

The Christina and Louis Quilico Awards



*Featuring members of the
2014/2015 Canadian Opera Company Ensemble Studio*

Monday, February 9, 2015
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Part of the Free Concert Series in the Richard Bradshaw Amphitheatre

FOUR SEASONS CENTRE
FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

145 Queen St. W., Toronto, ON

The 2015 Christina and Louis Quilico Awards

Welcoming Remarks

Alexander Neef, General Director of the Canadian Opera Company
Alan Walker, Executive Director of the Ontario Arts Foundation

Program

Each competitor will sing an aria of his or her choice, followed by an aria selected by the jury. In the event of a tie, the jury may request a third aria.

Jean-Philippe Fortier-Lazure, tenor

“Vainement, ma bien aimée” - *Le roi d’Ys* (Lalo)

“Quanto è bella” - *L’elisir d’amore* (Donizetti)

“Ecco ridente in cielo” - *Il barbiere di Siviglia* (Rossini)

Clarence Frazer, baritone

“Largo al factotum” - *Il barbiere di Siviglia* (Rossini)

“Mein Sehnen, mein Wähnen” - *Die tote Stadt* (Korngold)

“Deh vieni alla finestra” - *Don Giovanni* (Mozart)

Aviva Fortunata, soprano

“Come in quest’ora bruna” - *Simon Boccanegra* (Verdi)

“Non mi dir” - *Don Giovanni* (Mozart)

“Sombre forêt” - *Guillaume Tell* (Rossini)

Andrew Haji, tenor

“Dies Bildnis ist bezaubernd schön” - *Die Zauberflöte* (Mozart)

“La donna è mobile” - *Rigoletto* (Verdi)

“Tarquinius does not wait” - *The Rape of Lucretia* (Britten)

Intermission

Iain MacNeil, bass-baritone

“Aprite un po' quegl'occhi” ~ *Le nozze di Figaro* (Mozart)

“O du, mein holder Abendstern” ~ *Tannhäuser* (Wagner)

“Rivolgete a lui lo sguardo” ~ *Così fan tutte* (Mozart)

Charlotte Burrage, mezzo-soprano

“All'afflitto è dolce il pianto” ~ *Roberto Devereux* (Donizetti)

“Sein wir wieder gut” ~ *Ariadne auf Naxos* (R. Strauss)

“When I am laid in earth” ~ *Dido and Aeneas* (Purcell)

Karine Boucher, soprano

“Sombre forêt” ~ *Guillaume Tell* (Rossini)

“Glück, das mir verblieb” ~ *Die tote Stadt* (Korngold)

“O mio babbino caro” ~ *Gianni Schicchi* (Puccini)

Gordon Bintner, bass-baritone

“Vedrò mentr'io sospiro” ~ *Le nozze di Figaro* (Mozart)

“O du, mein holder Abendstern” ~ *Tannhäuser* (Wagner)

“Papagena! Papagena! Papagena!” ~ *Die Zauberflöte* (Mozart)

There will be a 15-minute break for jury deliberation, followed by the announcement of winners and presentation of awards.

Pianists

Jennifer Szeto and **Michael Shannon**,

current member and alumnus of the COC Ensemble Studio

Jury Members

Alexander Neef, General Director of the Canadian Opera Company

Stuart Hamilton, vocal coach, pianist, author, and
first music director of COC Ensemble Studio

John Hess, vocal coach, pianist, Head of Collaborative Piano Studies
at University of Western Ontario,
Co-Founder of Queen of Puddings Music Theatre

Members of the Canadian Opera Company Ensemble Studio 2014/2015



GORDON BINTNER

Regina native and bass-baritone Gordon Bintner won first prize and the Audience Choice Award at the Second Annual COC Ensemble Studio Competition in 2012. With the COC, he has appeared as the Registrar in *Madama Butterfly*, the Customs Officer in *La Bohème*, the Page in *Roberto Devereux* and Don Alfonso in *Così fan tutte* (Ensemble Studio performance). Additional credits include Papageno in *The Magic Flute* and Escamillo in *Carmen* (Saskatoon Opera); Nardo in *La finta giardiniera* (San Francisco Opera's Merola Opera Program); Lescaut in *Manon* (Opéra de Montréal); Colline in *La Bohème* (Angers Nantes Opéra); and the title roles in *Le nozze di Figaro* (Opera NUOVA) and *Don Giovanni* (Opera McGill). Mr. Bintner made his l'Orchestre symphonique de Montréal (OSM) debut in 2011 as winner of the OSM Standard Life Competition and returned there in 2014 for Bernstein's *A Quiet Place*. He also appeared with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and New Jersey Symphony Orchestra in 2014. This spring with the COC, Mr. Bintner sings the role of Basilio in *The Barber of Seville* (Ensemble Studio performance).



