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Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist Ben Taylor wins prestigious George London Award

[Pittsburgh, PA]

Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist [Ben Taylor](#) has been named a winner of the 47th annual [George London Foundation](#) Awards Competition for young American and Canadian opera singers.

The competition took place at Gilder Lehrman Hall at The Morgan Library & Museum in New York City this past weekend. It included three days of preliminary auditions during which 72 singers were heard and 17 were selected as finalists. Of these, Ben was one of just six who was selected as a winner of a George London Award of \$10,000 each.

“We are tremendously proud of Ben”, said Pittsburgh Opera [General Director Christopher Hahn](#). “He takes great pride in his craft, and always brings energy and enthusiasm to his roles and performances.”

Pittsburgh audiences enjoyed Ben as Brian Castner in last month’s performances of the gripping opera **The Long Walk**. Critics complimented his “rich, full-toned voice”, and said he “made an impressive showing,” calling him “an audience favorite, and deservedly so.” Ben will be on stage at the Benedum Center this spring as both Captain Gardiner and Daggoo in Pittsburgh Opera’s production of [Moby-Dick](#).

Mr. Taylor will return for his second year as a Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist in 2018-19. He is scheduled to perform as Prince Yamadori in [Madama Butterfly](#), Older Thompson in [Glory Denied](#), and Schounard in [La bohème](#).

Mr. Taylor holds degrees from both Morgan State University and Boston University, where he also earned his Performer’s Certificate with Boston University’s Opera Institute.

Two other artists with Pittsburgh connections were finalists, each winning \$1,000. Tenor [Martin Bakari](#), who sang in **The Long Walk** with Ben Taylor, made his Pittsburgh Opera debut in 2017 in the world premiere of [The Summer King – the Josh Gibson Story](#). Mezzo-soprano [Corrie Stallings](#), a Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist alumna, most recently appeared with Pittsburgh Opera as Cherubino in [The Marriage of Figaro](#), and will perform as Hansel in [Hansel & Gretel](#) this fall.

For more information about the George London Awards, [see their media release](#) and [read the New York Times article about the competition](#).

Pittsburgh Opera celebrates its 79th season in 2017-18. 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.