

Dame Janet Baker Receives 2008 World of Song Award

SPRING/SUMMER
'08



Janet Baker

Janet Baker, the distinguished English mezzo-soprano has been selected by the Board of Directors of the Lotte Lehmann Foundation as the seventh recipient of its annual World of Song Award. The award serves to honor those artists who have devoted a substantial portion of their creative lives in the service of art song.

Lindsey Christensen, a member of the LLF, praised the awardee's contribution to art song thus: "For singers and teachers in my generation Janet Baker was the embodiment of the singer in service to the music. The beauty and humility of her performances inspired countless singers to dedicate their lives to song."

Gary Hickling, founder and past president of the Lotte Lehmann Foundation stated, "there was another dimension to Janet Baker's singing that always set her song performances above those of other excellent singers, past and present. That was her palpable joy in what she was singing."

Upon learning of the tribute, Dame Janet responded, "I am honoured indeed to be a recipient of the Award. In 1957 I was... invited to take part in master classes which Lotte Lehmann gave in the Wigmore Hall... Her name was revered by all of us and her presence was unforgettable... I am proud and delighted to think that, once again and after so many years, I am associated with her name in such a delightful way and I cannot adequately express my feelings of gratitude to the Board for a mark of respect which I appreciate so deeply."

The citation consists of a beautifully framed document designed by noted calligrapher Denis Lund. Previous recipients of the World of Song Award have been Dalton Baldwin, Hugues Cuénod, Ned Rorem, Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, Dominick Argento and John Wustman.



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CYBERSING2008 ANNOUNCED

The Lotte Lehmann Foundation has released the new rules, regulations, and dates for CyberSing 2008, its fourth biannual art song performance competition. The stated objective of CyberSing is "to recognize and award performance of art song by singers and pianists throughout the world."

Singers may enter in one of two divisions: Division One, for singers 23 years of age and younger, and Division Two for singers over the age of 23. Prizes will include a Top Prize of \$1,000 for the Division One winner, and a Top Prize of \$5,000 for the Division Two winner.

Entrants will be required to submit audio recordings of a range of repertoire, including a song composed expressly for CyberSing by Larry Alan Smith. This year, for the first time, finalists will be requested to submit a performance DVD. The final round will be judged exclusively on these submitted DVD recordings.

Linn Maxwell, the president of the Foundation's Board of Directors stated, "CyberSing has always been a vital element of the Lotte Lehmann Foundation's activities. We are all thrilled with the new parameters of the competition, which will enable the judges to more completely and accurately evaluate the performances of the participants."

The Foundation is accepting applications now through August 31, 2008. Repertoire requirements and complete rules and regulations for the competition, as well as application forms, are available on the Foundation's website: www.lottelehmann.org

Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

As I near the end of my first season as president of the Lotte Lehmann Foundation, I feel immensely proud of this organization and its accomplishments during the past nine months. I say this with some relief, because the shoes of Daron Hagen, immediate past president, are big ones to fill! It has been a privilege to get to know the board members, all of whom are outstanding in their own fields of endeavor. We have performers, composers, conductors, administrators, teachers and recording engineers, among others. They are all extremely busy and active in other areas of their lives, and I am grateful for their willingness to step up and do the work of our foundation.

This issue of SongScape highlights a number of significant Lehmann Foundation events in recent months.

On May 13th we celebrated the foundation's vision of supporting young singers and composers with a joyous evening of song and socializing at the Leonard Bernstein family apartment. There we honored Victoria Clark, current Broadway luminary, for her outstanding contribution to the world of song.

That event featured performers and compositions by winners of our various competitions. These represent a vital part of the LLF's activities:

- *The ASCAP/Lotte Lehmann Foundation Art Song Competition, which was initiated in 2005. The four winners of the 2007 competition were announced in December. They share awards totaling nearly \$6,000. The top prize winner, Zachary Wadsworth, receives a commission to write a song cycle for voice and piano which will be performed in three major American cities and will be published by E.C. Schirmer.*
- *CyberSing, the biennial worldwide competition devoted exclusively to art song. The 2006 competition garnered \$10,000 for winning contestants in various categories. Please see the story in this issue about exciting new guidelines for our 2008 competition.*

Our future plans include a series of master classes to be held in New York, beginning in the fall of 2009. There is much exciting work to do and we will continue to uphold the values of Lotte Lehmann, who strove to inspire the next generation of singers with her guidance. We appreciate your continued support. You are helping us make a difference!

