

Angela Meade

VOCAL COMPETITION FINALE



NOVEMBER 2, 2025

PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY

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College of Professional Studies
School of Music, Theatre & Dance presents

Angela Meade

VOCAL COMPETITION FINALE

November 2, 2025, 3:00 pm
Lagerquist Concert Hall

PROGRAM

WELCOME

Dr. Brian Galante

Associate Dean, School of Music, Theatre & Dance

FINALISTS PERFORMANCES

Ho capito..... Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)
from *Don Giovanni*

Deep River arr. Moses Hogan (1957-2003)
Cade Tate, baritone

Ach, ich fühls W. A. Mozart
from *Die Zauberflöte*

Anne Boleyn.....Libby Larsen (b. 1950)
from *Try Me, Good King*
Emily Morse, soprano

Va! Laisse couler mes larmes Jules Massenet (1842-1912)
from *Werther*

Per pietà bell'idol mio Vincenzo Bellini (1801-1835)
Mariana Vargas, mezzo-soprano

It was a lover and his lass Gerald Finzi (1901-1956)
from *Let Us Garlands Bring*

Come Paride vezzoso Gaetano Donizetti (1797-1848)
from *L'elisir d'amore*
Giacobbe Whitworth, baritone

Nacht und Träume Franz Schubert (1797-1828)
Come scoglio W.A. Mozart
from *Così fan tutte*

Claire Schwartz, soprano

JUDGES DELIBERATION

*Please join us in the lobby for refreshments
as the judges deliberate.*

AWARDS PRESENTATION

Dr. James Brown

Coordinator of Vocal Studies

ABOUT THE PIANIST



Sheila Bristow is a composer, church musician, and collaborative keyboardist based in Tacoma, WA. She serves as Music Director and Organist at St. Barnabas, Bainbridge, and keyboardist for Harmonia Orchestra and Chorus. She is also in demand as an opera accompanist, vocal coach, and continuo performer.

Sheila's compositions are heard regularly in worship and in concert. Recent awards include the American Prize, Third Place in the major choral works division, for When Music Sounds (tenor, chorus, and chamber orchestra). She holds degrees in composition and organ performance from Cornish College of the Arts and the University of Washington.

THANK YOU

We are grateful to Angela Meade and her husband, John Myers, for establishing the endowment that makes the Angela Meade Vocal Competition possible. In addition, we are thankful to a number of PLU alumni and friends for their gifts to both the Angela Meade Endowment Fund and the Angela Meade Vocal Competition Fund. Contributions to these funds can be made through the Office of Advancement at Pacific Lutheran University.

ABOUT THE FINALISTS

(in performance order)



CADE TATE is a baritone, 2nd-year Choral Music Education Major from Graham, Washington. He currently studies with Professor Holly Boaz and sings with Choir of the West, Knight's Chorus, and Choral Union at PLU. Cade has performed in various voice competitions and master classes, including WMEA State Solo Ensemble, NATS, and, most recently, performed in a voice masterclass with University of Michigan Voice Faculty Member Caitlyn Lynch. Cade is thrilled to be able to perform today and feels a real connection to the music he's selected. He cannot wait to share that with the audience!



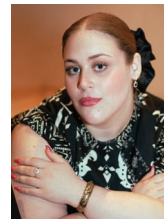
EMILY MORSE is a soprano currently in her final year of study at Pacific Lutheran University. She is pursuing her Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance under the instruction of Professor Soon Cho. Her notable roles with PLU Opera include Josephine in *H.M.S. Pinafore*, Soprano in *Trouble in Tahiti*, and Adina in *The Elixir of Love*. She has had the honor of working with Vashon Opera, singing in the chorus of *Roméo et Juliette* and *The Merry Widow*, and most recently singing the role of Spirit #5 in *Cendrillon*, as well as stage managing for the production. She serves as soprano section leader in the Choir of the West and has been a member of the group for three years now. She would like to thank Dr. Cho for her guidance and her family for their continuous support.



