

# Song Scape

NEWSLETTER OF THE LOTTE LEHMANN FOUNDATION



[www.lottelehmann.org](http://www.lottelehmann.org)

Dear Friends,

Summer used to be the time when the arts entered a dormant period, but now with exciting festivals of all kinds all over the world, fine arts organizations remain active year-round. This is certainly true of the Lotte Lehmann Foundation. As you'll read elsewhere in this Newsletter, singers and pianists from around the world submitted their entries to CyberSing over the summer months. During the month of September the semi-finalists were chosen and during October and November judges and website visitors select the winners.

You'll also read about the recipient of the Foundation's latest World of Song Award, the winners of this year's local art song contest in Hawaii, the expansion of our board of directors, along with news of their artistic and professional achievements, and Lehmann research projects which continue to receive Foundation input.

You may know that Gary Hickling's radio program *Great Songs*, now in its 16th year, will soon be heard nationally. Almost twenty public radio stations requested samples of the program. If you believe your local station might be interested, please let us know. The Lehmann Foundation and Hawaii Public Radio underwrite the program, so we can offer it FREE to interested stations.

I'll have an exciting new Foundation project to announce in the Winter issue of this Newsletter, so please "stay tuned."

I look forward to working with our expanded board of directors, the Advisors and all of you interested in the future of art song and the preservation of Lehmann's legacy. Please feel free to contact me with ideas and suggestions at [hagen@lottelehmann.org](mailto:hagen@lottelehmann.org).

Yours,

*Daron Aric Hagen*

Daron Aric Hagen, President  
Lotte Lehmann Foundation

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

## CYBERSING SEMI-FINALISTS CHOSEN



A hard-working group of judges Cori Ellison, Kathy Kelly and Kenneth Merrill has selected the Division I and Division II Semi-Finalists for the 2004 CyberSing competition. Recordings of each semi-finalist are now available on the Lehmann Foundation website at [www.cybersing.com](http://www.cybersing.com). Each Division includes



**Lotte Lehmann is sworn in as a United States citizen; citizens of any country can vote for CyberSing finalists.**

an Audience Favorite award, \$250 for Division I (comprising singers up to the age of 23), and

(continued on page 2)

Lehmann as Puccini's Manon Lescaut



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### LEHMANN NEWS:

The Lotte Lehmann "Chronology-in-Progress" compiled by Gary Hickling is now available on the Lehmann Foundation website. Vienna researcher Jean-Pascal Vachon has provided detailed information about Lehmann's Vienna Opera years (1916-1937). Lehmann's Viennese friend, Hertha Schuch, has provided photocopies of numerous recital programs that the soprano performed in Austria.

New information about the Lehmann discography has been provided by Bill Shanon, an expert in early twentieth century recordings of great singers.

Canadian historian Dr. Michael H. Kater continues his research for his new book on Lotte Lehmann. The book will include biographical information, as well as an examination of Lehmann's changing social and cultural environments throughout her lifetime.

In the course of his research, Dr. Kater has uncovered a "second" Lehmann autobiography at the Lehmann Archives at UCSB. This manuscript consists of a fragmented series of vignettes of famous and not-so-famous people with whom Lehmann worked and who influenced her life, including her brother Fritz. Kater's research in Europe this fall will include an interview with Grace Bumbry, one of Lehmann's most distinguished students. Ms. Bumbry herself has just won the prestigious Distinguished Alumna award for 2004 from the Music Academy of the West, where she studied with Mme. Lehmann, after their first meeting in Lehmann's master classes at Northwestern University.



Lotte Lehmann and Hertha Schuch in 1937



Lotte Lehmann, Grace and Beau

## WORLD OF SONG AWARD

The Lotte Lehmann Foundation presented its World of Song Award to collaborative pianist and scholar Graham Johnson. The inscription reads:

In recognition of your years devoted to the highest standards as a collaborative pianist in recitals, radio, television and on recordings; for developing new recital formats used in the "Songmaker's Almanac"



Graham Johnson

In appreciation of your achievement as producer and pianist of the "Complete Songs of Schubert" and the "Complete Songs of Schumann" recordings and to applaud your unique scholarly and detailed liner notes for all your recordings

To honor your service as a teacher and master clinician and to acknowledge your excellent resource book on mélodie "The French Song Companion"

*"I am most gratified to receive this award"*

With gratitude for your participation as Advisor for the Lotte Lehmann Foundation.

