

The Opera Guild of Fort Worth
Presents the
14th Biennial Marguerite McCammon Voice Competition
by
CELEBRATING THE SILVER
GOING FOR THE GOLD

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For twenty-five years the Opera Guild of Fort Worth has planned and executed biennially the Marguerite McCammon Voice Competition. The 14th Biennial Competition will be held on **Friday, May 14 and Saturday, May 15** here in Fort Worth. The Semifinals on May 14th will be at the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth beginning at 10:00 am and ending around 4:30 p.m. The finals are held at the Bass Performance Hall Saturday, May 15th beginning at 2:00 pm. The Gala Awards dinner will be held at City Club in Fort Worth immediately following the finals on May 15.

With the mission to foster the talents and careers of emerging young singers by providing an internationally acclaimed and recognized vocal competition, young singers from all over the world apply for the opportunity to compete for monetary prizes, a role in a Fort Worth Opera production and the opportunity to audition for a jury of opera directors and booking agents.

Of the thirteen winners over the past 25 years, more than two-thirds have gone on to enjoy major careers on operatic stages in the United States and around the world. The past few competitions have seen an increase in the number of entries from singers throughout the world. The standard of performance from these participants has developed significantly as well. This year's competition received 110 entries from the U.S., Canada, Korea, Spain and Mexico.

Preliminary judging was held on April 10 by a panel of two judges chaired by **Keith Wolfe**, Managing Director of Fort Worth Opera. From this group, 26 semifinalists have been invited to Fort Worth for the competition. **Darren K. Woods**, General Director of Fort Worth Opera chairs the distinguished group of jurors who will judge the semifinals, select up to 12 finalists and the winners. They are **Jonathan Pell**, Artistic Director, Dallas Opera; **Gayletha Nichols**, Director, Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, **Nicholas G. Russell**, Director of Artistic Operation, Boston Lyric Opera and **Caroline Woodfield**, Artist Agent with Op. 3 Artists, New York. Official accompanists for this competition are **Eric Malson** New York, staff accompanist for various opera companies and **Tyson Deaton** also based in New York and rehearsal accompanist for Fort Worth Opera's 2010 Festival.

First prize carries an award of \$10,000 and a role in a Fort Worth Opera Production. Second prize is \$5000, Third, \$3000 and Audience Favorite and Male and Female Encouragement awards are \$1500 each. Money for these prizes comes from the The Opera Guild of Fort Worth and the

generosity of individual donors. As in the past, there will be a delayed radio broadcast of the finals airing on KTCU 88.7FM on Sunday May 23, 2010. The show will be co-hosted by Rosemary Solomons-Helmick and John Forestner.

The McCammon Competition is organized and executed by an all-volunteer group of dedicated members of The Opera Guild of Fort Worth. **Berlene Milburn** is competition chair.

The semifinals and finals offer the opportunity to hear favorite arias from the best operatic repertoire. The audience will select the audience favorite at the finals. Tickets for the semifinals on May 14 are \$5.00 and for the finals on May 15 are \$10.00. The Awards Dinner is \$100. For ticket information, please call 817-923-9983. Tickets will also be available at the door. For reservations to the Awards Dinner, please call **Fran Blanton**, 817-419-0516.

You won't want to miss the excitement of this stellar event as the Guild and the McCammon Committee Celebrates the Silver and Goes for the Gold.

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