

## **Erin Wagner, former El Paso Conservatory student, wins Naumburg International Vocal Competition**

The Naumburg 2021 International Vocal Competition concluded on Thursday, May 27, naming Erin Wagner, a mezzo-soprano from El Paso, Texas, the winner. Ms. Wagner's prize includes a cash award of \$25,000, two New York concerts at Lincoln Center, a commissioned work premiere, and concerts in the U.S. "The **Naumburg Competition** is one of the oldest and most prestigious music **competitions** in the world". - Wikipedia. Since International Soprano star, Dawn Upshaw won the competition in 1985, only 5 singers have received this prestigious award.

In 2015, Erin Wagner, voice student of Yvonne Marmolejo, received the **El Paso Conservatory of Music** 4 Year Pre-College Certificate. She then earned a Bachelor of Music from **Manhattan School of Music**, followed by her Master's Degree in Voice from **Juilliard**, in June. This year, Erin also sang at the Caramoor Festival and is singing two operas with Aspen Opera in July and August.

I am often asked, "why study at the El Paso Conservatory of Music"? My answer is... because of the faculty and the program options. The Conservatory faculty, with their experience and knowledge, prepares students to compete in a very competitive world. When Erin, like other EPCoM students, auditioned for conservatories and universities, she had already performed many, many of the standard repertoire (songs/arias) in English, Italian, French and German... and in recital. She had also taken years of piano, theory, and sightreading/dictation, all with Conservatory Faculty. Through her hard work and her parent's total support, Erin became a confident and knowledgeable performer. We have former students all over the country, from Boston Conservatory to Manhattan School of Music, Peabody, Juilliard, Oberlin, Cincinnati Conservatory, AMDA, Music Institute of Hollywood, etc... In addition, we have students that go to state universities such as North Texas and UTEP. Our singers have performed and are performing on some of the great opera stages of the U. S. and overseas. In Erin's own words to Yvonne, her voice teacher and El Paso Young Ladies Choir Director, "None of this could've ever happened without you". We train singers, prepare them with music skills and confidence, guide them, and send them on their way... to the next level. We are doing our part to develop the next generation of committed, talented and exceptional musicians, as well as develop amateur musicians (many become doctors and engineers) that will become music patrons, supporters, board members, and volunteers for the arts.

For more information, go to [www.elpasoconservatory.org](http://www.elpasoconservatory.org) and/or call 915-346-7106 to speak to the director. **In-person classes will begin the 2nd week of September, 2021.** Classes will also continue to be offered online, if preferred. Location - 801 N. Mesa, Trinity Hall (corner of I-10, Yandell and N. Mesa)