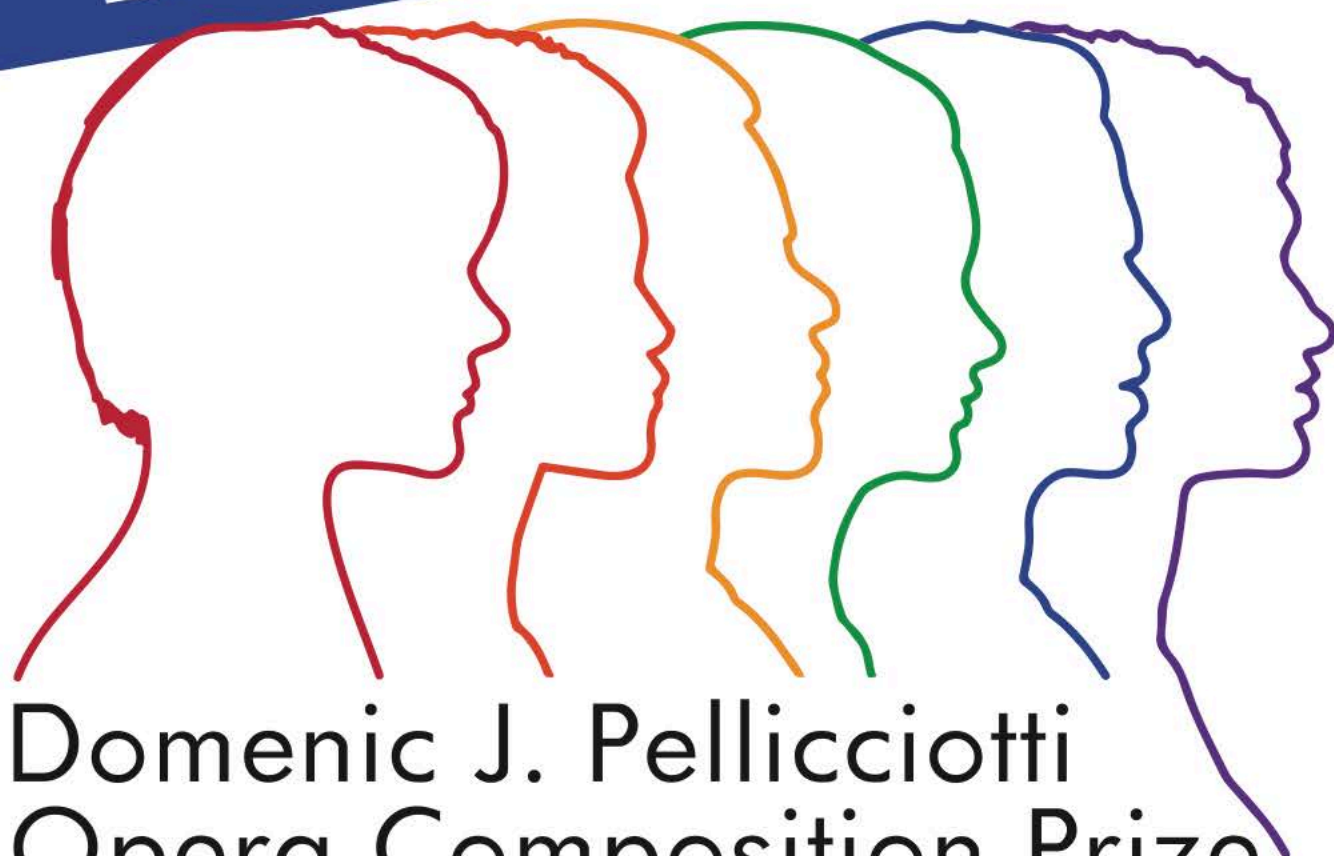


September 23 and 24, 2016

The Crane School of Music
at SUNY Potsdam

2018 COMPETITION FINALS



**Domenic J. Pellicciotti
Opera Composition Prize**

THE CRANE SCHOOL OF MUSIC • SUNY POTSDAM

FINALISTS

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, September 23

Wakefield Recital Hall

4:00 pm

Panel Discussion with Composers, Librettists and Dramaturg

Moderated by Mark Campbell and Darren K. Woods

The finals composers, librettists, and dramaturg discuss the creative process in the context of today's American opera landscape.