KARINE BOUCHER

Born in Québec City, soprano Karine Boucher won First Prize and the Audience Choice Award in the Third Annual Ensemble Studio Competition in 2013. This season with the COC, she sang the role of Kate Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly*. She received her master's degree and bachelor's degree in opera performance from the Québec Conservatory. As a member of the Atelier Lyrique de l'Opéra de Montréal, her credits include Miss Pinkerton in *The Old Maid and the Thief*, Annina in *La Traviata*, Inez in *Il Trovatore* and Kätchen in *Werther* (Opéra de Montréal); Damon in *Acis and Galatea* (Arte Music); Mimi in *La Bohème* (Jeunesses Musicales); and the title role in *Rita* (Highlands Opera Studio). Upcoming COC roles include Berta in *The Barber of Seville* (Ensemble Studio performance) this spring and Micaëla in next season's production of *Carmen*.



CHARLOTTE BURRAGE

Originally from Woodstock, Ontario, mezzo-soprano Charlotte Burrage placed third in the Second Annual COC Ensemble Studio Competition in 2012 and currently appears as Waltraute in the COC's production of *Die Walküre*. She made her COC mainstage debut in 2014 as Dorabella in *Così fan tutte* (Ensemble Studio performance). Additional credits include Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* with both Kevin Mallon in Italy and Christopher Verrette in Toronto; Hansel in *Hansel and Gretel* (Vancouver Opera in Schools); Dorabella in *Così fan tutte* (Banff Centre's Opera as Theatre and Jeunesses Musicales); and the title role in Massenet's

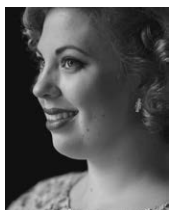
Cendrillon (University of British Columbia). Ms. Burrage also performed with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, the Montreal Symphony Orchestra and Orchestra London. She will sing the role of Rosina this spring in the COC's production of *The Barber of Seville* (Ensemble Studio performance).



JEAN-PHILIPPE FORTIER-LAZURE

Originally from Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario, tenor Jean-Philippe Fortier-Lazure placed second in the Third Annual Ensemble Studio Competition in 2013. In addition to studies at the University of Montreal, he has participated in young artist training programs with the National Arts Centre, Centre d'Arts Orford and Académie Internationale d'été Nice. Mr. Fortier-Lazure is also a recipient of the Governor

General Performing Arts Mentorship Award. Credits include Pelléas in *Pelléas et Mélisande* (Nova Scotia Opera Company and Atelier d'Opéra, University of Montreal); Chevalier de la Force in *Dialogues des Carmélites* (Atelier d'Opéra); Beppe in *Pagliacci* (Opera Lyra Ottawa); Tamino in *Die Zauberflöte*, Don Curzio/Don Basilio in *Le nozze di Figaro* and Mr. Gobineau in *The Medium* (University of Ottawa Opera Productions); and Guard in *Manon* and Prince of Persia in *Turandot* (Opera Lyra Ottawa). This season with the COC, he sings the role of Almaviva in *The Barber of Seville* (Ensemble Studio production).



AVIVA FORTUNATA

Calgary native and soprano Aviva Fortunata made her COC mainstage debut in 2014 as Fiordiligi in *Così fan tutte* (Ensemble Studio performance) and currently appears in the company's production of *Die Walküre* as Grimgerde. Additional credits include Desdemona in *Otello* and the Lady with a Cake Box in *Postcard from Morocco* (San Francisco Opera's Merola Opera Program); Donna Anna

in *Don Giovanni* (Concert Opera Group, Centre for Opera Studies in Italy and the University of Toronto); and Poulenc's *Gloria* (Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra). Ms. Fortunata was the winner of the 2012 Norcop Prize in Song Recital and was awarded a judges' commendation in the Mildred Miller International Voice Competition (Opera Theater of Pittsburgh). She holds a master's degree in opera performance from the University of Toronto. She will sing the role of Berta in *The Barber of Seville* at the COC this spring.



