



## **AMERICAN TRADITIONS VOCAL COMPETITION TO PRESENT UNIQUE MASTER CLASS AHEAD OF FINAL ROUND PLUS NEW STUDENT DISCOUNT FOR FINALS**

**SAVANNAH, GA – February 9, 2017** – The highly anticipated American Traditions Vocal Competition (ATC) will wrap-up its exciting 2017 season with a free master class and the final competition round on Friday, Feb. 24 in historic downtown Savannah. For the first time students with valid ID on the day of the final performance will be able to purchase tickets at the door of the Savannah Theatre for the finals for only \$10.

For the first time in ATC history, all three judges will join the master class, which will be held at 3 p.m. Friday, Feb. 24 at the historic Savannah Theatre, 222 Bull St. in downtown Savannah. This year, newcomer judges Sylvia McNair, an opera and musical theater star who is considered to be one of the leading interpreters of the Great American Songbook, and Andrew Lippa, an American composer, lyricist, book writer, performer and producer, will join distinguished baritone Kurt Ollmann, who returns to the panel for a second year.

This master class will provide a unique outreach opportunity, which will allow the public to watch as each judge chooses one non-finalist to sing. The contestant will sing one or two pieces and the judge will work with the individual on technique, musical interpretation and general musicality issues. This event is free and open to the public.

“This year’s free master class will be highly enjoyable to all who participate and is an important part of our outreach to the Savannah community. By watching and listening, the audience can witness the change first-hand in how each vocalist uses the information in interpreting the piece,” ATC Board President Danny Cohen said. “The joy is that the audience can experience three different judges with three different teaching styles working with a range of singers.”

At 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 24, also at the Savannah Theatre, the final ATC contestants will compete for the top honors and prizes with the hope of winning the highly-coveted Gold Medal. The first-place winner will receive \$12,000 sponsored by the Courtney Knight Gaines Foundation. The runner-up is awarded the Patricia and Heyward Gignilliat Silver Medal Award and receives \$6,000. The third-place Bronze Medal Award of \$3,000 is sponsored by EnMark Stations, Inc. Fourth-place sponsored by Kay and Don Gardner and fifth-place sponsored by the Savannah Friends of Music. Every one of the 28 quarter finalists has the opportunity to win one of four special awards worth \$500-\$750 each including the Johnny Mercer, Sherrill Milnes American Opera. Ben Tucker Jazz and two Richard Chambless' People's Choice awards.

The nonprofit ATC, established as a world-renowned vocal competition, based in Savannah, celebrates standard, classic American music. The vocal contest evolved from Savannah Onstage, which was established in 1992 and was the predecessor of the Savannah Music Festival. It attracts internationally acclaimed artists, judges and accompanists by offering significant prizes to the winning singers. The ATC is also committed to a program of community outreach throughout the year including school and senior center programs as well as the free master class which is part of every February's competition week.

General seating tickets for the final round cost \$35 each and premium seating tickets cost \$50 each with student tickets for \$10 with presentation of valid ID at the door. Tickets can be purchased in advance by visiting the ATC website or [www.hostsouthes.com/atc/](http://www.hostsouthes.com/atc/). Online ticket sales close four hours prior to the start of the event. For last-minute ticket purchases, please call the box office at The Savannah Theatre at 912-233-7764.

To learn more about the American Traditions Vocal Competition, please visit [www.americantraditionscompetition.com](http://www.americantraditionscompetition.com).

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