Saturday, September 24

Snell Music Theater

Presentation of finalist scenes by faculty and students of

The Crane School of Music, with introductions

by the composer and librettist teams:

1:00 pm

Program A: *Albert Nobbs* and *Mayo*

5:00 pm

Program B: *The Reef* and *Uncovered*

ABOUT THE PRIZE

The Domenic J. Pellicciotti Opera Composition Prize at The Crane School of Music was founded by Dr. Gary C. Jaquay ('67) to honor his life partner Domenic J. Pellicciotti, an ardent fan of opera. Awarded every four years, the project seeks to encourage and acknowledge the creation of new operatic works that explore themes related to tolerance, inclusion or the celebration of diversity within an inclusive community.

Four project proposals were selected as finalists by a panel of distinguished opera professionals based on a Call for Proposals, and the composer/librettist teams were commissioned to write a fifteen-to-twenty-minute scene for the finals. Faculty and students of The Crane School of Music have prepared these scenes for musical performance this weekend, and from these four finalists, one winner will be awarded a \$25,000 commission to complete the work, which will premiere in November 2018 by the award-winning Crane Opera Ensemble & Orchestra.

PROGRAM A – SNELL MUSIC THEATER

Albert Nobbs (Patrick Soluri, composer; Deborah Brevoort, librettist)

Scenes 2 and 3

Albert Nobbs is a gender-bending story about a butler in a 19th-century Irish hotel who hides a secret: he is really a she. When her identity is discovered by another woman posing as a man, Albert begins a desperate search for love, leading to despair and ultimately her death.

CAST

Albert Nobbs	Kathie Kane
Hubert Page	Helena Waterous
Mr. Baker	Jonathan Stinson

François Germain, piano

Kirk Severtson, conductor



DEBORAH BREVOORT (librettist) is an award-winning playwright who began writing for opera in American Lyric Theater's Composer/Librettist Development program. She is best known for her play *The Women of Lockerbie*, which is performed internationally. Her operas include *Embedded*, *Steal a Pencil for Me*, and new adaptations of *Die Fledermaus* and Mozart's *Impressario*, produced at Ft. Worth, Fargo Moorhead and Anchorage Operas. A two-time winner of the Frederick Loewe Award in musical theatre, her plays are published by DPS, Samuel French, Applause Books and No Passport Press. Deborah teaches at Goddard College, Columbia University and NYU's Graduate Musical Theatre Writing program. www.deborahbrevoort.com



PATRICK SOLURI (composer) is a NYC based composer who specializes telling stories through music working within orchestra, ballet, opera, and film/TV. This includes seven commissioned ballet scores (Staatsballett Berlin, Dances Patrelle, Intermezzo, Bowen McCauley Dance, CVYB); operatic works performed around the country (New York City Opera, Fort Worth Opera, Nevada Opera, Fargo-Moorehead Opera, Center City Opera Theater, Urban Arias, American Lyric Theater, Juventas, Vienne en Voix Festival, and RTB); several film scores (Wonderpets, Americas Got Talent, Sing it Laurie, Alter Egos [w/Sean Lennon], Confined, and hundreds of tracks of music for film & TV (Sony/ATV; shows on TLC, Logo and Discovery). Notable performances include Carnegie Hall (four opera premieres), The Kennedy Center (conducting world premiere of his ballet score FIRE & AIR), and 18 performances of his ballet score CONTINUUM at Komische Opera by Staatsballet Berlin. www.patricksoluri.com

PROGRAM A – SNELL MUSIC THEATER

Mayo (Tom Cipullo, composer & librettist)

Scenes 1 and 2

Based on a true story, *Mayo* tells of America's tragic infatuation with eugenics in the early 20th Century. Though Mayo Buckner was committed to the Iowa Home for Feeble-Minded Children at the age of eight and lived there for sixty years, he forged a life of quiet dignity and meaning.

CAST

Procurers (Eugenics supporters)

Leader E.S.	Lonel Woods
Second of procurers	Sean Fahy
Third of procurers	Faraz Ardalan

Marchers (Indigents)

Jim (Marcher 1)	Jonathan Stinson
Billy (Marcher 2)	Kirk McAuliffe
Henry (Marcher 3)	Wesly Clerge
Sam (Marcher 4)	Henry Horstmann
Unnamed marcher	Ivan Jukić

Superintendent David Pittman-Jennings

Mrs. Buckner Lorraine Yaros Sullivan

Miss Goodrich Colleen Skull

Young Mayo Erik Severtson

Women's Chorus	Autumn Capocci	Gabrielle McCormack
	Allison Gosney	Rachel Nunneker
	Nora Kazemieh	Sarah Solari

