

For Immediate Release

December 12, 2016

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Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist Eric Ferring named winner of Pittsburgh District's Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions

Pittsburgh, PA...

Pittsburgh Opera first year Resident Artist [Eric Ferring](#) was named one of just two winners of the Pittsburgh District's [Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions](#).

The auditions were held Saturday, December 10th at the Kresge Theater at Carnegie Mellon University. The judges included internationally famous mezzo-soprano Marianne Cornetti, Arizona Opera Head of Music Allen Perriello, and Associate Director of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions Melissa Wegner.

Mr. Ferring, a tenor, now advances to the Great Lakes Region finals, to be held Sunday, January 15th in Buffalo.

"We are extremely proud of Eric", said Pittsburgh Opera General Director [Christopher Hahn](#). "He is fast establishing himself as a rising young star. His performances in both **La traviata** and **Salome** this fall at the Benedum were well received, and we look forward to him continuing to develop."

The Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, begun in 1954, are "designed to discover promising young opera singers and assist in the development of their careers." They have helped launch the careers of many of opera's greatest stars. Past winners include Renée Fleming, Patricia Racette (who sang the title role of [Salome](#) for Pittsburgh Opera in November), Denyce Graves (who will sing the role of Grace in Pittsburgh Opera's world premiere of [The Summer King](#) – The Josh Gibson Story- in April 2017), and dozens more.

Pittsburgh Opera celebrates its 78th season in 2016-17. Established by five intrepid women in 1939, Pittsburgh Opera is viewed as one of the most vibrant opera organizations in the U.S., with a rich artistic tradition, outstanding educational programs, an acclaimed artist training program, and a progressive outlook toward the future. Its green initiative culminated in LEED® Silver certification for its Strip District headquarters, and its capacity as a true community partner has increased significantly under General Director Christopher Hahn's leadership.

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