



# Song Scape

NEWSLETTER OF THE LOTTE LEHMANN FOUNDATION

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## DIETRICH FISCHER-DIESKAU RECEIVES WORLD OF SONG AWARD

One of the primary missions of the Lotte Lehmann Foundation is the promotion and support of art song. Each year the Foundation offers its *World of Song* award, presented in a three-year cycle honoring living pianists, singers, and composers in turn who have made significant contributions to the field.



*Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau*

This year the *World of Song* award was presented to baritone Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau on the occasion of his 80th birthday, 28 May 2005.

The list of recipients already includes some of the most prominent names in the field: in 2001, the pianist Dalton Baldwin on the occasion of his seventieth birthday; in 2002, the tenor Hugues Cuénod, marking his hundredth birthday; in 2003, the composer Ned Rorem, who celebrated his eightieth birthday; and in 2004, the pianist and song scholar Graham Johnson.

The inscription on this year's award reads in part:

*For the intelligence, poetic sensibility, command of nuance, beautiful voice and musical artistry that you brought to the art of Lieder singing;*

*To honor your willingness to explore all aspects of the Lieder repertoire, including contemporary song, and to re-record your vital interpretations of the standard works;*

*In acknowledgement of your 45 year singing career which brought the joy of Lieder to the world;*

*In appreciation of your teaching, master classes, books, conducting and reciting.*

## First Lehmann Foundation Benefit

On 10 May 2005 an appreciative group of art song enthusiasts gathered at the Century Association in New York City for a wonderful catered meal and entertainment of the highest order. Ned Rorem read his own tribute to the guest of honor, Phyllis Curtin, who had sung many of Rorem's songs with him at the piano. Mezzo-soprano Valerie Komar, the Grand Prize winner of CyberSing 2004, and Alexander Hurd, this year's Joy in Singing winner, performed art songs especially selected for the event, with Brian Zeger, the pianist. Foundation president Daron Hagen said, "It's this level of event that lets the classical music world know that the Lehmann Foundation has arrived, is active and growing."



*Daron Hagen and Phyllis Curtin*



*Ned Rorem and Phyllis Curtin*



*Daron Hagen, Marni Nixon, and Su Lian Tan*



*Left to Right: Daron Hagen, president of the Lehmann Foundation; Alexander Hurd, winner of the 2005 Joy in Singing Competition; Scott Dunn, board member and chair of the 2005 Benefit Committee; Valerie Komar, winner of CyberSing 2004; Lukas Foss, advisor; Ned Rorem, board member; Phyllis Curtin, guest of honour; Brian Zeger, vice president and pianist for the event; Ralph Jackson, president of the BMI Foundation.*

## CyberSing Commission Awarded to Dan Welcher

American composer Dan Welcher has been commissioned by the Lotte Lehmann Foundation to write the required song for the next CyberSing, which will take place in 2006.

All participants in CyberSing, the Foundation's international web-based art song competition, are required to prepare a song written especially for the competition. In past years, songs have been commissioned from Ned Rorem and Libby Larsen.

Dan Welcher has composed over 80 works, including more than twenty orchestral works, two operas, works for wind ensemble, choral music and many combinations of chamber music. He has written two art song cycles, as well as a great number of individual songs with various types of accompaniment.



Dan Welcher

Mr. Welcher is currently Professor of Composition at the University of Texas in Austin, where he also conducts both the New Music Ensemble and the University of Texas Opera Theater. His music is represented on more than a dozen CD recordings on the New World, Marco Polo, Crystal, Gasparo, Summit, and Klavier labels.

Mr. Welcher expressed his enthusiasm upon receiving the commission: "I'm very excited about this. The internet is the medium-of-choice for most of the 'under 40' world, and to be involved in a project like this is to get my music in front of thousands of potential performers. What composer wouldn't jump at a chance like that? The Foundation has demonstrated its commitment to the future, not just to preservation of the past."