Sincerely yours,

Linn Maxwell



INSIDE

Board News	2	Victoria Clark	2	In The News	3
New Officers Elected	2	New Lehmann Bio	3	Janet Baker Awarded	4

BOARDNEWS

Stephen Dembski's *Raven-Songs* will be premiered in late June near Haifa, Israel, on the Ein Hashofet concert series, by soprano Re'ut ben Ze'ev and pianist Ofra Yitzhaki, for whom they were written. The *Raven-Songs* were drawn from music of *Crow Soup*, Dembski's opera-in-progress on a libretto written for him by renowned surrealist author and visual artist Leonora Carrington. The latest version of Dembski's *Calcium Late, Nate*, for solo marimba with three-dimensional computer-generated sound projection, was premiered on April 27th in Madison, Wisconsin's Overture Center by marimbist Nathaniel Bartlett.

Daniel Gundlach presented the world premiere performance of excerpts from Urquhart's cycle *Songs of Farewell* in March in a recital at KHPR in Honolulu and sang a recital of songs from the repertoire of Edith Piaf in a May recital on the St. Bart's Great Music Series in New York.

Former board president **Daron Hagen** and his wife Gilda Lyons celebrated the birth of their son Atticus in February.

Current board president **Linn Maxwell** brings her one-woman show *Lilli Marlene* to New York this fall. *Lilli Marlene* is the gripping story of three devoted friends, separated by oceans and continents, whose lives are brutally interrupted by the chaos of World War II. Performances will take place at the Abingdon Theatre between September 18 and October 4.

Ned Rorem's operatic setting of Thornton Wilder's *Our Town*, with a libretto by J.D. McClatchy, received its New York stage premiere at the Juilliard Opera Center in April. Peter G. Davis, writing in *MusicalAmerica.com*, praises the work as "one of those rare new operas that seem destined to survive."

Craig Urquhart's latest CD, *Secret Spaces*, was nominated for a NAR Broadcasters Award—Best Instrumental Album—Piano.

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LEHMANN FOUNDATION ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

The Lotte Lehmann Foundation has elected three new officers to the posts of president, vice president and treasurer. **Linn Maxwell** joins the board as president, **Daniel Gundlach** has assumed the position of vice president and **Larry Alan Smith** now serves as treasurer.

Peter Kazaras, artistic director of the Seattle Opera Young Artists Program, and LLF board member praised the contributions of former president Daron Hagen, stating, "As President of the LLF, Daron Hagen's inextinguishable enthusiasm, unflagging energy, and thoughtful sense of discretion and kindness have been invaluable assets to the Board in its transition period. Daron has demonstrated again and again what a tactful and wonderful leader and teacher he is."

Russell Platt, LLF Board secretary welcomed Ms. Maxwell as incoming president: "In our meetings, Linn Maxwell has impressed me not only by the breadth of her notable career but by the obvious clarity of mind she has brought to her high-level experience as a supporter of vocalists and vocal music. I am confident that she will be a judicious leader of the Foundation in the coming years."

Further information on the new board officers is available at their respective websites: www.linnmaxwell.com, www.danielgundlach.com, and www.larryalansmith.com

LOTTE LEHMANN FOUNDATION'S SPRINGTIME EVENING OF SONG HONORS VICTORIA CLARK

The LLF's annual spring event took place on Tuesday May 13 at the penthouse apartment of the Leonard Bernstein family. Victoria Clark, Tony-award-winning singer and actor, received a special commendation from the Foundation for her extraordinary presence on the music scene.



Sarah Statler, Victoria Clark, Linn Maxwell, Daniel Gundlach, Thomas Luke Guest

Daniel Gundlach, the Foundation's vice president, paid the following tribute to Ms. Clark: "In every generation there are a mere handful of singers who possess the extraordinary ability to reach their audience, and to touch our lives so deeply. Lotte Lehmann was an intuitive genius in that respect. I submit to you that, in her field and in her generation, Victoria Clark is the same kind of artist."

