

Spotlight 2025 Classical Voice Semifinal Judges

Melodee Fernández, in her second term as president of the National Association of Teachers of Singing, Los Angeles Chapter, has led the LA Opera Zarzuela Project since 2012 and is their featured soprano. Recently, she gave a vocal master class on Spanish Zarzuela and art song for the NATS Cal-Western Regional Conference. She sang with Opera Pacific for 10 years and was a semi-finalist in the Metropolitan Opera Western Regional Auditions. She has sung the roles of Susanna (*Le Nozze di Figaro*), Pamina (*Die Zauberflöte*), Nedda (*I Pagliacci*), Paloma (*El Barberillo de Lavapiés*), Susana (*La Verbena de la Paloma*), and has stage directed *Goyescas* and *La Verbena de la Paloma*. She has been a guest speaker for the Opera League of LA, LA Opera, Hispanics for LA Opera, NATS-LA, OCSA, and the Cal State Universities at Los Angeles, Long Beach, and Fresno. Ms. Fernandez conducted extensive Zarzuela research at the Biblioteca Nacional in Madrid and sang with Opera Cómica de Madrid (Spanish national tour). She has taught at USC, Cal State LA, and College of the Canyons. She earned an MM and BM in Voice from USC, was a Voice Fellow at the Music Academy of the West, and is a member of AGMA, Actor's Equity, and Theatre West.

Patricia Gee is an Adjunct Professor of Voice at Chapman University and the University of Redlands. She has been a soloist in performances throughout the United States, including Menotti's *The Telephone*, Mozart's *The Impresario* and *Coronation Mass*, Respighi's *Laud to the Nativity*, and Handel's *Messiah*, among others. She was active as a faculty member for the Operafestival di Roma in Rome, Italy, and was also a featured soloist in the companion CD for the 21st Century Voice by Michael Edward Edgerton. Ms. Gee has been a guest lecturer for the California Music Educators Association and has been the recipient of many teaching awards, including the Excellence in Teaching Award from the University of Redlands. She received her BM in Music Education from USC (Magna Cum Laude) and her MM from the University of Redlands. Her students are presently singing in international and national opera houses and teaching at the university and college levels around the country.

Bruce McClurg is an adjunct Professor at Chapman University and Crafton Hills College and a Past President for the National Association of Teachers of Singing, Los Angeles Chapter. He is a certified Singing Voice Specialist (SVS) through the Center for the Care of the Professional Voice in Chicago and a Certified McClosky Voice Technician (CMVT) through the McClosky Institute of Voice in Boston. The New York Singing Teachers' Association awarded him the title of Distinguished Voice Professional for his completion of the Oren L. Brown Development Program in 2014. In 2020, he completed a graduate certificate in vocology from Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas. He devotes a part of his private studio teaching to collaborating with singers who have developed various voice disorders, working to habilitate them back to vocal health. He continues to educate himself on current voice and vocal acoustics research by attending seminars at the New England Conservatory of Music, the Shenandoah Conservatory of Music, Westminster Choir College, the Academy of Voice Science, and at lectures throughout the United States and England.

Marco Schindelmann, Professor Emeritus at University of Redlands, has performed, presented, published, and recorded prolifically (Beijing, Munich, Hong Kong, Singapore, Tokyo, Newfoundland, MIT Computer Music Journal, Centaur Records, New World Records, and IMPRINTBL, et al.). He served as President of the Arts Council for the City of Long Beach and is presently President of East Village Caravanserai, a Long Beach-based theater company that curates and presents dynamic, relevant performances (performance art, opera, reader salons, etc.) that foster dialogue and community. As a member of FLOOD, he produces and curates soundpedro, the largest sound art event in Southern California.

Nicole Taylor, operatic soprano and teaching artist, is a senior Arts Envoy for the US State Department and the Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs, as well as founder & CEO of Creativity Through Music, a consulting firm specializing in cultural diplomacy, arts-infused community outreach, arts education and advocacy, and creativity training for corporations and cultural events. She is the director of the Oxnard Performing Arts Center Artists In Schools program, the California Creative Corps Artist-in-Residence with the Ventura County Office of Arts & Culture, and a member of the National Advisory Committee of the Teaching Artists Guild. Credits include: *Le Nozze di Figaro*, *Les Dialogues des Carmelites*, *Die Fledermaus*, *Cunning Little Vixen*, *The Turn of the Screw*, and *Porgy & Bess*. World premieres include: the *Suite for Peace* by Kenny Burrell; a tribute concert featuring B.B. King and Stevie Wonder; Sir Paul McCartney's oratorio *Ecce Cor Meum* at Carnegie Hall; and Elliott Goldenthal's opera *Grendel*, directed by Julie Taymor. She has performed with San Francisco Opera, Pittsburgh Opera, Sarasota Opera, Lincoln Center Festival, and the Mostly Mozart Festival.