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## Three More Weeks!

### Who's Singing?

As shared in the September 2014 edition, Minnesota District and Upper Midwest Region volunteers had a special opportunity earlier this year to build a state-of-the-art [website](#) with a team of the Twin Cities' best and brightest web designers and developers. The entire team agreed there should be a place on the website where the Auditions' singers could post their own head shots and profiles.

And so the [Performers](#) page was born. This webpage is an excellent way for you to become familiar with this year's singers. You will see familiar faces and several new ones, including artists already performing with esteemed Twin Cities opera and musical

theater companies.

Please visit our website regularly to find out who has joined the roster of young and promising talent. You will also find information about other [National Council events](#) around the Upper Midwest Region.

## **Sundin Hall: Acoustic Gem**

The Metropolitan Opera National Council - Minnesota District Auditions will be held **November 22, 2014 at 12:00 p.m.**, at [Sundin Music Hall](#), on the campus of Hamline University in Saint Paul. With its warm ambience and acoustics perfectly suited to the operatic voice, the 325-seat performance space is a perfect choice for this year's Minnesota District Auditions. An added benefit is the ample [free weekend parking](#) in the nearby campus parking lots.

There is no charge for admission but **seating is at a premium** in this intimate setting. This year's lineup of performers is an impressive group and the number continues to grow as we approach the date of the Auditions. We encourage you to plan ahead and arrive early to be sure you don't miss a moment of this "hottest ticket in town."

## **The Art of the Audition:**

### **A Special Class for Young Performers**

We are thrilled that Melissa Wegner, Associate Director of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, will be joining us at the Minnesota District Auditions this year.

Melissa will give a special class geared toward young performers, their families, and their supporters, titled *The Art of the Audition: A Conversation with Melissa Wegner*.

In this class, Melissa will speak about the art of auditioning and then open up the conversation to questions from the audience. Thanks to the generosity of Hamline University, the event will be held at Sundin Music Hall, on Friday, November 21, from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. Hamline has also made arrangements for event guests to park in nearby [campus lots](#) free of charge **after 3:00 p.m.** the day of the class.

### **Post-Auditions Master Class**

Jonathan Dudley, vocal coach and one of the three Minnesota District judges will hold a master class for audition participants on Sunday, November 23, at 1:00 PM at the Minnesota Opera Center. Visit the Upper Midwest Region Auditions [website](#) for directions and parking information.

### **Legacy Gifts to Benefit the Future of Young Singers**

Every year, the Upper Midwest Region of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions receives a very generous donation from the Judson and Barbara Bemis Upper Midwest Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions Fund of the Minneapolis Foundation – a fund the Bemises set up during their lifetime to benefit young singers far into the future.

Consider making a gift that will help future young singers by adding to the Bemis Fund, establishing a fund of your own, or making a contribution of any amount. Donations to the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions - Upper Midwest Region are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

For more information, please call Connie Fullmer at 952-935-4717 or email her at [info@metauditionsmn.org](mailto:info@metauditionsmn.org).

### **From the Finance Chair**

I'd like to share with everyone last year's actual cost to present the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions in the Minnesota District and Upper Midwest Region: \$37,097. This year's projected budget is \$37,077 – as you can see, there is no projected budget increase.

As you may know, the Metropolitan Opera Association is now our fiscal agent; the Twin Cities Opera Guild previously served in that role. We are grateful for the Guild's generous assistance over the past years as we grew our organization. As our fiscal agent, the Met will issue the required IRS 1099 form to individuals we pay as non-employees (e.g., accompanists and audition winners) and produce our annual report to the IRS, at no cost to the Upper Midwest Region Auditions. This savings allows our organization to use its funds where they are needed most.

The question I'm asked most often is: "Now

that the Met is our fiscal agent, is the money we raise in Minnesota going to New York?" The answer is no – all money we raise for the auditions in Minnesota is awarded or spent in Minnesota. As an additional benefit of our recent financial reorganization, we have established an independent bank account, and reviewed and ensured compliance with various Minnesota state requirements for non-profit organizations.

We continue to seek members for the finance committee so that oversight of our finances is shared with informed and experienced volunteers. Please contact Jimmy Longoria at 952-935-4717 to discuss your interest or if you have questions.

**See you at the auditions** - Saturday, November 22, at 12:00 p.m.

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We are thrilled to share the above article with you - it surely makes everything we do for the young singers worthwhile and we hope you will subscribe to this list!

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