

## **Kathryn Bowden of Glastonbury CT wins the American Jenny Lind Competition in Bridgeport**

The 65th Annual Jenny Lind competition took place on Saturday, May 18, at the Recital Hall of the Arnold Bernhard Center, 126 Park Avenue, on the campus of the University of Bridgeport. A Connecticut winner, Kathryn Bowden from Glastonbury and a graduate of the University of Connecticut was crowned the American Jenny Lind winner for 2013. She was a member of the Chataqua Opera program in the summer of 2012. She is actively pursuing a career in opera at this time.

The *Jenny Lind* title includes a \$2,000 cash prize and the winner will perform a joint concert with her counterpart, the *Swedish Jenny Lind*, at the historic Bijou Theatre in Downtown Bridgeport on June 27 at 7:30 p.m. This annual event is sponsored by the Barnum Festival with support from the Norden Club.

The runner up award was given to Vanessa Isiguen, born in Los Angeles California and who is currently residing in New York City where she is pursuing a career in opera. She has studied at the University of North Carolina, Boston University and at Mannes College. She has also studied in Graz, Austria.

Eleven sopranos (Kelly Borland from Pennsylvania was unable to attend due to the train shutdown between New York and Connecticut because of the train accident Friday) competed and there was a four person sing off at about 3 p.m.

### **About The Barnum Festival**

The Barnum Festival was established in 1949 to celebrate the life and times of P.T. Barnum and to commemorate the history of Bridgeport. The Barnum Festival is dedicated to providing exciting family entertainment which enriches the community, embraces diversity and celebrates life. Events produced through the passion of our volunteers brings to the community The Jenny Lind Competition & Concert, Champions on Parade, The Wing Ding Parade for Children, The "Got Talent" Vocal Competition, a spectacular fireworks display at Seaside Park and The Great Street Parade. For more information, please visit [www.barnumfestival.com](http://www.barnumfestival.com) or call 203-367-8495.