MARIANA VARGAS is a mezzo-soprano studying vocal performance at PLU. She is in her junior year and excited to show her growth at the competition. Mariana loves the expressiveness, drama, and beauty of opera and hopes to channel her own artistry through the pieces she will sing. As a lover of music, she also loves to venture into different genres, and she performs and sings with PLU's Mariachi del Pacífico.



GIACOBBE WHITWORTH is thrilled to be a finalist in this event! Giacobbe is a first-year music education major studying under Professor Barry Johnson. He has the honor of singing with the Choir of the West and the Knights Chorus at PLU. He began his musical journey in his junior year at Puyallup High School and has adored every minute of it. He would love to thank Barry Johnson for all of his expertise and his family for their support of his passion!



Soprano **CLAIRE SCHWARTZ** is a 4th-year student studying under Professor Soon Cho. She started her undergraduate studies in music at South Puget Sound Community College, before transferring to Pacific Lutheran University to finish her degree in vocal performance. Most recently, Claire performed as Night in Henry Purcell's *The Fairy Queen*, singing his famous aria, "O Let Me Weep." She also studied the role of Lauretta from *Gianni Schicchi*, in J-term opera scenes, and the role of Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni*, in PLU's 2024 summer opera workshop. Beyond opera, Claire has a deep love for vocal jazz and is passionate about health and wellness.

ABOUT THE JUDGES



James Brown enjoys an eclectic career of conducting, concertizing as a singer, stage directing, and voice teaching. He is the Coordinator of Vocal Studies at Pacific Lutheran University, where he directs the opera and oversees a large voice program. His voice students have gone on to study at graduate programs such as Indiana University, The Juilliard School, University of Michigan,

Northwestern University, Temple University, and Yale University. James joined Vashon Opera through stage directing and conducting *The Barber of Seville* in Vashon Opera's second season. Ever since, he has become the musical and theatrical engine behind the company bringing his multiple talents to bear in many productions. In 2024, the board invited James to step into the role of General Director to lead the company through its 15th season and beyond.

As a tenor, James sang in many professional opera productions under the batons of such conductors as James Conlon, John DeMain, Richard Hickox, Julius Rudel, and Robert Spano. Recent concert appearances include many performances of *Messiah*, most recently with Symphony Tacoma. Brown has concertized internationally in China, Italy, and Mexico as tenor soloist.

As the regular conductor and stage director for Vashon Opera, James has led productions such as *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, *Carmen*, *Così fan tutte*, *Les Dialogues des Carmélites*, *Die Fledermaus*, *Don Giovanni*, *Eugene Onegin*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Pagliacci*, *Tosca*, and *Werther*. Other notable productions as stage director include *Mozart's The Magic Flute*, Kurt Weill's *Street Scene*, Monteverdi's *L'Orfeo*, Handel's *Semele*, *La bohème* and a critically acclaimed production of *Sweeney Todd*. James has guest directed and/or conducted for Pacific Northwest Opera, Seattle Opera's Educational Outreach, and Tacoma Opera.

Recent productions for James include Verdi's *Otello* and *Falstaff*, and Massenet's *Cendrillon* with Vashon Opera, and Purcell's *The Fairy Queen* with PLU Opera. James was a Resident Artist at The Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia and holds degrees in voice from Loyola University/New Orleans, The Juilliard School and the State University of New York at Stony Brook.



Baritone **Randall Scarlata** is acclaimed by the *New York Times* as "an intelligent and communicative singer" with a "compelling desire to bring texts to life." He is equally lauded for his versatility, consummate musicianship and ability to perform a repertoire spanning five centuries and sixteen languages.

Mr. Scarlata has appeared as a soloist on concert stages throughout Europe, North America, South America, Australia, and Asia. He has performed with major ensembles including the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Minnesota Orchestra, and the Pittsburgh, San Francisco, and BBC Symphonies. He also frequently collaborates with early music groups such as Wiener Akademie and Tempesta di Mare.

