

MANCHESTER MUSIC FESTIVAL PRESS RELEASE

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Photo: Layla Claire, soprano

Music Festival Spotlights Rising Young Opera Stars

In its seventh and final concert of the summer season, the Manchester Music Festival will spotlight the rising young stars of New York City's Metropolitan Opera in an exhilarating program of arias and duets from well-known operas ranging from Tosca and Madam Butterfly to La Boheme and Rigoletto.

The artists are members of the Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artists Development Program. "As in past years, I know they will thrill the audience with their talent and artistry," said Ariel Rudiakov, artistic director of the Manchester Music Festival, noting that the concerts started initially in 1993.

"The idea was to draw a parallel between our own Young Artists program and the Met's," he said. "In the ensuing 18 concerts, quite a number of Lindemann participants have gone on to have major careers or are as yet still emerging that way. Among them are Thomas Studebaker, Stephanie Blythe, Michelle De Young and Morris Robinson."

The young stars featured in this year's program include soprano Layla Claire, mezzo soprano Renee Tatum and baritone Edward Parks. Also featured are pianist Caren Levine and guest artist and tenor Andrew Bidlack.

The concert will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 18, at the Arkell Pavilion of the Southern Vermont Arts Center. Tickets are \$45 and may be purchased online at www.mmfv.org or by calling the Festival office at 802-362-1956.