

OPERA *idol* Update 2012

GREAT PERK FOR FINALISTS!

Opera Idol 2012 at the North Shore will continue to offer a special benefit for preliminary round winners who advance to the finals.

Prior to the final competition, each contestant will be scheduled for a coaching session with our Opera Idol finals accompanist, **Mr. Alan Darling**. Mr. Darling is on the staff of Lyric Opera's Ryan Center for American Artists and is also on the faculty of Northwestern University's Bienen School of Music. This additional session offers finalists an even broader coaching experience to complement the master class format of the final competition where world-famous baritone Sherrill Milnes works with each contestant. It also affords the contestant the opportunity to "prepare ahead" for the master class, so as to optimize the time spent with Maestro Milnes.

The coaching with Mr. Darling was incorporated into the competition finals in 2011 and was enthusiastically received by all six finalists. One commented, "It was great working in advance with Alan! I felt more confident and better prepared to get the most from my work with Mr. Milnes."



Notes from
2011 winner
Eida Peralta

Some quotes from emails sent by Eida to the North Shore residents while attending V.O.I.C.Experience this past summer in Tampa:

"..working with American opera composer **Carlisle Floyd**...was an incredible experience! What an honor! He directed the concert and we were able to coach with him and find out the reason for some of his musical choices."

"It was also an honor to coach with **Sherrill Milnes** once again. Every time I worked with him, I couldn't help but be grateful for having an opportunity to work with such a high-caliber, experienced and respected singer. I will always remember these one-of-a-kind experiences!"

Eida delighted North Shore residents in December with a recital in our Grand Ballroom which included a wonderful variety of selections — classical, jazz, Broadway, and ending with a beautiful Mexican folk song Eida heard from her grandmother. The audience responded with standing ovations!