A sought-after interpreter of new music, Scarlata has given world premieres of works by numerous composers, including George Crumb, Paul Moravec, Richard Danielpour, Ned Rorem, and Lori Laitman. He is a regular guest with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Brooklyn Art Song Society, and has been involved with Philadelphia's Lyric Fest since its creation. He is also a fixture at many of the world's great music festivals, including the Ravinia, Marlboro, Edinburgh, Vienna, and Salzburg festivals.

Scarlata regularly performs the great song cycles, maintaining especially rewarding partnerships with pianists Gilbert Kalish, Laura Ward, and Cameron Stowe. His recording of Schubert's *Winterreise* with Gilbert Kalish was honored with a Grammy nomination for Best Classical Vocal Solo. The duo is performing this cycle tonight at Lagerquist Concert Hall and recently recorded Schubert's *Die schöne Müllerin*. His extensive discography includes 25 commercially released recordings.

In addition to his performing career, Mr. Scarlata is a sought-after master teacher. In 2019, he joined the faculty of the Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University and the Tanglewood Music Center, where he was named an Endowed Berkshire Master Teacher Chair. He previously held teaching affiliations with The Juilliard School, and the Bard Conservatory. He holds degrees from the Eastman School of Music and The Juilliard School, and studied in Vienna as a Fulbright scholar. In the formative stages of his career, he was a top prize winner in the Young Concert Artists' International Auditions, the Naumburg Competition, and The Das Schubert Lied Competition (Vienna). He had the honor of studying under the great French baritone, Gérard Souzay.

American soprano **Angela Meade** is the winner of both the Metropolitan Opera's 2012 Beverly Sills Artist Award and the 2011 Richard Tucker Award. In 2008, she joined an elite group of history's singers when, as Elvira in Verdi's *Ernani*, she made her professional operatic debut on the Met stage. Since then, she has fast become recognized as one of today's outstanding vocalists, excelling in the most demanding heroines of the 19th-century bel canto repertoire as well as in the operas of Verdi and Mozart.

In the 2024-2025 season, Angela Meade made notable returns to Teatro La Fenice, The Metropolitan Opera, Bayerische Staatsoper, and Teatro Carlo Felice in celebrated role portrayals. She returned to the Metropolitan Opera as Leonora in *Il Trovatore* in David McVicar's critically acclaimed production, conducted by Daniele Callegari. She sang the title role in *Lucrezia Borgia* in Munich and made her debut as the title role in *Die Liebe der Danae* at Teatro Carlo Felice, conducted by Fabio Luisi. Concert appearances included Mahler 8 with Nashville Symphony and Mahler 2 with San Diego Symphony and Rafael Payare.

On the concert stage, Ms. Meade has appeared as a soloist with the New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, St. Louis Symphony, Baltimore Symphony, Boston Symphony, Cleveland Orchestra, Houston Symphony, Minnesota Orchestra, Orchestre Métropolitain, Philadelphia Orchestra, Pittsburgh Symphony, Cincinnati Symphony, Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, San Antonio Symphony, and Seattle Symphony, among others. Conductors with whom she has collaborated include Roberto Abbado, Gustavo Dudamel, Marin Alsop, Marco Armiliato, Maurizio Benini, Will Crutchfield, Thomas Dausgaard, Plácido Domingo, Charles Dutoit, Riccardo Frizza, Manfred Honeck, Sebastian Lang-Lessing, James Levine, Fabio Luisi, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Gianandrea Noseda, Donald Runnicles, Gerard Schwarz, and Osmo Vänskä.

A native of Washington State and an alumna of the Academy of Vocal Arts, Ms. Meade has triumphed in an astounding number of vocal competitions: 57 in all, including many of the opera world's most important prizes. In addition to being a winner at the 2007 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, as documented in *The Audition*, a film subsequently released on DVD by Decca, she was also the first singer to take first prize in both the opera and operetta categories of the prestigious Belvedere Competition.