## Lotte Lehmann Foundation Donors

Please join the donors listed below and help keep art song vital and Lehmann's legacy alive. You can contribute by credit card on our website: [www.lottelehmann.org](http://www.lottelehmann.org). Just go to the bottom of any page and click on "Support the Foundation." Or send a check made payable to the Lotte Lehmann Foundation at 545 8th Avenue, Suite 401, New York, NY 10018. Supporters' names are listed in SongScape and on both the Song! and Lehmann websites. Many thanks for your help!

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**\$100+** Tom & Karen Ackland, Mark Adamo & John Corigliano, Nancy Bannick, Cecile Gray Bazelon, Edwin L. Bedford, Morton Berman, Guthrie Birkhead in Memory of Jane Birkhead, one of Lehmann's students; Phyllis Curtin, Louis Dalaveris, Bruse Eckmann, Richard E. Ford, Alexander Farkas, Beebe Freitas, Vincent Gioia, David P. Hamilton, John & Rosemary Harbison, Alida Lessard Hare, Nancy Oakley Hedemann, Marilyn Horne, Robert LaRue, Jaime Laredo & Sharon Robinson, Davidson & Lois Luehring, Robbie Moray, Alice Marie Nelson, Barry O'Neal, Kent Pachuta, Brenda Patterson, Hilde Randolph, David C. Rayl, in Memory of Jane Birkhead; Charles H. Schmitter, Herman Schornstein, Douglas & Joan Sherman in Memory of their voice teacher, Jane Birkhead; Marguerita & Larry Smith, Steven & Neri Shulman, Shirley Sproule, Luba Tcheresky, Elaine Valby & Paula Kimper, Sherman Zelinsky

**Under \$100** Pat Adams, Thomas Bagwell, Sylvia Baldwin, Roxie Berlin, William Bolcom & Joan Morris, Brenda Lewis Cooper, Wendell Davenport, Christopher & Kari French, Carole & Tom Geballe, Michael & Vicki Gorman, Kevin Hagen, Frederick Hammond, Paul Jaretzki, John Kennedy & Gail Gebhart, Soon-Hee Lee, Thomas & Natalie Mahoney, John & Betsy McCreary, Jay & Judy Messinger, Mia Owens, C. Hugh Pettersen, in Memory of Jane Birkhead, with whom he took lessons; Pau Renaud, in Memory of Jane Birkhead; Mary C. Schiller, Fadlou & Alison Shehadi, Robert C. White, Jr.

## Art Song Pilot Project for Frank Sinatra High School

Frank Sinatra High School in Queens, NY is a high school for the performing arts, with a particular focus on music. Classical vocal music study, however, is limited almost entirely to operatic literature. Judith Kellock, a Lehmann Foundation advisor, has volunteered her services at the school over the course of the past academic year, helping voice students to become better acquainted with art song.

Ms. Kellock, a renowned art song specialist, serves on the performing faculty of Cornell University, and is much in demand as a master class teacher. She describes in her own words her methods in working with students at the school:

Song, art song, pop song, hymn: there is much discussion among performers, attempting to define the differences between ways that we sing words. Art Song usually floats to the surface as a different animal, inaccessible to all but a select few. Even among those who study and perform "classical" song, there is often a disconnect from the real emotional world. But the human condition that inspires us to set words to music hasn't changed. Only our language is different. My work with students at Cornell University now includes an exercise in relevancy: every song is matched to a parallel piece in the student's "vernacular," whatever that happens to be. The parallel can be text, emotion, story line, or any other connection.

Below is Schumann's *Frauenliebe und Leben*, in one student's own experience, drawn in her case from musical theater:

1. "Seit ich ihn gesehen" . . . "Maria" (*West Side Story*)
2. "Er, der Herrlichste von allen" . . . "I Really Like Him" (*Man of La Mancha*)
3. "Ich kann's nicht fassen, nicht glauben" . . . "Out of My Dreams" (*Oklahoma*)
4. "Du Ring an meinem Finger" . . . "Now I Have Everything" (*Fiddler on the Roof*)
5. "Helft mir, ihr Schwestern" . . . "Braid the Raven Hair" (*The Mikado*)
6. "Süßer Freund, du blickest" . . . "We're Having a Baby (My Baby and Me)" (*Banjo Eyes*)
7. "An meinem Herzen, an meiner Brust" . . . "Baby Mine" (*Dumbo*)
8. "Nun hast du mir den ersten Schmerz getan" . . . "I Know the Truth" (*Aida*)

