

Information and Requirements

5 – 10 September 2009

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Management

John Gilhooly *Director*
36 Wigmore Street
London W1U 2BP
www.wigmore-hall.org.uk
Tel: 020 7258 8200
Fax: 020 7258 8201
Email: comp@wigmore-hall.org.uk

Prizes

Singers

1st Prize
£10,000

2nd Prize
£5,000

3rd Prize
£2,500

Pianists

1st Prize
£5,000

Jean Meikle Prize for a Duo
£5,000

*For the outstanding chamber music performance
of a voice and piano partnership*

*All individual prizes donated by The Kohn Foundation as part of its overall support for the Competition.
Wigmore Hall Recital offered at the discretion of the Artistic Director*

Jury for 2009

Chair: John Gilhooly HonFRAM *Director, Wigmore Hall*
Sir Thomas Allen
Elly Ameling
Iain Burnside
Dame Anne Evans
Wolfgang Holzmair
Anneke Hogenstijn
Dr Ralph Kohn FRS HonFRAM
Graham Johnson OBE
Dame Margaret Price

The Wigmore Hall International Song Competition has been established with the intention of reflecting and in the hope of extending awareness and appreciation of the richness of the song repertoire. The German Lied occupies a pre-eminent place in the history of song, but for the purposes of this Competition it is important for entrants also to show their abilities in a selection of other languages and other repertoires.

Every candidate must perform in **three languages in each stage**, with German being obligatory throughout. Other acceptable languages for this Competition are: Czech, English, French, Hungarian, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Scandinavian languages and Spanish. Any other languages will be allowed at the discretion of the Committee.

The jury will take into consideration the choice and variety of the songs and the balance of the programme.

Audition

Stage 1 is a pre-recorded audition, by a special selection panel, of three songs in three languages recorded on high quality CD only. Each programme should last not more than 15 minutes and must include one Schubert Lied and two songs in languages other than German.

Public Round

Stage 2 (Preliminaries) is a programme of not more than 15 minutes including songs in three languages, one of which must be German. Repertoire from Stage 1 may not be repeated in Stage 2.

Stage 3 (Semi-finals) is a programme of not more than 20 minutes including at least two Lieder by Schubert as well as songs in two languages other than German. Songs from Stage 2 may not be repeated in Stage 3.

In **Stage 4** (Finals) four competitors will each give a recital lasting not more than 30 minutes. This must consist of mainly new material, although some songs performed in earlier stages of the Competition may be repeated (up to 25%). The programme must include songs in three languages, one of which must be German.

Please note Rule No. 13

Timings of all works must be submitted with programmes. The overall timings for each Stage given in the Repertoire Requirements are for complete programmes including breaks. The jury reserves the right to penalise competitors who over-run.



Rules

- 1 The Competition will be held from **5 – 10 September 2009** inclusive at Wigmore Hall.
- 2 Applications and recorded audition CDs must reach the Administrator by **Friday 17 April 2009**.
- 3 Applications that arrive after the closing date, or that do not contain all the required material, will not be considered by the Committee.
- 4 The audition CD must be certified by a recognised musician or the recording engineer as the recent work of the named performers. Competitors are advised to have the recording made professionally otherwise it may not do justice to their performance.
- 5 The Competition is open to singers and pianists of all nationalities. Pianists will only be considered as part of a duo.
- 6 The age limit for singers is **32 at 10 September 2009**.
- 7 The age limit for pianists is **32 at 10 September 2009**.
- 8 The Competition is divided into four stages:

Stage 1 Pre-recorded audition by **CD only**

Stage 2 Ballot on 5 September 2009
Preliminaries on 6 & 7 September 2009

Stage 3 Semi-finals on 8 September 2009

Stage 4 Finals on 10 September 2009

All except Stage 1 will be held at Wigmore Hall in public, and competitors will perform their timed programmes without interruption.

- 9 The order of performance in Stages 2 and 3 will be decided by Ballot at **1530** hours on **Saturday 5 September 2009**, which all competitors must attend.
- 10 For the purpose of the Competition, **Song** is defined as settings of poetic texts for voice and piano, in their original form and language.
- 11 All songs must be sung from memory. Transpositions will be allowed.
- 12 Competitors must submit their programme for Stage 1 on the attached application form to correspond with the repertoire outlined on page 2. Competitors selected from Stage 1 will proceed to Stage 2 and must then present their programmes for Stages 2, 3 and the Finals by **Monday 29 June 2009**. It is important to present programmes accurately and in the correct performing order, along with timings for each song. Once the Competition programme has been printed no changes will be allowed. Competitors are reminded that photocopying of published material in copyright is illegal, and that singers and pianists may not perform from such music, unless they own original copies.

