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Oratorio Society of New York

**ORATORIO SOCIETY OF NEW YORK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF
38TH ANNUAL LYNDON WOODSIDE ORATORIO-SOLO COMPETITION**

Pittsburgh Native Mezzo-soprano Helen Karloski Takes First Place

The Oratorio Society of New York (OSNY) announced the winners of its **2015 Lyndon Woodside Oratorio-Solo Competition**, following a performance by the eight finalists in Weill Recital Hall in Carnegie Hall on Saturday, April 11, at 1:30 pm. The winners of the 38th Oratorio-Solo Competition, the only competition to focus exclusively on oratorio singing, and their respective cash prizes are:

- **Helen Karloski**, mezzo-soprano: Ellen Lopin Blair Award for **First Place**, \$7,000
- **Erik W. Krohg**, baritone: Stanley C. Meyerson Award for **Second Place**, \$5,000
- **Jacquelyn Stucker**, soprano: Docia Goodwin Franklin Award for **Third Place**, \$2,500
- **Sheila Dietrich**, soprano: Johannes Somary Award, \$2,500
- **Steven Eddy**, baritone: Frances MacEachron Award, \$1,500
- **Daniel Moody**, countertenor: Lyndon Woodside Encouragement Award, \$1,000
- **Andrew Rader**, countertenor: Robert & Winifred Connelly Green Award, \$1,000
- **James Geoffrey Kennerley**, tenor: Leopold Damrosch Award, \$500

The eight finalists were selected from an initial pool of over 100 applicants from around the world. On April 11, each sang two arias before a panel of judges and an audience in Weill Hall. The judges were:

- **Diane Berkun-Menaker**, founder and artistic director of the Brooklyn Youth Chorus Academy;
- **Kenneth Cooper**, harpsichordist/pianist and Artist of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center
- **Alfred Hubay**, OSNY board member and former Metropolitan OperaHouse Manager and Box Office Manager;
- **John Maclay**, music director of the Choral Society of Grace Church, New York;
- **Drew Minter**, internationally-celebrated countertenor for more than three decades;
- **Frank Nemhauser**, music director of the Berkshire Choral Festival and Westchester Choral Society;
- **Ronnie Oliver, Jr.**, associate director of choral activities at Manhattan School of Music
- **Rachel Rosales**, Soprano soloist for OSNY's May performances of Haydn's "Lord Nelson" Mass and Marjorie Merryman's *Jonah*;
- **David Rosenmeyer**, associate conductor of OSNY and music director of the Fairfield County Chorale;
- **Kent Tritle**, music director of OSNY and Musica Sacra and Director of Cathedral Music and Organist of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine;
- **Jane Woodside**, wife of Lyndon Woodside, former music director of OSNY.

For her two arias, First Prize winner Helen Karloski sang "Laudamus Te" from Mozart's "Great" Mass in C minor and "Erbarme dich" from Bach's *St. Matthew Passion*. A Pittsburgh native, Ms. Karloski has performed with Musica Sacra, New York Virtuoso Singers, St. Andrew Music Society, Conspirare and the Handel and Haydn Society, among others. She made her Lincoln Center solo debut in Mozart's *Solemn Vespers* with the Mostly Mozart Festival, and she has appeared with the New York Philharmonic in *The Cunning Little Vixen* and *My Fair Lady*. Ms. Karloski holds a bachelor's degree in Fine Arts in Vocal Performance from Carnegie Mellon.

The Oratorio-Solo Competition was created in 1977 to encourage the art of oratorio singing and to give singers an opportunity to advance their careers. In 2006, it was renamed the Lyndon Woodside Oratorio Solo-Competition in honor of the Society's long-time music director and the Competition's most devoted champion, who had died the year before.

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