This coming year, I look forward to continuing my work at the Frank Sinatra High School. For me, "crossing over" from one art form to another doesn't have to mean turning one into the other. It can be discovering the connection between the expressions, while holding onto the strength of each, undiluted.

## Art Song Contest Winners Excel

**B**aritone Quinn Kelsey, an Art Song Contest Winner in 1999, has been picked as one of the US representatives at the 2005 BBC Singer of the World Competition in Cardiff this summer.

Mr. Kelsey, represented by Columbia Artists, is completing his second year in the Lyric Opera of Chicago's Center for American Artists program, where he will remain for a third year. He recently sang Ping in *Turandot* at home with Hawaii Opera Theater before returning to Lyric Opera of Chicago. In January 2005, he participated in the Marilyn Horne Foundation's annual recital at Carnegie's Zankel Hall, a program entitled "A Feast of Folksongs."

You can sample one of his songs from the 1999 Winners Recital at: [http://www.art-song.net/artsong/contest/contest\\_annual03.shtml](http://www.art-song.net/artsong/contest/contest_annual03.shtml).

Jordan Shanahan, a 2000 winner of the Foundation-

sponsored Hawaii Art Song Contest, has continued his vocal studies both in the US and in Europe. He has enjoyed recent successes in Holland, Germany and the US.

Mr. Shanahan will cover the role of Ping at Santa Fe Opera this summer. He will also be covering Lehmann Foundation advisor Nathan Gunn in the role of Clyde Griffiths in the world premiere production of *An American Tragedy* by Tobias Picker at the Metropolitan Opera. Based on the 1925 novel of the same name by American writer Theodore Dreiser, the first performance is on 2 December 2005. The production will also star Lehmann Foundation advisor Jennifer Larmore.

In September Mr. Shanahan will sing Cimarosa's *Il Maestro di Capella* with the Portland Chamber Orchestra.

You can sample one of his songs from the 2000 Winners Recital at: [http://www.art-song.net/artsong/contest/contest\\_annual04.shtml](http://www.art-song.net/artsong/contest/contest_annual04.shtml).



Quinn Kelsey



Jordan Shanahan

### IN MEMORIAM

**J**ane Birkhead, a Lehmann student in the 1950s, passed away in January 2005. After a career in concert and musical theatre throughout the Midwest, Ms. Birkhead was

appointed professor of music and musical theatre at the University of Northern Iowa (Cedar Falls) and Oklahoma (Norman).

Her students have contributed to the Lehmann Foundation in her memory and her brother Guthrie loaned the Foundation two of Lehmann's paintings from Jane's estate which were displayed at the Spring Benefit.



### Final Lehmann Recordings Newly Remastered

Lehmann's final studio recordings of French *mélodies* and Richard Strauss Lieder were released by RCA in 1949 in both 78 and 45rpm formats. The Foundation recently obtained a set of the 45rpm versions in good condition, the vinyl surfaces of which are much quieter than the shellacs. Board member Robert Bullington has recently remastered the recordings, allowing Lehmann's voice to come through with more immediacy than ever before.

Mr. Bullington's work can be sampled on the "Hear Lehmann Sing" portion of the Foundation's website.

### New Board Members and Advisor

The Lehmann Foundation welcomes Paul Sperry and Stephen Dembski to the board of directors and Thomas Bagwell as an advisor.

While tenor **Paul Sperry's** repertoire extends from Monteverdi to Britten, he is particularly renowned as one of today's outstanding interpreters of American music. In addition to his performing, which includes countless premieres and commissions, he currently teaches at Manhattan School of Music and at Brooklyn College and Conservatory and has compiled and edited several volumes of American songs. He has recorded for DG, CRI, Crystal, Musical Heritage, Summit and Nonesuch Records and has current releases on the Albany and Zephyr labels. Mr. Sperry is also President of Joy in Singing, an art song organization offering master classes, competitions and substantial performance opportunities for young singers.

