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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**THE 23<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL  
KLEBAN PRIZE FOR MUSICAL THEATRE  
TWO \$100,000 AWARDS TO PROMISING MUSICAL THEATRE TALENT AWARDED TO**



**DANIEL MATÉ**

2013 KLEBAN PRIZE FOR MOST PROMISING  
MUSICAL THEATRE LYRICIST



**ALAN GORDON**

2013 KLEBAN PRIZE FOR MOST PROMISING  
MUSICAL THEATRE LIBRETTIST

**AWARDS TO BE PRESENTED JUNE 24, 2013  
IN A PRIVATE CEREMONY HOSTED BY ASCAP AND BMI**

The Kleban Foundation is pleased to announce that the 23rd annual Kleban Prize for the most promising musical theatre lyricist has gone to **Daniel Maté** and the 23rd annual Kleban Prize for the most promising musical theatre librettist has gone to **Alan Gordon**. The 2013 prizes will be presented on June 24, 2013, in a private ceremony (by invitation only) hosted by ASCAP and BMI.

The Kleban Foundation was established in 1988 under the will of Edward L. Kleban, best known as the Tony<sup>®</sup> and Pulitzer Prize winning lyricist of the musical *A Chorus Line*. The will made provision for two annual prizes, which in recent years have totaled \$100,000 each payable over two years, to be given to the most promising lyricist and librettist in American Musical Theatre. The judges making the final determination this year were Director of the Theater Wing at the Kaufman Center, **Sean Hartley**; award winning composer **Henry Krieger** (*Dreamgirls*, *The Tap Dance Kid*), and Tony Award-winning actress **Michele Pawk** (*Crazy For You*, *Hollywood Arms*, *Cabaret*).

“For two decades, The Kleban Prize has recognized and honored the American Musical Theatre’s brightest developing talents,” says Tony Award winner Richard Maltby, Jr, President of the Kleban Foundation. “The Kleban Prize is unique in that it is bestowed not just for an artist’s previous achievements, but for the promise of creativity to come. In Ed Kleban’s experience, young composers always seemed able to support themselves in the theatre, but promising lyricists and librettists often had to struggle. This Prize was Kleban’s attempt to help promising writers when they needed support most -- when starting out.”

Previous recipients of the annual Kleban Prize include David Lindsay-Abaire (*Shrek*), Jason Robert Brown (*Parade*, *The Last Five Years*), John Bucchino (*A Catered Affair*, *It's Only Life*), Gretchen Cryer (*I'm Getting My Act Together and Taking It On the Road*, *The Last Sweet Days of Isaac*), Michael Korie (*Grey Gardens*, *Happiness*), Jeff Marx and Robert Lopez (*Avenue Q*), Michael John LaChiusa (*Giant*, *See What I Want To See*, *The Wild Party*), Glenn Slater (*The Little Mermaid*) and John Weidman (*Pacific Overtures*, *Road Show*, *Assassins*).

## ABOUT THE 2013 KLEBAN PRIZE WINNERS

**DANIEL MATÉ** received the Jonathan Larson Grant and the ASCAP Foundation's Cole Porter Award in 2010 for his music and lyrics. With composer Will Aronson, he wrote lyrics and co-wrote the book for *The Trouble With Doug*, a comedic musical inspired by Kafka's "The Metamorphosis." *Doug* was featured at the 2010 National Alliance for Musical Theatre Festival of New Musicals with direction by Tony-winning performer Victoria Clark, and has since been developed at Royal & Derngate (UK) and Theatreworks Silicon Valley (Palo Alto, CA). Maté and Aronson are currently working with book writer Hannah Kohl on a family musical commissioned by Chicago Shakespeare Theater. Daniel's song cycle *The Longing and the Short of It* has been presented at Barrington Stage (William Finn, director), the Disney-ASCAP Musical Theatre Workshop (Stephen Schwartz, director) and Playwrights Horizons (Victoria Clark, director). Daniel also wrote book, music, and lyrics for *The Story Of Jo-Beth*, a modern-day American retelling of the Book of Job (CAP 21, 2011; JCC in Manhattan, 2013). As a teaching artist, Daniel has composed original musicals with and for young performers, including *Middle School Mysteries* at Two River Theater (Red Bank, NJ), and led songwriting workshops for children from Manhattan's Greenwich Village to South Central Los Angeles. He presented an evening of his songs at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC as part of ASCAP's 'Broadway Today and Tomorrow' series in September 2012, and was an invited participant in the inaugural Johnny Mercer Writers Colony at Goodspeed Musicals in February 2013. An avid enthusiast of all things lyrical, Daniel is a two-time finalist in the Hip Hop Karaoke NYC Championships, rapping as 'Robert Downey Junior' in front of celebrity judges such as hip-hop legend Big Daddy Kane. Daniel holds an M.F.A. in Musical Theatre Writing from NYU/Tisch and a B.A. in Psychology from McGill. He was born and raised in Vancouver, BC, Canada, where he founded the *In the House Festival*, a popular 'domestic arts event' now celebrating its tenth anniversary. He currently resides in Brooklyn, New York. <http://www.danielmate.com/>