François Germain, piano

Kirk Severtson, conductor



Hailed by the American Academy of Art & Letters for music of “inexhaustible imagination, wit, expressive range and originality,” **TOM CIPULLO** (composer and librettist) is the winner of a 2012 Guggenheim Fellowship and the 2013 Arts & Letters Award from the American Academy. Cipullo's music has been recorded on the Naxos, Albany, CRI, PGM, Centaur, and Capstone labels and is published by Oxford University Press and Classical Vocal Reprints. The Fort Worth Opera recording of his *Glory Denied*, (Albany Records) was cited by *Opera News* as among the best of 2014. *The New York Times* has called his music “intriguing and unconventional.” www.tomcipullo.net

PROGRAM B – SNELL MUSIC THEATER

The Reef (Anthony Davis, composer; Joan Ross Sorkin, librettist)

Scenes 3-5

Adapted from Edith Wharton's novel and reset in Martinique, 1911, *The Reef* is a tragic opera in which the strict conventions of plantation society breed intolerance based on race and class, and doom love between an American widow and a diplomat because of his prior affair with a mixed-race nursemaid.

CAST

Anna de Chantal	Colleen Skull
Madame de Chantal	Lorraine Yaros Sullivan
George Darrow	Jonathan Stinson
Sonya	D'Nasya Jordan
Christophe de Chantal	Kirk McAuliffe
The Invisibles	<i>See listing on page 8</i>

François Germain, piano

Kirk Severtson, conductor



JOAN ROSS SORKIN (librettist) is an opera librettist, playwright, and musical theatre bookwriter and lyricist. Operas: *Strange Fruit* (premiere, Long Leaf Opera; New York City Opera's VOX, In Concert, Harlem School of the Arts in association with City Opera); *White Witch, A Monodrama for Contralto and Percussion* (premiere, Symphony Space). Musicals: *Monet, In The Theatre, The Real McCoy, Go Green!* and *Isabelle and The Pretty-Ugly Spell*. Plays: *(mis)Understanding Mammy: The Hattie McDaniel Story* (Drama Desk nom. for Capathia Jenkins), *The Survival Collection, Hamlet in Bensonhurst, The Confessional* and others. Member, Dramatists Guild, BMI Musical Theatre Workshop, and ASCAP. www.joanrosssorkin.com



ANTHONY DAVIS (composer) has composed seven operas. *X: The Life and Times of Malcom X*, with a libretto by Thulani Davis, had its world premiere at New York City Opera in 1986. A recording of the opera was released in 1992 on the Gramavision label and earned a Grammy nomination for music composition. His fourth opera, *Amistad*, with a libretto by Thulani Davis, premiered at the Lyric Opera of Chicago on November 29, 1997, and was released on New World Records in 2008. His other works include the music for the critically acclaimed Broadway production of Tony Kushner's *Angels in America*.

PROGRAM B – SNELL MUSIC THEATER

Uncovered (Lori Laitman, composer; Leah Lax, librettist)

Scene 1

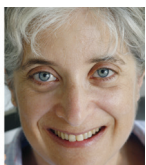
Uncovered is the deeply moving story of a woman in a society that dictates every aspect of her existence so that she hides her real self. The opera is based on librettist Leah Lax's memoir, *Uncovered: How I Left Hasidic Life and Finally Came Home*.

CAST

Lisa / Leah	Bridget Moriarty
Grandmother	Deborah Massell
Mother	Lorraine Yaros Sullivan
Rabbi	David Pittman-Jennings
Levi	Lonel Woods
Chorus	See listing on page 8

François Germain, piano

Kirk Severtson, conductor



LEAH LAX (librettist) holds an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Houston. She has written award-winning fiction and non-fiction. In 2007, with composer Christopher Theofanidis, Lax wrote *The Refuge* for the Houston Grand Opera to glowing reviews in the New York Times and in Symphony Magazine, and it was broadcast on NPR. In 2013, Leah wrote and designed *Houston In Concert Against Hate* with the Houston Symphony honoring Houston leaders in civil rights. Featuring actress Alfre Woodard and rapper Bun B, the production sold out a week in advance and was reviewed in Rolling Stone. *Uncovered* is based on her 2015 memoir, published by She Writes Press. www.leahlaxauthor.com



Described by *Fanfare Magazine* as “one of the most talented and intriguing of living composers,” **LORI LAITMAN** (composer) has composed multiple operas and choral works, and over 250 songs, setting texts by classical and contemporary poets (including those who perished in the Holocaust). Her music is widely performed, internationally and throughout the United States, and has generated substantial critical acclaim. *The Journal of Singing* wrote “It is difficult to think of anyone before the public today who equals her exceptional gifts for embracing a poetic text and giving it new and deeper life through music.” www.artsongs.com