**Stephen Dembski** is a composer, conductor, flautist and theorist with a vast array of achievements to his credit. His compositions in a range of media have been performed internationally and recorded by such artists as Phyllis Bryn-Julson, Ursula Oppens and Fred Sherry. As both composer and improvising conductor, he is increasingly involved in working with jazz musicians, and appears on five CD's with the Scott Fields Ensemble. His current projects include a commission commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the New York New Music Ensemble and an operatic setting of a libretto, *Crow Soup*, written for him by the renowned surrealist artist and novelist Leonora Carrington.

**Thomas Bagwell** is one of today's most active young pianists in the fields of song recital and opera. He has accompanied a wide array of singers and instrumentalists, including Frederica von Stade, Roberta Peters, Denyce Graves and Midori. He has served as an assistant conductor at the Metropolitan Opera since 1997 and has performed Vienna's Musikverein, London's Wigmore Hall and Amsterdam's Concertgebouw. Among his proudest achievements was a series of seven recitals at the Austrian Cultural Forum in New York commemorating the 100th anniversary of the death Hugo Wolf. He is on the faculty of the Mannes College of Music.



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**“To awaken not only the artistic but also the human quality of the student—to make of him or her a real personality, must be the goal of the understanding teacher.”**

THE ETUDE MUSIC MAGAZINE  
FEBRUARY 1946

## LEHMANN NEWS



*Lehmann instructing a student during a master class*

### *Lehmann Master Classes Reissued on DVD*

VAI has announced the release of two DVDs of Lehmann's master classes filmed in 1961 at the Music Academy of the West by National Educational Television, the precursor of PBS. VAI had access to the original tapes, now housed in the Library of Congress, yielding sound and picture far superior to the original video release. The first DVD features Lehmann's opera master class and the second focuses on her Lieder classes. In addition, VAI has discovered a 21-minute Lehmann interview from 1963 with the CBC, which will be included as a bonus on the opera DVD.

Throughout the classes, Lehmann demonstrates her rapport with her students as well as an easy command of the stage undimmed by her 73 years. Highlights include her reenactment of her legendary *Rosenkavalier* Marschallin, whose monologue is delivered in a baritone whisper, and her unforgettable silent performance of the conclusion of Schumann's *Frauenliebe und Leben*, underscored by the piano postlude.

Lehmann spontaneously and without notes translates the song or sets the scene for the aria, effortlessly demonstrating why she was considered the greatest singing actor of her day. At one point she sums up her artistic credo with the words, "Every artist should really strive for simplicity. For me, to be able in a simple way to express great emotion is a peak and high point of art."

### *Update on Lehmann Tribute CD*

As reported in the Winter 2005 Newsletter, the Foundation has asked its Advisors and former Lehmann students to record a short sung and/or spoken excerpt for a Lehmann Tribute CD.

The recording will feature Jeanine Altmeyer, Thomas Bagwell,\* Dalton Baldwin,\* Juliane Banse,\* Grace Bumbry, Alexander Farkas,\* Beaumont Glass,\* Evangeline Noël Glass,\* Maria Zahlten Hall, Wolfgang Holzmair, Speight Jenkins,\* Warren Jones,\* Judith Kellock, Jennifer Larmore, Lotfi Mansouri, Norman Mittleman, Carol Neblett, Alice Marie Nelson,\* Marni Nixon,\* Kurt Ollmann, Christoph Prégardien, Paul Sperry,\* Shirley Sproule,\* Frederica von Stade, Nathalie Stutzmann, Page Swift,\* Luba Tcheresky, Damien Top,\* Robert White, Brian Zeger\* and others. (\* = already recorded).

The response of those who have already recorded their contributions has been uniformly positive. We look forward to a 2006 release.