CLARENCE FRAZER

Mississauga native and baritone Clarence Frazer recently appeared with the COC as Prince Yamadori in *Madama Butterfly*, Customs House Sergeant in *La Bohème* and Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte* (Ensemble Studio performance). With Calgary Opera's Emerging Artist Program, he appeared as Re di Scozia in *Ariodante*, Count Gil in *Il segreto di Susanna* and Ramiro in *L'heure espagnole*. Other credits

include Marcello in *La Bohème* and Publio in *La clemenza di Tito* (Centre for Opera Studies in Italy); Prince Yamadori and Imperial Commissioner in *Madama Butterfly* (Edmonton Opera); Dottore Grenvil in *La Traviata*, Ford in *Falstaff*, Pinellino in *Gianni Schicchi*, Daggoo in *Moby-Dick* and Alcindoro

in *La Bohème* (Calgary Opera); and Escamillo in *Carmen* (Highlands Opera Studio). Mr. Frazer won the inaugural Lois Marshall Voice Competition and was a finalist in Palm Beach Opera's International Voice Competition. Upcoming roles with the COC include the Officer in *The Barber of Seville* and Figaro in *The Barber of Seville* (Ensemble Studio performance).



ANDREW HAJI

Originally from London, Ontario, tenor Andrew Haji claimed second prize in the Second Annual COC Ensemble Studio Competition in 2012. His roles with the COC include Ferrando in *Così fan tutte* (Ensemble Studio performance) and Rodriguez in *Don Quichotte*. Mr. Haji holds a master's degree in opera from the University of Toronto, where his credits include Nemorino in *L'elisir d'amore*, Cecco in *Il mondo della luna*, Don Ottavio in *Don Giovanni*, the title role in *Rob Ford: The Opera* and Ferrando in *Così fan tutte*. Other roles include Tamino in *The Magic Flute* (Music Academy of the West and Accademia Europea dell'Opera); and Rodolfo in *La Bohème*, Nemorino and Don Ottavio (Centre for Opera Studies in Italy). Recently, Mr. Haji won the Grand Prix, the Press Prize and the Junior Jury Prize at the 50th edition of the International Vocal Competition 's-Hertogenbosch in the Netherlands. This season he sings the role of Almoviva in the COC's production of *The Barber of Seville* (Ensemble Studio performance).



IAIN MACNEIL

A native of Brockville, Ontario, bass-baritone Iain MacNeil claimed third prize in the COC's Third Annual Ensemble Studio Competition. He studied at the University of Toronto Opera School and received a bachelor of music degree from Dalhousie University. In fall 2014, he appeared as Imperial Commissioner in the COC's production of *Madama Butterfly*. Additional credits include Figaro in *Le nozze di Figaro*, Don Giovanni in scenes from *Don Giovanni* and Dulcamara in scenes from *L'elisir d'amore* (Centre for Opera Studies in Italy); Bobby in Kurt Weill's *Mahagonny-Songspiel*, Sweeney Todd in *Sweeney Todd*, Brewer in *Comedy on the Bridge* and Tom/John in *The Face on the Barroom Floor* (Dalhousie Opera Workshop). Mr. MacNeil recently participated in the International Barocktage Stift Melk in Austria and the St. Andrews Arts Council Opera Workshop at St. Andrews by-the-Sea in New Brunswick, and competed in the Stella Maris International Voice Competition. In 2013, he also participated in the Young Singers Project at the Salzburg Festival. This spring he sings the role of Bartolo in the COC's *The Barber of Seville* (Ensemble Studio performance).



MICHAEL SHANNON

London, Ontario native and pianist Michael Shannon is a member of the COC music staff and graduate of the COC Ensemble Studio. He served as a rehearsal pianist for the COC's productions of *Falstaff*, *Don Giovanni*, *Peter Grimes*, *Così fan tutte* and *Roberto Devereux*, a role he'll continue for upcoming productions of *Semele* and *The Barber of Seville*. Mr. Shannon studied voice at McGill University, where he

played for numerous operas. He also spent three summers at Opera NUOVA with Michael McMahon and at the Brevard Music Center with Patrick Hansen. Previously, Mr. Shannon has served as resident artist coach and répétiteur with Syracuse Opera and as mainstage répétiteur for Calgary Opera's *La Traviata*. He has also participated in San Francisco's Merola Opera Program. This summer, as part of Open Space: Opera in the 21st Century, a partnership between The Banff Centre, Against the Grain Theatre and the COC, Mr. Shannon will be music director of *Crush*, an English-language re-imagining of *Don Giovanni* by James Rolfe with libretto by Anna Chatterton.



