

## Department of Vocal Arts

One of America's most prestigious programs for educating singers, The Juilliard School's Department of Vocal Arts offers young artists programs tailored to their talents and needs. From bachelor and master of music degrees to advanced artist diploma programs in voice and opera studies, Juilliard provides frequent performance opportunities, featuring singers in its own recital halls and on Lincoln Center's stages.

Juilliard's home at Lincoln Center provides a dynamic and unique environment for aspiring professional singers. Vocal Arts students work with a distinguished faculty, many of whom are members of the artistic staff of the Metropolitan Opera and the New York City Opera. Additionally, many Juilliard singers perform at both these opera houses upon completion of their education.

Vocal Arts students enrolled in degree or artist diploma programs receive comprehensive education in areas such as opera, lieder and art song, diction, movement, acting, and stagecraft, as well as private musical coaching for performances. They also take courses in opera scene study, improvisation, makeup application, and languages.

During their time at Juilliard, many students participate in summer festivals, including Aspen and Tanglewood, and are involved in programs in conjunction with Wolf Trap, Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, and the San Francisco, Santa Fe, Central City operas. Juilliard graduates may be heard in opera houses and concert halls throughout the world; alumni artists include Faith Esham, Simon Estes, Lauren Flanigan, Renée Fleming, Anthony Dean Griffey, Audra McDonald, Susan Mentzer, Leontyne Price, Risë Stevens, and Shirley Verrett, among others.

Performance opportunities for Juilliard singers are numerous and include works presented by the Juilliard Opera Center, comprised of singers enrolled in the Artist Diploma program in Opera Studies. Advanced singers are given the opportunity to perform in mainstage and chamber opera performances, with emphasis placed on preparing them for opera careers. This tuition-free program is for pre-professional singers and provides a bridge between conservatory education and the professional world. It is designed to allow a gifted singer to enter the program at any stage of advanced development. The Artist Diploma program accepted 12-14 members.

Other performance opportunities for singers include master classes, programs of complete operas and scenes, and the Juilliard Songbook and Liederabend series. In addition, two fully-staged operas conducted and directed by distinguished artists in the profession are presented each season in The Peter Jay Sharp Theater, which is regarded by many experts to be one of New York City's finest theaters for musical performance. Juilliard has presented numerous premieres of operas as well as the standard repertoire. Last season, as part of Juilliard's successful centennial celebration, Juilliard singers performed the world premiere of alumnus Lowell Liebermann's *Miss Lonelyhearts*, based on the novella by Nathanael West, with a libretto by J.D. McClatchy. Other recent performances have included participation in conductor (and alumnus) James Conlon's multi-year project *Recovering a Musical Heritage* with a performance of Viktor Ulmann's *The Emperor of Atlantis*, and, in 2002, the world premiere of *Heloise and Abelard* by composer Stephen Paulus and director/librettist Frank Corsaro. The Juilliard School maintains a full production department, which created sets, costumes, and props, and provides technicians for all in-house productions in dance, drama, and music.

Juilliard singers perform in the annual Alice Tully Vocal Arts Debut Recital, which was established in 1997. Made possible by a generous gift from the Alice Tully Foundation, this event promotes outstanding young vocalists on the threshold of professional careers. Past recipients of the recital award include sopranos Jennifer Aylmer, Sari Gruber, Lauren Skuce, and Sarah Wolfson; mezzo-sopranos Stephanie Houtzeel, Maria Karpatova, and Brenda Patterson, tenor William Ferguson; and baritone Randall Scarlata. This year's tenth annual Alice Tully Vocal Arts Debut Recital features soprano Raquela Sheeran. In addition, Juilliard's Vocal Arts Hoonrs Recital provides students from the Department of Vocal Arts to perform before the general public. They are selected by audition and appropriateness of repertoire and perform their selection of music in Alice Tully Hall.

Many singers also perform in Juilliard's annual FOCUS! festival of new music, and selected singers appear with chamber and orchestral ensembles in concerts in The Peter Jay Sharp Theater, Alice Tully Hall, Avery Fisher Hall, and Carnegie Hall. Students also participate in master classes with noted guests artists, including Elly Ameling, Arleen Auger, Fedora Barbieri, Barbara Cook, Thomas Hampson, Warren Jones, Martin Katz, James Levine, Christa Ludwig, Sherrill Milnes, Luciano Pavarotti, Leontyne Price, Dame Joan Sutherland, José van Dam, and Shirley Verrett.