- 13 Timings of all works must be submitted with programmes. The overall timings for each Stage given in the Repertoire requirements are for complete programmes including breaks. The jury reserves the right to penalise competitors who over-run.
- 14 Competitors must specify the keys and publishers of all the songs they wish to perform at all stages.
- 15 For Stages 2 – 4, singers must provide the jury with **1 copy** of a neatly assembled folder of their songs. Photocopies of material not in copyright are acceptable for this purpose. Failure to submit this folder will result in disqualification.
- 16 Singers are encouraged to come to the Competition with their own pianists, provided they are within the age limit, as established partnerships make a great difference in terms of performance. However, if this is not possible, a pianist also within the age limit of the Competition will be available: competitors will be entitled to one rehearsal with this pianist for each stage of the Competition free of charge. Any additional rehearsal will be at the competitor's expense.
- 17 The jury's decision at any stage of the Competition is final and not open to discussion or correspondence.
- 18 Candidates will be informed whether they have been selected to enter Stage 2 of the Competition by **Friday 15 May 2009**. Once accepted, their acknowledgement, complete programme, 100 word biography and further entrance fee must be received by **Monday 29 June 2009**. The Committee's decision whether to accept or refuse an application is final and requires no explanation.
- 19 The Committee reserves the right to allow any stage of the Competition to be broadcast or televised. However, competitors are not permitted to bring any photographic or recording equipment into any stage of the Competition.
- 20 Accommodation will be provided at a University Hall of Residence, and the Competition will pay for bed and breakfast for 6 nights for singers and pianists. Any additional nights will be charged separately and must be paid for on arrival.
- 21 No travelling expenses can be refunded.
- 22 The Competition is required by law to deduct Withholding Tax from any payments made to competitors not resident (for tax purposes) in the UK. However, the Competition Office has entered into a global agreement with the Foreign Entertainers Unit of the Inland Revenue for the deduction of certain expenses. A tax deduction certificate will be given to these competitors as proof of Withholding Tax paid. This can be used to claim credit from the tax authorities in the competitor's country of residence. Further information will be available from the Administrator once a candidate has successfully passed the audition stage.
- 23 Candidates who do not reach the final stage will be given an opportunity, if they so wish, to discuss their performances in private with members of the jury before the final stage takes place.
- 24 The text of this brochure is available in English only.
- 25 Each candidate, by signing the application form, agrees to be bound by all the rules of the Competition.

Requirements for Entry

All application forms, recommendations, additional material and recorded audition CD must be sent at the competitor's expense to the address below and received by **Friday 17 April 2009**. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered by the Committee.

The following documents must be enclosed with the application and recording:

(See checklist)

- Singers:** Completed application form. It is not necessary for pianists to send a separate form.
- Singers and Pianists:** A copy of a birth certificate or similar official document confirming the candidate's date and place of birth.
- Singers and Pianists:** Curriculum vitae with particulars of general education and professional training together with details of recent concert appearances.
- Singers:** Two different letters of recommendation to the Committee from prominent musicians regarding this specific Competition.
Pianists: One letter of recommendation from a prominent musician regarding this specific Competition.
- Singers and Pianists:** Certification of the CD as the recent work of the named competitors (see Rule no. 4)
- Singers and Pianists:** Two recent good quality photographs of each artist suitable for reproduction in the programme, to be sent via email to comp@wigmore-hall.org.uk
- An initial registration fee of £10 for each singer or duo, payable by Sterling cheque, Sterling bank draft drawn on a bank in the UK or Credit Card. **Please see Application Form for payment details.** For candidates resident outside the UK please note that transfer, handling and bank charges are not included in this figure and must be paid by the candidate.

Once a candidate has been selected to proceed to Stage 2, the following will be required:

- ❖ A further entrance fee of £20
- ❖ Biography of 100 words for inclusion in the programme
- ❖ If the services of a pianist are required, an additional £30 will be payable
- ❖ Full programmes for stages 2, 3 and the Finals, including timings, by Monday 29th June 2009 (see rule 12)

All communications should be addressed to:

Helen Peate, Wigmore Hall/Kohn Foundation International Song Competition,
Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore Street, London W1U 2BP or hpeate@wigmore-hall.org.uk

