

PITTSBURGH OPERA

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**Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artists and Chorus Member Win
Pittsburgh Concert Society 2009 Majors Auditions**

Pittsburgh, PA... Pittsburgh Opera congratulates [Resident Artists Danielle Pastin](#) and [Jonathan Beyer](#) as well as Pittsburgh Opera Chorus member Lara Lynn Cottrill, winners of the Pittsburgh Concert Society 2009 Majors Auditions.

Each year, the Pittsburgh Concert Society selects six winners from a pool of at least 40 candidates to compete for a Benswanger honorarium in the amount of \$1000 and a formal concert to be performed the following fall. This year's auditions were held on April 17 and 18 at Kresge Recital Hall in the College of Fine Arts at Carnegie Mellon University. The adjudicator was Robert Fitzpatrick, Dean of the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. Fifty-two candidates, ten of whom on were the waiting list, competed in this past weekend's audition.

"This is an honor for our resident artists," said [Christopher Hahn](#), General Director of Pittsburgh Opera. "They each continue to work very hard and we are proud to have them recognized for their talents. I am particularly glad that a member of our excellent chorus is also doing so well."

Ms. Pastin, accompanied by Pittsburgh Opera Director of Musical Studies and Chorus Master [Mark Trawka](#), sang assorted songs and arias by Strauss, Hoiby, Larsen, Wolf, Rorem and Puccini. Also accompanied by Trawka, Mr. Beyer sang selections by Sibelius, Dvorak, Griffes, Bridge and Adams. Ms. Cottrill, accompanied by Donna Amato, sang music from Stauss, Bellini, Duparc, Copland, Saint-Saëns and Fauré.

In June, Ms. Pastin will perform the role of Violetta in Verdi's *La Traviata* with New Rochelle Opera in New Rochelle, New York. Mr. Beyer is currently performing as the pirate captain Ali in Pittsburgh Opera's upcoming production of *The Italian Girl in Algiers* [May 2, 5, 8, 10].

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Artist Biographies

[Danielle Pastin](#), soprano

Danielle Pastin is a first-year Resident Artist with Pittsburgh Opera. She made her Pittsburgh Opera mainstage debut as Rosasharn in *The Grapes of Wrath* and sang Mimi in the *La bohème* Student Matinee. Having grown up in a Navy family that traveled and lived in many places, Ms. Pastin claims Annapolis, Maryland as her home. She received her Bachelor's in voice and opera from the University of Maryland in 2002 and has since then been a member of various young artist programs, including Central City Opera, where she played Lucinda in the world premiere of Henry Mollicone's opera *Gabriel's Daughter* and the Intermezzo Opera Festival Training Program, where she performed Nanetta in *Falstaff*. At Capital Opera in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Ms. Pastin has sung Nedda in *Pagliacci* and Annina in *La traviata*. Her awards include finalist in the Metropolitan Opera National Council regional competition and the National Symphony Orchestra's Young Artist Competition, as well as the Audience Choice award at the Annapolis Opera Competition. She received the Fine Arts Fellowship award from Central City Opera and the Enrico Aloï Bronze Medallion of the Rosa Ponselle Foundation. Mr. and Mrs. Hans Fleischner generously sponsor Ms. Pastin's residency with Pittsburgh Opera.

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[Jonathan Beyer](#), baritone

Jonathan Beyer is a second-year Resident Artist with Pittsburgh Opera. As a first-year resident artist with Pittsburgh Opera, he sang Prince Yamadori in *Madama Butterfly*, Belcore in *The Elixir of Love* Behind the Curtain, the Steward in *Flight*, and Lorenzo in *The Capulets & the Montagues*. In the current season Mr. Beyer has appeared as Malatesta in *Don Pasquale*, Schaunard in *La bohème* and will be performing as Ali in the upcoming production of *The Italian Girl in Algiers*. He has also performed with Opera Santa Barbara, Chicago Opera Theater, Chautauqua Opera, Fort Worth Opera and Teatro Verdi, as well as the Indianapolis Symphony, Baton Rouge Symphony, Festival d'Aix en Provence and the Châteauville Foundation with Lorin Maazel. Mr. Beyer's most recent awards include this year's Encouragement Award from the Gerda Lissner Foundation in New York City and third place in the 2009 National Opera Association Vocal Competition in Washington, DC. In 2007 Mr. Beyer won the Marian Anderson Prize for Emerging Classical Artists. He was also a national finalist in the 2006 Metropolitan Opera National Council Competition and has taken first prize in the American Opera Society, the Union Civic League Competition and the grand prize of the Bel Canto Foundation. He completed his studies at the Curtis Institute of Music and earned his Bachelor's and Master's at the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University. He is represented by Columbia Artists Management. Mrs. J. William Futrell, Dr. Michael White and Mr. Rick LeBeau generously sponsor Mr. Beyer's residency with Pittsburgh Opera.

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Lara Lynn Cottrill, soprano

Lara Lynn Cottrill is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music at the University of Rochester and has performed in the female chorus with Pittsburgh Opera in this year's productions of *Samson & Dalila*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *Don Pasquale* and *La bohème*. She has also performed with Opera Theater of Pittsburgh and was the first place winner of the 2005 Friends of Eastman Opera Competition.

Pittsburgh Opera, now celebrating its 70th season, is one of America's leading opera companies. It produces a range of programs, from mainstage productions to free community concerts to intimate cabarets. Pittsburgh Opera's internationally renowned resident artist program is among the country's top five training centers for rising opera stars. More than 20,000 students, families and educators participate in Pittsburgh Opera educational events annually. The company's newly designed administrative and rehearsal space is housed in a 140-year-old air brake factory in the city's Strip District.

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[Samson & Dalila](#) by Camille Saint-Saëns – October 18, 21, 24, 26, 2008

[The Grapes of Wrath](#) by Ricky Ian Gordon – November 15, 18, 21, 23, 2008

[Don Pasquale](#) by Gaetano Donizetti – February 7, 10, 13, 15, 2009

[La Bohème](#) by Giacomo Puccini – March 28, 31, April 3, 5, 2009

[The Italian Girl in Algiers](#) (L'italiana in Algeri) by Gioachino Rossini – May 2, 5, 8, 10, 2009

Subscriptions for as little as \$41. Single tickets for as little as \$16. For ticket information visit our website www.pittsburghopera.org or call (412) 281-0912

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