  
[www.georgelondon.org](http://www.georgelondon.org)***

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***George London Award Winners 1971-2019 – A Selected List***

Paul Appleby	Angela Meade
Dominic Armstrong	Bejun Mehta
Kathleen Battle	Susanne Mentzer
Isabel Bayrakdarian	Erie Mills
Rockwell Blake	Leona Mitchell
Russell Braun	Latonia Moore
Christine Brewer	James Morris
Measha Brüggergosman	Mark Oswald
Vinson Cole	Eric Owens
Barbara Daniels	Sean Panikkar
Alexandra Deshorties	Susanna Phillips
Michelle DeYoung	Dimitri Pittas
Joyce DiDonato	Deborah Polaski
Maria Ewing	Matthew Polenzani
Ruth Falcon	Florence Quivar
Renée Fleming	Sondra Radvanovsky
Christine Goerke	Gianna Rolandi
Sheri Greenawald	Lisa Saffer
Jill Grove	Neil Shicoff
Eric Halfvarson	Marietta Simpson
Alan Held	Diana Soviero
Barbara Hendricks	Maria Spacagna
Gwendolyn Jones	Richard Stilwell
Isola Jones	Dawn Upshaw
Kyle Ketelsen	James Valenti
Dominique Labelle	Carol Vaness
Anthony Laciura	Willard White
Catherine Malfitano	Corinne Winters
Mary Ann McCormick	