



AMERICAN TRADITIONS VOCAL COMPETITION 2017 SEASON TICKETS ON SALE NOW

SAVANNAH, GA - December 9, 2016 - The American Traditions Vocal Competition (ATC) is gearing up to launch its 24th season with 28 contestants, one returning judge as well as two new judges, and a new pianist.

The legendary ATC was established as a world renowned 501(c)3 nonprofit arts institution to highlight classic American music. This year, newcomers Andrew Lippa and Sylvia McNair will serve as first-time judges, working alongside Kurt Ollmann, who returns to the panel for a second year. Dan Gettinger will also join the competition as the pianist, while Annastasia Victory and Wilson Southerland return.

Bill Lavonis, a voice instructor at Georgia Southern University, will again serve as the emcee for the quarterfinal rounds and semi rounds.

Ollmann, a baritone, has established a wide-ranging international career in recital, concert and opera. A distinguished orchestral soloist, he has sung with the London Symphony Orchestra, L'Orchestre de Paris, Rome's Accademia de Santa Cecilia, the New York Philharmonic, the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra and with the orchestras of Boston, Baltimore, Philadelphia and San Francisco, among many others. Ollmann has presented song recitals at London's Wigmore Hall and in Paris, Barcelona, Montreal, New York, Washington D.C., Chicago and at Tanglewood as well as various other European and North American cities and festivals. He has also sung in Lebanon, Kuwait, El Salvador, Honduras and Bolivia. Among Ollmann's many recordings are Gounod's "Roméo et Juliette," Gershwin's "Oh, Kay!," a Grammy award-winning version

of Bernstein's "Candide" as well as "On the Town," and Ravel's "L'Heure Espagnole." Ollmann is excited to return to the competition this year.

Two-time Grammy Award winner and regional Emmy Award winner Sylvia McNair, as well as Tony and Grammy Award nominated Andrew Lippa will be joining this year's competition season.

McNair's three-decade career has spanned the musical realms of opera, oratorio, cabaret, and musical theater while taking her from the Metropolitan Opera to the Salzburg Festival, from the New York Philharmonic to the Rainbow Room, from the pages of *The New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal* to the *London Times* and the cover of *Cabaret Scenes*. She has been a soloist multiple times with nearly every major opera company and symphony orchestra in the world. In 2000 McNair sang the Bach B-minor Mass with the Vienna Philharmonic for Pope John Paul II at The Vatican. She has earned a Master's degree with Distinction from the Indiana University School of Music, the Ohio Governor's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Arts and Entertainment, and the Indiana Governor's Arts Award. Her engagements include ten seasons at the Ravinia Festival performing with Broadway legends, a three-season national tour of Gershwin's 'Here To Stay,' musical theater productions of 'Most Happy Fella,' 'Camelot,' 'A Little Night Music,' and her one-woman show 'Subject To Change.' McNair is honored to judge this year's competition.

Lippa wrote the Tony-nominated music and lyrics for the Broadway musical "The Addams Family" as well as the music and lyrics for numerous other productions including "The Social Network, A Few Good Men," "Big Fish," "The Farnsworth Invention," and Outer Critics Circle Award-winning "The Wild Party." Lippa has also won the Drama Desk Award for best music in addition to the Outer Critics Circle Award for best Off-Broadway musical. The accomplished singer is proud to have been the music director for Kristin Chenoweth for many of her concerts since 1999 and has conducted the San Francisco, Chicago, and St. Louis Symphony Orchestras, among others, for Chenoweth. His recordings include Julia Murney's "I'm Not Waiting," "The Wild Party,"

“You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown” which earned him a Grammy Award nomination, “A Little Princess,” and many more. Lippa, who serves on the council of The Dramatists Guild, is thrilled to participate as a judge for the 2017 ATC.

Dan Gettinger will join the ATC 2017 season as a pianist. Gettinger has participated as a music director, vocal coach and pianist in many workshops, including the VOICEexperience in Savannah, New York, Orlando and Tampa; the Ravinia Festival in Chicago; Lidal North International Opera Workshop in Oslo, Norway; the Manhattan School Of Music Summer Voice Festival in New York; the International Vocal Arts Institute in TelAviv, Israel, and Montreal, Canada; and the International Institute of Vocal Arts in Chiari, Italy. He has also worked as a coach and principal pianist for Palm Beach Opera, Opera Tampa, Chautauqua Opera, Santa Fe Opera and Florida Grand Opera.

Gettinger is in good company, as he is welcomed by veteran ATC pianists Anastasia Victory and Wilson Southerland, will return for 2017. Victory, a Russian-born pianist, music director, composer, arranger, orchestrator, songwriter and singer, has been with the ATC for six years. Southerland, an American pianist, coach and conductor, will mark three years with the competition in February.

“All of the components are in place to make our 2017 competition the most impressive and entertaining yet,” said ATC Board of Directors President Daniel Cohen. “We have an inspirational lineup of singers this season, and we cannot wait to see their talents shine when showcased for enthusiastic audiences. ATC is committed to raising the bar each year as we continue to complete our mission of showcasing tomorrow’s vocal talents and superstars and to celebrate the diverse repertoire of classic American music.”

Given Savannah’s longtime support and love of the American Traditions Vocal Competition(ATC), organizers say they frequently see patrons gifting tickets to their friends and family during the holidays. To accommodate those eager to give such a unique present, tickets for the 2017 competition season are on sale now. To purchase

tickets, please visit the ATC website or www.hostsouthes.com/atc/. Online ticket sales close four hours prior to the start of each event. For last-minute ticket purchases, please call the box office at The Savannah Theatre at 912-233-7764.

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