

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT for the ARTS

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MUSICAL THEATER SONGWRITING CHALLENGE

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE AMERICAN THEATRE WING.
Collaborators are Disney Theatrical Productions and
Samuel French, Inc., a Concord Theatricals company.

SOPHIA

SCHWANER

Coaching Team

MENTOR: Max Vernon

Vernon is a three-time Drama Desk nominee, Out100 Honoree, and recipient of the Lucille Lortel Award for Best Musical, Richard Rodgers Award, Jonathan Larson Grant, New York Stage and Film's Founders Award, New York Foundation of the Arts Fellowship, and the JFund Award from the Jerome Foundation. His musical, *The View UpStairs*, ran 105 performances Off-Broadway and had 15 new productions around the world in 2017-2019. His other musical, *KPOP*, enjoyed a sold-out, extended run at Ars Nova this past October and was the most nominated Off-Broadway show of the 2017-2018 season.

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Benjamin Rauhala

Rauhala is the associate music director for the Broadway-bound production of *The Secret Life of Bees*, directed by Sam Gold, which ran at the Atlantic Theater this summer. He worked on the music team for both Bartlett Sher's Broadway revival of *Fiddler on the Roof* and the Broadway production of Duncan Sheik's *American Psycho* during the 2016 season. He is best known for his work touring the country as the music director for Jeremy Jordan, the Tony-nominated star of Broadway's *Newsies* and The CW's *Supergirl*. He previously served as music director for *Hit List*, the meta-musical from the NBC television show *SMASH*. Rauhala also is an original programming producer at Feinstein's/54 Below, where he has created dozens of sold-out concerts, including the 'Broadway Loves' Series.