

MARIAN ANDERSON PRIZE FOR EMERGING CLASSICAL ARTISTS

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MARIAN ANDERSON AWARD ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 2005 MARIAN ANDERSON PRIZE FOR EMERGING CLASSICAL ARTISTS

The recipients of the Marian Anderson Prize for Emerging Classical Artists were announced today by Pamela A. Crawley, Chairman of the Marian Anderson Award Board of Directors, on behalf of the Board and Astral Artistic Services, the program's administrative partner. The top prize of \$3,000 was awarded to Jonathan Beyer, Baritone and member of the Opera Program of the Curtis Institute of Music. Two additional prizes of \$1,000 each were awarded to Ezgi Kutlu, Soprano, also a member of Curtis's Opera Program and Christopher Clayton, Baritone, who holds a certificate in Professional Studies from the Manhattan School of Music. A unique musical competition created by the Marian Anderson Award as a component of the Award's community investment programs, the Prize program recognizes and supports emerging professional singers. Applicants to the program must be born, reside or train in Pennsylvania, New Jersey or Delaware and the program is funded by a grant from the Citizens Bank Foundation, the inaugural sponsor of the competition. The Prize has become a professional credential of increasing significance, and more than \$45,000 has been awarded to classical singers since the inaugural competition in 2002.

The annual competition is open to singers age 35 and under who study, reside, or were born in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, or Delaware. For 2005, there were 49 applicants, 24 of whom auditioned over a two-day period on November 3 and 4 at the Esther Boyer College of Music of Temple University. The winners will appear in the **Marian Anderson Prize Winners Recital** presented by Astral Artistic Services at the Academy of Vocal Arts, 1920 Spruce Street, on Friday, December 2, 2005 at 8:00 pm. **The event is free and open to the public.**

In announcing the prize recipients, Pamela A. Crawley, Board President of the Marian Anderson Award and Senior Vice President of Public Affairs at Citizens Bank said, "Citizens Bank is delighted to support this program that acknowledges those individuals who are emerging as distinguished singers, just as Marian Anderson was a towering figure in her lifetime."

The Marian Anderson Prize for Emerging Classical Artists is supported with a leadership grant from **Citizens Bank** with additional support provided by Temple University's **Esther Boyer College of Music** and Philadelphia's **Academy of Vocal Arts**. Astral Artistic Services, a non-profit organization, supports, at no charge, the professional development of outstanding young musicians. Since 1992, Astral Artists have been the recipients of some of the most coveted international prizes and have appeared with major orchestras and opera companies throughout the world.

November 17, 2005

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JONATHAN BEYER, baritone

A native of Orland Park, Illinois, 23-year-old baritone Jonathan Beyer is currently a member of the Opera Program at Philadelphia's Curtis Institute of Music. He began his musical studies as a composition major at the Boston Conservatory, and received both graduate and undergraduate degrees in Vocal Performance from the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University. At CCPA he performed the roles of Ottone in *The Coronation of Poppea* and Count Almaviva in *Le nozze di Figaro*. During the last three summers he performed at the Chautauqua Institution, where he sang the roles of Musiklehrer in *Ariadne auf Naxos*, Marcello in *La bohème*, and Nick Shadow in *The Rake's Progress*. He has also performed with Chicago Opera Theater and at the Chicago Cultural Center. A winner in the Chicago NATS competitions, he was the 2005 first-prize winner of both the Lola Fletcher Grant from the American Opera Society and the Union League Civic and Arts Foundation competition. Mr. Beyer was also the 2004 grand-prize winner of the Bel Canto Foundation competition, which resulted in the opportunity to study with famed tenor Carlo Bergonzi.

CHRISTOPHER CLAYTON, baritone

From Bountiful, Utah, and currently residing in New Jersey, baritone Christopher Clayton recently received a Professional Studies Certificate from the Manhattan School of Music. He also holds Bachelor's degrees in both Vocal Performance and Mechanical Engineering from the University of Utah. He recently completed a summer as a young artist at the Chautauqua Institution, and appeared as Don Giovanni at the Manhattan School of Music, and as John Sorel in the Bronx Opera's production of *The Consul*. He has also appeared in the title role of Gianni Schicchi, as Papageno in *The Magic Flute*, Somarone in Berlioz's *Beatrice et Bénédicte*, Jupiter in Offenbach's *Orpheus in the Underworld*, and Starveling in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Mr. Clayton has given recitals in various venues in both Utah and New York, including a performance in Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall.

EZGI KUTLU, mezzo-soprano

Turkish mezzo-soprano Ezgi Kutlu completed her Master of Music degree at The Juilliard School and is currently enrolled in the Opera Program at Philadelphia's Curtis Institute of Music. This season she appears as the Composer in Curtis Opera Theatre's production of *Ariadne auf Naxos*, 3rd Lady in *Die Zauberflöte*, and Nancy in *Albert Herring*. Also for Curtis, she has appeared as the Swiss grandmother in the Philadelphia première of John Adams' *The Death of Klinghoffer*, Dorabella in *Così fan tutte*, and Bradamante in Handel's *Alcina*. While at Juilliard she performed the roles of Orlofsky in *Die Fledermaus* and Miles in *Turn of the Screw*. Ms. Kutlu was invited by composer Lukas Foss to perform Mahler's *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen* for the Music Festival of the Hamptons closing gala concert. She is also a recent winner of the Leopoldskron Competition.