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**THE 41<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL GEORGE LONDON FOUNDATION AWARDS COMPETITION  
FOR SINGERS TAKES PLACE FEBRUARY 13-17, 2012**

**FINAL ROUND AND AWARDS ANNOUNCEMENT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2012, AT 4:00 PM  
AT THE MORGAN LIBRARY & MUSEUM'S GILDER LEHRMAN HALL**

Over three days of preliminary auditions on February 13-15, 2012, ninety of the best young American and Canadian opera singers will compete to reach the final round of the 41st annual **George London Foundation Awards Competition**.

On Friday, February 17, approximately 25 finalists will perform for the judges and audience, hoping to win a George London Award, an honor that has been conferred upon hundreds of the continent's best young singers since 1971.

The singers will be competing for:

- One George London Award of \$10,000
- One George London Award, in memory of Lloyd Rigler, of \$10,000
- One George London/Leonie Rysanek Award of \$10,000
- One George London Award given to a Canadian singer, of \$10,000
- One George London/Kirsten Flagstad Award sponsored by the New York Community Trust, of \$10,000, given to a potential Wagnerian singer
- Five George London Encouragement Awards of \$1,000

In addition, all of the finalists who do not win George London Awards or Encouragement Awards will be given a \$500 Honorable Mention.

The competition's final round is a public event: each singer performs one selection, and the winners are then announced, all at The Morgan Library & Museum's Gilder Lehrman Hall on Friday, February 17, 2012, at 4:00 PM. After the finalists' performances, the audience is invited to a reception while the judges deliberate. Once the awards have been decided upon, the audience is invited back for the announcement of the winners.

Tickets for the competition's final round are priced at \$20, \$10 for subscribers to the George London Foundation Recital Series. For tickets, information, or to join London Foundation mailing list, call (212) 956-2809, or e-mail [info@georgelondon.org](mailto:info@georgelondon.org).

This year's panel of judges includes artist manager Ken Benson; opera stage director Bruce Donnell; former Metropolitan Opera administrator Alfred F. Hubay; George London Foundation President Nora London; mezzo-soprano Susanne Mentzer; former Metropolitan Opera leading tenor and current voice professor George Shirley; and performing arts consultant Thurmond Smithgall. The competition pianist is Linda Hall.

The 2011 George London Award winners were tenor Paul Appleby, baritone Jonathan Beyer, baritone Alexander Hajek, bass-baritone Ryan McKinny, baritone Edward Parks III, and soprano Emalie Savoy.

Since 1971, the annual competition of The George London Foundation for Singers has been giving its George London Awards, and a total of more than \$2 million, to an outstanding roster of young American and Canadian opera singers who have gone on to international stardom – the list of past winners includes Christine Brewer, Joyce DiDonato, Renée Fleming, Catherine Malfitano, James Morris, Matthew Polenzani, Sondra Radvanovsky, Neil Shicoff, and Dawn Upshaw. One of the oldest vocal competitions in the United States and Canada, the George London Foundation Awards Competition offers among the most substantial awards.

As is seldom the case in musical competitions, no fee is charged to the applicants or competitors, a pianist is provided for the competition rounds, and prizes are awarded immediately.

### ***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 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.

*“I have never forgotten how George accepted my performance of Donna Anna with himself as [Don Giovanni] in Vancouver in 1958. His belief in my ability gave a huge boost to my confidence, something he did for so many young singers during his spectacular career.”*

-Dame Joan Sutherland

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***Friday, February 17, 2012, 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 41st Annual George London Foundation Awards Competition –  
Final Round and Awards Presentation***

***Tickets: \$20, \$10 to George London Foundation Recital Series subscribers  
For reservations and information, call (212) 956-2809, or e-mail [info@georgelondon.org](mailto:info@georgelondon.org)  
[www.georgelondon.org](http://www.georgelondon.org)***

***George London Award Winners 1971-2011– A Selected List***

John Aler	Bejun Mehta
Carmen Balthrop	Susanne Mentzer
Kathleen Battle	Erie Mills
Isabel Bayrakdarian	Leona Mitchell
Rockwell Blake	Latonia Moore
Russell Braun	James Morris
Christine Brewer	Norma Newton
Measha Brüggergosman	Mark Oswald
Amy Burton	Eric Owens
Patrick Carfizzi	Sean Panikkar
Charles Castronovo	Dimitri Pittas
Cynthia Clarey	Marie Plette
Sarah Coburn	Deborah Polaski
Vinson Cole	Matthew Polenzani
Barbara Daniels	Stephen Powell
Alexandra Deshorties	Ashley Putnam
Michelle DeYoung	Florence Quivar
Joyce DiDonato	Sondra Radvanovsky
Mark Doss	Gianna Rolandi
Brent Ellis	Lisa Saffer
Faith Esham	Neil Shicoff
Maria Ewing	Marietta Simpson
Ruth Falcon	Karen Slack
Renée Fleming	Garrett Sorenson
Amanda Forsythe	Diana Soviero
Davis Gaines	Maria Spacagna
Jake Gardner	Richard Stilwell
Christine Goerke	Thomas Studebaker
Ruth Golden	Stephanie Sundine
Sheri Greenawald	Phyllis Treigle
Cris Groenendaal	Gregory Turay
Jill Grove	Dawn Upshaw
Eric Halfvarson	James Valenti
Gordon Hawkins	Carol Vaness
Alan Held	Jon Fredric West
Barbara Hendricks	Willard White
Barbara Honn	Louise Wohlafka
Gwendolyn Jones	Erin Wood
Isola Jones	
Kim Alan Josephson	
Kyle Ketelsen	
Aline Kutan	
Dominique Labelle	
Anthony Laciura	
Margaret Lattimore	
Victoria Livengood	
Catherine Malfitano	
Marvis Martin	
Mary Ann McCormick	