A splendid young group of performers provided the musical entertainment for the evening. Martha Guth sang songs of Rachmaninov and Poulenc as well as an excerpt from the Scott Gendel's song cycle *a space between*, which she premiered

last year. Gendel, the 2005 ASCAP/LLF Composition Contest, composed the work as his prize-winning commission. Scott Sowinski and Sarah Statler, students of Ms. Clark, performed works of Blitzstein, Sondheim and Bernstein. Danielle Talamantes, top winner of the 2006 CyberSing competition, performed songs of Rorem and Strauss. She also gave the world premiere of "I Look Through a Window," a song written expressly for the event by Eli Marshall, recipient of a prize in the 2005 ASCAP/LLF Composition Contest named for LLF Board Member Damien Top. Award-winning pianist Spencer Myer was the collaborative pianist.

NEW LOTTE LEHMANN Biography Published



Lotte Lehmann

Cambridge University Press has just published author Michael H. Kater's exhaustive and authoritative biography of Lotte Lehmann, entitled *Never Sang for Hitler: The Life and Times of Lotte Lehmann*.

More than a traditional biography, Kater's book, the result of years of assiduous research, is both a descriptive narrative of Lehmann's life and a fresh look at the interconnections of the artist and society. Kater describes the various phases of Lehmann's life, as well as the socio-cultural settings in which she found herself. Kater's access to Lehmann's personal documents and other papers housed in the Lotte Lehmann Archive at the University of California, Santa Barbara reshapes much of what is known about her life and career.

Author Michael Kater issued the following statement to the Lotte Lehmann Foundation: "In my biography of Lotte Lehmann I have attempted, among other things, to show the development of the singer through historic epochs; the dusk of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the First Austrian Republic, and a culturally ever more assertive United States of America. I wanted to demonstrate how these epochs shaped her and how, in turn, she left her traces on those times. Another goal of mine was to demonstrate the nature and the depth of her art in constantly changing situations. And, not least, I tried to deal with Lotte Lehmann the person judiciously, balancing her strengths with her failings."

ASCAP/LLF COMPOSITION COMPETITION Winners Named



Zachary Wadsworth

Winners of the 2007 ASCAP/Lotte Lehmann Foundation Art Song Competition were announced in December by Frances Richard, ASCAP Vice President and Director of Concert Music and Linn Maxwell, President of the Lotte Lehmann.

The First Prize (\$3,500) has been awarded to Zachary Wadsworth (www.zacharywadsworth.com), of Richmond, VA. Wadsworth will receive a commission to write a song cycle for voice and piano to be published by E.C. Schirmer. The commissioned song cycle will be performed in three major American cities.

Second Prize (\$1,000) was awarded to Allen McCullough, age 29, of Lansdowne, PA and Third Prize (\$750) was awarded to Ryan Gee, age 29, of Austin, TX. Both Second and Third Prize winners receive commissions to compose an art song for voice and piano.

The Damien Top Prize (\$500) was awarded to Isaac Schankler, age 28, of Los Angeles,

CA. The Damien Top Prize is a commission to set a poem by Andrée Brunin to be premiered at the 2008 Albert Roussel International Festival in France.

The competition judges were composers Susan Botti, William Rhoads, Su Lian Tan, and pianist/conductor Scott Dunn.

INTHE NEWS

As a follow-up to the Lotte Lehmann Tribute CD on Arabesque Records, other tributes and performances have been compiled and are available on the Foundation's website. Contributors include Carol Neblett, Frederica von Stade, Thomas Hampson, Graham Johnson, Jeannine Altmeyer and Hugues Cuénod, as well as a previously unreleased live recording of Lehmann performing Schubert's "Der Wanderer."

Also accessible on the Foundation's website is a Lehmann Chronology, which endeavors to list all of Lotte Lehmann's performances, whether opera, recital, or master class.

Numerous videos of Lehmann, including clips from her MGM film *Big City*, are available on YouTube.

OURSUPPORTERS

The Lehmann Foundation expresses deepest gratitude to those who have made donations between October 1, 2007 and May 28, 2008.

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Lotte Lehmann as Sieglinde in *Die Walküre*

Lehmann's complete Lieder recordings from 1935-1949 have been released on Naxos records in six separate volumes. Though not available in the US, they can be obtained from international distributors.

Important items continue to be added to the Lehmann Foundation Archive, including rare photographs, newspaper clippings, letters, and programs, as well as a previously unknown, though incomplete, recording of Lehmann's 1937 Metropolitan Opera performance *Die Walküre*.