When Lehmann Foundation President, Daron Hagen informed

Mr. Johnson of the honor, he wrote: "I am most gratified to receive this award, and I wish to thank you, Mr. Hickling, and other board members who made this decision."

The elaborate document was designed by New York calligrapher Denis Lund, and the beautiful original may be viewed on the Lehmann Website's homepage.

(continued from page 1)

\$500 for Division II (all others). Visitors to the website are encouraged to listen to recordings of the semi-finalists and follow instructions for voting for their favorites. The singer from each division who receives the greatest number of votes will win the audience prize. The singers are not identified, to ensure impartiality in judging. This year's contestants included singers from the US, UK, Canada, Germany, Spain, India, Brazil, Mexico, Japan and Korea.

CyberSing winners' prize money has been graciously provided by many friends of the Lehmann Foundation and their support, as well as the list of other donors is acknowledged elsewhere in this Newsletter.

## Board Member Activities

Brian Zeger, Lehmann Foundation Vice President, has developed, written and narrated several five-minute segments entitled *Speaking of Song*, produced by Don Lee for Minnesota Public Radio. The series includes songs as varied as Schubert's "Die Krähe" and Rorem's "Early in the Morning". Mr. Zeger's commentary includes background information on the poetry and the composition, as well as a complete recorded performance of each featured song. You may hear samples at [http://news.minnesota.publicradio.org/features/2004/06/16\\_speaking\\_of\\_song](http://news.minnesota.publicradio.org/features/2004/06/16_speaking_of_song).

This past season has been an especially busy and creative one for Mr. Zeger. Besides his usual duties teaching collaborative piano at Juilliard and his regular work as Artistic Advisor to the Art Song program at the Aspen Music Festival, he collaborated with both Susan Graham and Deborah Voigt on their recent recital tours, appearing at the latter's newsworthy Carnegie Hall debut in March.

Countertenor Daniel Gundlach, a Lehmann Foundation board member and the editor of this Newsletter, is currently in Paris where he is creating the role of La Mendiante in the world première of Gualtiero Dazzi's *Le Luthier de Venise* at the Théâtre du Châtelet and the Opéra de Rouen. Performances at the Châtelet are October 14, 16 and 18. His recording of Debussy's "Colloque sentimental" is linked on the Lehmann Foundation's homepage.

## New Board Members

The Lotte Lehmann Foundation welcomes, in alphabetical order, the following new board members: Alex Farkas, collaborative pianist, coach and a certified teacher of the Alexander Technique; Margo Garrett, distinguished collaborative pianist on the faculty of the Juilliard School; Robert Helfand, long time board member of CRI (Composers Recordings Incorporated) and partner in the New York law firm of Eaton & Van Winkle; Speight Jenkins, General Director of Seattle Opera; Russell Platt, senior editor for classical music at *The New Yorker* and a composer of vocal and instrumental works; Ned Rorem, world-famous composer and last year's recipient of the Lehmann Foundation's *World in Song* award; and Craig Urquhart, a composer and pianist as well as the Vice President of Public Relations for the Leonard Bernstein Office.

A distinguished panel of judges for the final round, including Mary Dibbern and Brian Zeger, will make their final selections in November of winners in both Divisions in each of several categories, including the Top Prize, the Mélodie Prize, the Lieder Prize and the American song prize. There is also a special award for best collaborative pianist and best performance of the required song. This year's song, "I love you through the daytimes" was composed by the distinguished American composer Libby Larsen to a translation of an ancient Egyptian love poem.

In addition to receiving cash prizes, 2004 CyberSing winners will have their submitted recordings, along with their photos and biographies, posted on the Lehmann Foundation's website for a year.

## Local Art Song Contest



Carl Crosier



Michalann Rae



Ian Hlawati



Leslie Tennent



Lisa Paulsen

The Art Song Contest Committee in Honolulu chose 13 singers as semi-finalists for this year's competition. Recording engineers were provided for singers on Maui and the Big Island by a grant from the Orvis Foundation.