2018 SELECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS



CONSULTING DRAMATURG

Cori Ellison, a leading creative figure in the opera world, is Dramaturg at Glyndebourne Festival Opera and a Vocal Arts Faculty member at The Juilliard School, Ravinia Steans Music Institute and Crested Butte Opera Studio. She was staff Dramaturg at New York City Opera (1997-2010), where she co-curated the VOX American Opera Showcase. Active in developing contemporary opera, she teaches dramaturgy for American Lyric Theater's Composer Librettist Development Program, is dramaturg for new opera initiatives at companies including Glyndebourne, Canadian Opera, Opera Philadelphia, and Beth Morrison Projects, and was the first dramaturg invited to participate in the Yale Institute for Music Theatre. She leads master classes for young singers and has lectured at schools and performance venues worldwide.



Librettist **Mark Campbell**'s most known work is *Silent Night*, which received the 2012 Pulitzer in Music. Other operas include *Later the Same Evening*, *As One*, *Volpone*, *The Manchurian Candidate*, and *The Shining*. Mark has received a Grammy® nomination, the first Kleban Foundation Award for Lyricist, two Richard Rodgers Awards, a Jonathan Larson Award, a NYFA Playwriting Fellowship, and the first Dominic J. Pellicciotti Award. Premieres in 2017: *Dinner at Eight* for Minnesota Opera, *Some Light Emerges* for Houston Grand Opera, *Burke & Hare* for Boston Lyric Opera, *Elizabeth Cree* for Opera Philadelphia and *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs* for Santa Fe Opera.



Pianist **François Germain** is currently on the faculty of the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam where he is a professor of piano, vocal coaching and serves on the music staff of the Crane Opera ensemble. Since 2009, Dr. Germain has been on the Faculty of the University of Miami Frost School of Music Summer Program in Salzburg, Austria, one of Europe's most respected programs of its kind for singers and vocal pianists. A lyric diction specialist, he is a founder/editor of the website dictionpolice.com, teaches lyric diction at the University of Ottawa, Ontario, and has been invited to give masterclasses and workshops in institutions across Europe and North America.



Carleen Graham is a State University of New York Distinguished Teaching Professor and directed the award-winning Crane Opera Ensemble at SUNY Potsdam 1991–2016. Dr. Graham was instrumental in the development of the Domenic J. Pellicciotti Opera Composition Prize, first awarded in 2014. She was the co-founder (with Stephanie Blythe) of the Fall Island Vocal Arts Seminar and Executive Director 2012–2016, and is currently Vice President of Conventions for the National Opera Association. Dr. Graham is the Director of HGOCO at the Houston Grand Opera, the company's community engagement, education and creative projects program.

2018 SELECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Nicole Paiement is the Artistic Director of Opera Parallèle in San Francisco, where she has conducted many new productions of World and American premieres. Under her leadership, the company has quickly developed a reputation for its innovative approach to contemporary opera. Since 2012, Paiement has also been the Principal Guest Conductor at the Dallas Opera. Additionally, Paiement has been the Artistic Director of the BluePrint Project, a new music series sponsored by the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. With this music series, she has commissioned, premiered, and recorded works from many living composers. Paiement is an active guest conductor. Upcoming engagements include appearances at the Washington National Opera; Glimmerglass Festival; Atlanta Opera; OtherMinds; and the Monterey Jazz Festival. Her recordings include numerous world premiere works.



Kirk Severtson serves as musical director for the Crane Opera Ensemble and also works on the music staffs of Opera Saratoga and The Dallas Opera (including three world premieres in 2015), and has previously coached at Opera North, the Opera Theater of Lucca (Italy), Cincinnati Opera, among others. He served six years as chair of the Music Performance Department at Crane and continues to work actively with the National Opera Association, serving as Associate Executive Director. He is a graduate of Luther College and holds graduate degrees in piano performance from the University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music.



Tim Sullivan is a composer, theorist, and percussionist. He holds a Ph.D. in Music Theory and Composition from the University of Michigan, where he studied composition with Bright Sheng, Betsy Jolas, Karen Tanaka, and William Bolcom, and music theory/compositional systems with Andrew Mead. His compositions have been performed by ensembles and soloists throughout the US, and have been recorded on the Navona and Albany labels. Forthcoming publications include analytical essays on Alfred Schnittke (Olms Verlag, 2017) and Galina Ustvolskaya (Oxford University Press, 2017). He performs regularly with the Northern Symphonic Winds and the Orchestra of Northern New York.