JENNIFER SZETO

Pianist Jennifer Szeto is originally from Calgary and holds degrees from University of Toronto and McGill University. With the Atelier Lyrique de l'Opéra de Montréal her credits as an apprentice coach include productions of *Hänsel und Gretel*, *The Old Maid and the Thief*, *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, and chorus music preparation for *Falstaff*, *Turandot*, *Lakmé*, and *Manon*. Most recently, she was staff pianist at

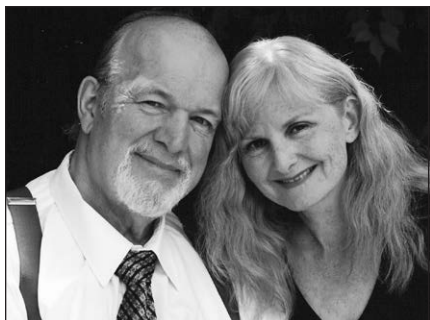
the International Vocal Arts Institute in Tel Aviv, Israel for its production of *The Abduction from the Seraglio*. She has served as staff pianist at the Institut Canadien d'Art Vocal in Montreal, and as an apprentice coach at St. Andrews by-the-Sea Opera Workshop and Green Mountain Opera Festival in Vermont. This season with the COC, Ms. Szeto serves as a rehearsal pianist for *Madama Butterfly*, *Die Walküre* and *The Barber of Seville*.



LIZ UPCHURCH – Head of Ensemble Studio

Liz Upchurch is a graduate of the Royal Academy of Music in London, England, where she won several prizes as solo pianist and accompanist. As a music director, vocal coach and repetiteur she has worked in 21st-century and traditional opera, music theatre and theatre. She has also covered a wide range of working techniques with singers, actors and instrumentalists in community and educational projects.

For many years she worked with young artists at the Britten-Pears School in Aldeburgh, England where she played for masterclasses with artists such as Anthony Rolfe Johnson, Suzanne Danco, William Pleeth and Dame Joan Sutherland. Ms. Upchurch has also worked at the Kammeroper Schloss Rheinsberg festival in Germany and the National Theatre in London. She held a faculty position in the 20th-century opera and song program at the Banff Centre for the Arts and was repetiteur and chorus director at Edmonton Opera. As a pianist she has performed all over Europe and has been broadcast with the BBC, Norwegian Radio and the CBC. Ms. Upchurch also appeared as a judge on Bravo's hit series, *Bathroom Divas: So you want to be an opera singer!*



The **Christina and Louis Quilico Awards** were established by Christina Petrowska Quilico in 2000 to honour her late husband, renowned baritone Louis Quilico, and to recognize outstanding young singers, pianists and composers for voice. During his 45 years on the stage, Louis Quilico shared performing credits with Luciano Pavarotti, Plácido Domingo, José Carreras, Joan Sutherland and Renata Tebaldi. He was instrumental

in furthering the careers of many young singers through his teaching and masterclasses. Since 2000, the awards have paid out almost \$33,000 to young singers, and this year's total prize is \$10,000.

Ontario Arts Foundation was established in 1991 as a public foundation to encourage and facilitate private giving to the arts in Ontario. A nongovernmental foundation and a registered charity, the Foundation holds over 300 endowments and funds established by individuals, private foundations, corporations and arts organizations. To learn more about the Ontario Arts Foundation's programs, scholarships and awards, visit www.ontarioartsfoundation.on.ca or contact Alan Walker, Executive Director at 416-969-7413.

This year's competition is generously supported by Burgundy Asset Management and Blair Franklin Asset Management.



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Cover image: The 2014/2015 Canadian Opera Company Ensemble Studio: (l - r) tenor Owen McCausland, bass-baritone Gordon Bintner, intern coach and pianist Jennifer Szeto, tenor Jean-Philippe Fortier-Lazure, bass-baritone Iain MacNeil, soprano Karine Boucher, tenor Andrew Haji, soprano Aviva Fortunata, baritone Clarence Frazer and mezzo-soprano Charlotte Burrage. Photo: Chris Hutcheson

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