For the first time, not one, but two countertenors were among the semi-finalists! The semi-finalists were heard on *Great Songs*, broadcast throughout the Hawaiian Islands. Five winners were chosen, who will share a recital on 11 September 2004 at the Orvis Auditorium on the University of Hawaii, Manoa campus. The winners were Carl Crosier, countertenor; Ian Hlawati, baritone; Lisa Paulsen, soprano; Leslie 'Buz' Tennent, baritone; Michalann Rae Kau'ilanimakanaonakupunaaloha Trainer, soprano.

Co-sponsored by the Lotte Lehmann Foundation since 1996, the Art Song Contest was run by a separate Committee that will work without the Foundation's assistance next year. The local Contest has been so successful that the Foundation has prepared suggested guidelines for those seeking to inaugurate local art song contests in their own communities. These guidelines may be found on the *Song!* portion of the Lehmann website

## IN MEMORIAM

The French baritone Gérard Souzay, the greatest French baritone of his generation, and one of the greatest art song singers of the last century, died in his sleep on August 17, 2004, aged 85. Lotte Lehmann herself was a great admirer of Souzay's artistry, and called his singing "celestially beautiful." She often hosted Souzay and his accompanist, Dalton Baldwin (currently Honorary Co-Chairperson of the Lehmann Foundation's board of directors) at Orplid, her home in Santa Barbara. Souzay referred to Lehmann as "the most inspired and the most inspiring of the great singers," a designation he surely shares with her. Souzay was commemorated on a recent broadcast of Gary Hickling's *Great Songs* program, which can be heard on the Lehmann Foundation website.



Lotte Lehmann and Gérard Souzay

Jim Ackerman passed away 20 July 2004 at the age of 87. Mr.

Ackerman was an attorney who aided Lehmann Foundation founder Gary Hickling with the legal issues surrounding the creation of the

Foundation. Through his connection with the Bauer Foundation he

was instrumental in funding basic operations of the Lehmann Foundation with yearly grants. He still maintained an active law practice and less than a week before his death, visited Hawaii on business with his wife Lorraine and spoke with Gary Hickling about the Lehmann Foundation. His wise counsel and invaluable contribution to the Lehmann Foundation will be missed.

## Donor Support

The Lehmann Foundation gratefully acknowledges the support received thus far in 2004:

**STARS** (\$10,000 + above): Bauer Foundation

**SUPPORTERS** (\$1,000-9,999): Anonymous; Ruth Ballard for the CyberSing Division I Top Prize; Gary Hickling

**CONTRIBUTORS** (\$100-999): Anonymous for the CyberSing Division I Required Song Prize; Lindsey Christiansen for the CyberSing Division II Collaborative Pianist Prize in Honor of Dalton Baldwin; Dalton Baldwin for the Division II Mélodie Prize; Nancy Bannick for the Division II Audience Prize; Morton Berman; Violet Chang, Steven Blier, Mary Dibbern for the Division I Mélodie Prize in Honor of Paul Vellucci; Alex Farkas, Beebe Freitas for the Division I Collaborative Pianist Prize; Daron Hagen, Nancy Hedemann, B. Lam Hoffman, Shauna Holiman, Gene Leupp for CyberSing Scholarships; Natalie Limonick for the CyberSing Division II Lieder Prize in honor of Jan Popper; Music Academy of the West, Norma Nichols, Mia Owens, Christoph Prégardien, Albert Schütz for the CyberSing Division I American Song Performance Prize; In Memory of Musicians We've Lost from AIDS; Paul Sperry, Natalie Stutzmann for the Division I Mélodie Prize; Mark Wong and Guy Merola for the CyberSing Division II Audience Prize.

**HELPERS** (\$10-99): Ruth Ballard, Michael Benchitrit; Roxie Berlin, Francis Drake Jr., Susan Duprey, Dwight and Louise Emery, Steven and Rachel Hickling, Lee Alden Johnson, Ann Landrey, Joseph McAlister, Margie Marrs, Lucy Martin, Jay and Judy Messinger, Kent Pachuta, Eric Schank, Sarah Shanahan, Howard Smigel, Robert Steiner, Claudia Whitnah