**ALAN GORDON** wrote the book and lyrics to two full-length musicals with composer Mark Sutton-Smith. *The Usual* had its premiere at the Williamston Theatre in Michigan in 2012, receiving eight Pulsar nominations from the Lansing City Pulse, and a special Wilder Award from Encore Michigan. *Girl Detective* received a Citation for Special Merit from the Academy for New Musical Theater, was this year's selection for Western Kentucky University's Before Broadway program, and a selection of the Stages New Musical Program in Chicago. He recently completed *The United States of Us* with composer Joy Son. Alan is also an essayist and fiction writer. Eight of his Fools' Guild mystery novels have been published by St. Martin's Minotaur Books, and have been translated into five languages [correctly, he hopes]. His short fiction and essays have been published in numerous magazines and anthologies, the most recent in *Living With Shakespeare* from Vintage Press. He is a two-time StorySlam winner at The Moth, and supports all of these activities as a public defender with the Legal Aid Society in NYC. He is a graduate of Swarthmore College, where he received the Potter Award for Fiction, and the University of Chicago School of Law. He lives in Queens with his wife and ballroom dance partner, Judy Downer, and their son, Robert.

*Submission guidelines and an application for the 2014 Kleban Prize are available on the New Dramatists website, [www.newdramatists.org](http://www.newdramatists.org).*

*The postmark deadline for the next competition is September 15, 2013.*

### THE KLEBAN FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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# THE KLEBAN PRIZE

## LIST OF WINNERS AND JUDGES

### 1990-91

Most promising musical theatre lyricist: **MARK CAMPBELL**  
Most promising musical theatre librettist: **GRETCHEN CRYER**  
Judges: **JERRY HERMAN, STEPHEN SONDSHEIM, JOSEPH STEIN**

### 1991-92

Most promising musical theatre lyricist: **CRAIG CARNELIA**  
Judges: **LEE ADAMS, MARY ROGERS, STEPHEN SCHWARTZ**

### 1992-93

Most promising musical theatre lyricist: **BARRY KLEINBORT**  
Most promising musical theatre librettist: **LANIE ROBERTSON**  
Judges: **JERRY BOCK, BETTY COMDON, GRETCHEN CRYER**

### 1993-94

Most promising musical theatre lyricist: **(tie) JOE KEENAN and JIM MORGAN**  
Most promising musical theatre librettist: **WILLIAM STRZEMPEK**  
Judges: **SUSAN BIRKENHEAD, CRAIG CARNELIA, JACK VIERTEL**

### 1994-95

Most promising musical theatre lyricist: **MARK WALDROP**  
Most promising musical theatre librettist: **JOHN JILER**  
Judges: **SHELDON HARNICK, CHARLES STROUSE, WENDY WASSERSTEIN**

### 1995-96

Most promising musical theatre lyricist: **GLENN SLATER**  
Most promising musical theatre librettist: **JOHN WEIDMAN**  
Judges: **CAROL HALL, WILLIAM FINN, JONATHAN TUNICK**

### 1996-97

Most promising musical theatre lyricist: **MICHAEL KORIE**  
Most promising musical theatre librettist: **BRIAN CRAWLEY**  
Judges: **MARTIN CHARNIN, JAMES FREYDBERG, DAVID SHIRE**

### 1997-98

Most promising musical theatre lyricist: **SARAH SCHLESINGER**  
Most promising musical theatre librettist: **(tie) LISSA LEVIN and LUIS SANTEIRO**  
Judges: **ELLEN FITZHUGH, JOHN MORRIS, JOHN WEIDMAN**