Since **Darren K. Woods** began his tenure at Fort Worth Opera in 2001, the company continues to benefit from an increased subscription and donor base, a restructured festival format, and a devotion to new American opera. Considered a leading expert in producing 21st-century opera composition, Mr. Woods was hailed by Opera News in 2012 as one of this decade's 25 most influential industry professionals. In addition to mainstream opera productions, Fort Worth Opera launched a contemporary chamber opera series in 2008 called Opera Unbound, and in 2013, Mr. Woods further advanced the company's commitment to new work by starting Frontiers, a composer-librettist competition designed to identify new, developing operas. He has served on the board of OPERA America as a Vice President

of Artistic Services. He has served as General Director of Shreveport Opera and General and Artistic Director of Seagle Music Colony. Mr. Woods frequently judges vocal competitions including the Richard Tucker Foundation, Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, Lieber Competition, Denver Opera Guild Competition, Dallas Opera Guild Competition, and Marguerite McCammon Competition. Prior to his management positions, Mr. Woods performed nationally and internationally as an operatic tenor for 20 years.

CHORUS

Faraz Ardalan	Amanda Joseph	Gabrielle McCormack
Autumn Capocci	Ivan Jukić	Andrew Morrison
Wesly Clerge	Kathie Kane	Rachel Nunneker
Christopher DeNova	Nora Kazemieh	Brett Roden
Allison Gosney	Kirk McAuliffe	Sarah Solari
Henry Horstmann	Morganne McClement	Helena Waterous
Alec House-Baillargeon		

CRANE OPERA ENSEMBLE

The award-winning Crane Opera Ensemble is a significant source for opera and music theatre in the North Country region of New York State. The ensemble provides exciting opportunities for students to experience all facets of opera performance and production through rehearsals, coachings and classes related to performance practices and production techniques.

Two fully-staged productions are produced each year (one with orchestra and one with a chamber instrumental group or piano). In addition, an Opera Scenes Workshop provides students the opportunity to study a partial role and perform it in an informal venue. The Crane Opera Ensemble is proud of its opera education outreach program. North Country school children experience opera and engage in post-performance workshops with cast members and faculty. To date, over 4,000 children have participated, many experiencing opera for the first time.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Dr. Gary C. Jaquay
The Crane School of Music, Dean Michael Sitton
SUNY Potsdam, President Kristin Esterberg
Provost Bette Bergeron
Douglas McKinnie, audio/video engineer
Lorelei Murdie, facilities manager

Student interns/assistants:
Ivan Jukić
Katrina Sheats
Jeri Barber
Johnna Bernard

Please join us for our Fall 2016 Production:
The Tender Land, by Aaron Copland, November 10, 11 & 12, 2016
Snell Music Theater - Please call 315-267-2277 for tickets



Domenic J. Pellicciotti (1949-2010)

Gary '67 (left) and Domenic (right)

Domenic was born into an Italian-American family known for humor, great conversation and loyalty. He grew up in a multi-generational household where the values of sharing, respect and creativity were highly encouraged. Domenic was known for his great personal warmth, conversation and very quick wit. He graduated from St. Joseph's

University before enrolling in the U.S. Army. Upon his return to Philadelphia, he worked with the Federal Social Security office for 30 years in various capacities within this organization. Over the years, his diligence and excellent work ethic were recognized by special awards and promotions within this office.

After retiring in 2001, Domenic and his partner Gary Jaquay '67 often entertained friends and family and explored activities that they were unable to do before. Domenic was a voracious reader and they traveled a great deal, often timing a trip so that they would be able to enjoy operas in London, Paris, Vienna, Munich, Milan, Sydney, Moscow, as well as across America. Life in Philadelphia offered such diverse musical opportunities.

Domenic's love of opera extended to discovering emerging singers and they amassed a large library. He also listened to many early opera pioneers: Caruso, Callas, Gigli, Wunderlich, Melba and Melchior, among others. His search for recordings brought in many 78 RPMs and even a few thick, single-sided recordings.

Domenic and Gary's life adventures encouraged the possibility of a special gift to The Crane Opera Ensemble in memory of Domenic and his love of opera. Gary is thrilled to sponsor this among other gifts to The Crane School of Music to honor family members who have inspired his musical growth. He hopes such gifts will keep their names alive for years to come.