### 1998-99

Most promising musical theatre lyricist: **KIRSTEN CHILDS**  
Most promising musical theatre librettist: **MICHAEL JOHN LACHIUSA**  
Judges: **LYNN AHRENS, JOHN JILER, JOHN KANDER**

### 1999-2000

Most promising musical theatre lyricist: **(tie) MARION ADLER, CHAD BEGUELIN, ROBERT LOPEZ/JEFF MARX and DAVID SPENCER**  
Most promising musical theatre librettist: **STEPHEN COLE**  
Judges: **FRED EBB, HENRY KRIEGER, WILLIAM RUSSELL**

### 2000-01

Most promising musical theatre lyricist: **(tie) JOHN BUCCHINO and PATRICK COOK**  
Most promising musical theatre librettist: **CHARLES LEIPART**  
Judges: **NAN KNIGHTON, MICHAEL JOHN LACHIUSA, GLENN SLATER**

### 2001-02

Most promising musical theatre lyricist: **JASON ROBERT BROWN**  
Most promising musical theatre librettist: **LORI MCKELVEY**  
Judges: **JEROME COOPERSMITH, MARVIN HAMLISCH, MARSHA NORMAN**

### 2002-03

Most promising musical theatre lyricist: **NELL BENJAMIN**  
Most promising musical theatre librettist: **SUSAN DILALLO**  
Judges: **ARTHUR KOPIT, CHARLES LEIPART, FRANK WILDHORN**

### 2003-04

Most promising musical theatre lyricist: **LAURENCE O'KEEFE**  
Most promising musical theatre librettist: **JULIA JORDAN**  
Judges: **SUSAN DILALLO, BILL GOLDSTEIN, LONNIE PRICE**

### 2004-05

Most promising musical theatre lyricist: **DAVID JAVERBAUM**  
Most promising musical theatre librettist: **(tie) CHERYL L. DAVIS and KEN STONE**  
Judges: **JULIA JORDAN, MICHAEL JOHN LACHIUSA, JEFFREY SWEET**

### 2005-06

Most promising musical theatre lyricist: **(tie) ALISON LOUISE HUBBARD and ROBERT L. FREEDMAN/STEVEN LUTVAK**  
Most promising musical theatre librettist: **LAURENCE HOLZMAN/FELICIA NEEDLEMAN**  
Judges: **CHERYL L. DAVIS, SUSAN DRURY, KEN STONE**

### 2006-07

Most promising musical theatre lyricist: **JOE ICONIS**  
Most promising musical theatre librettist: **JEREMY DESMON**  
Judges: **RICK ELICE, CAROL HALL, CHARLES KOPELMAN**

### 2007-08

Most promising musical theatre lyricist: **DAVID LINDSAY-ABAIRE**  
Most promising musical theatre librettist: **(tie) LAURA HARRINGTON and BILL SOLLY/DONALD WARD**  
Judges: **BETH BLICKERS, LINDA KLINE, GILBERT PARKER**

### 2008-09

Most promising musical theatre lyricist: **BETH FALCONE**  
Most promising musical theatre librettist: **KAIT KERRIGAN**  
Judges: **SHELDON HARNICK, THOMAS Z. SHEPARD, SHERMAN YELLEN**

### 2009-10

Most promising musical theatre lyricist: **PETER MILLS**  
Most promising musical theatre librettist: **BARRY WYNER**  
Judges: **CRAIG CARNELIA, SUSAN DRURY, JEFFREY SWEET**

### 2010-11

Most promising musical theatre lyricist: **ADAM GWON**  
Most promising musical theatre librettist: **MICHELLE ELLIOTT**  
Judges: **STEPHEN FLAHERTY, MICHAEL KORIE, DAVID ZIPPEL**

### 2011-12

Most promising musical theatre lyricist: **MARCY HEISLER**  
Most promising musical theatre librettist: **(tie) ANDREW GERLE and MATT SCHATZ**  
Judges: **MARSHALL BRICKMAN, TED CHAPIN, DEBRA MONK**

### 2012-13

Most promising musical theatre lyricist: **DANIEL MATÉ**  
Most promising musical theatre librettist: **ALAN GORDON**  
Judges: **SEAN HARTLEY, HENRY KRIEGER, MICHELE PAWK**

For more information about The Kleban Prize visit <http://newdramatists.org/how/awards-fellowships>