



THE LAURITZ MELCHIOR INTERNATIONAL SINGING COMPETITION 2024

UNDER PATRONAGE OF HER MAJESTY
MARGRETHE II QUEEN OF DENMARK

RULES & REGULATIONS

Purpose objective

The Lauritz Melchior International Singing Competition (LMISC) was founded by the celebrated Wagner Singer Poul Elming, and was held for the first time in 2010. It has since then taken place in 2014, 2017 and 2020.

The objectives of the competition are:

- to venerate and honour one of the greatest Wagnerian tenors, Lauritz Melchior;
- to identify and profile the best young Wagnerian singers of today;
- to place Aalborg, Aalborg Symphony Orchestra and Musikkens Hus on the musical world map.

Rules for participation

The Lauritz Melchior International Singing Competition is open to all singers who are 42 years or younger on 13.04.2024 of all vocal ranges and nationalities.

The Application Procedure

Applications can only be made online.

Only completed applications received by Wednesday, 1 November 2023 will be considered.

Applications open, August 15, 2023.

The Lauritz Melchior International Singing Competition will be held at Musikkens Hus, Aalborg, Denmark from Thursday, 4 April 2024 to Saturday, 13 April 2024.

The application requires the following:

- A completed application form. An online application form must be completed on the competition website - www.lmisc.dk - and sent electronically.
All documents must be submitted electronically together with the application form.
- A single camera video recording.
The video recording must be performed by the applicant and may not be edited in any way, e.g. video effects or post-production sound editing.
Applicants are responsible for ensuring that the video is recorded with good quality - image and sound (max. 12 minutes, MP4 preferably h.264. You may record and upload each aria/scene separately, however maximum time must not exceed 12 minutes). Applicants will not be penalised for the quality of the recording although it is important that it is good enough to see and hear you clearly.
The video recording must be made specifically for this competition and include two scenes/arias, accompanied by piano, and selected from the LMISC official Application / Quarter-final repertoire list.
This list can be found on the website www.lmisc.dk. No other recordings can be accepted. The scenes/arias must be sung in German and in the original key.
The recordings will be reviewed only by the Application Jury.
- A portrait/headshot of the applicant - electronically sent with the application form as a TIFF or JPEG with a minimum resolution of 300 dpi.
- A copy of your passport or other official document, proving place of birth and birth date must be submitted electronically with the application.
- A curriculum vitae in English including a short biography (maximum 1500 characters).

The application material will not be returned.

Please note Media agreement further down in this document. Consent must be given in the application form.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Project Manager Karen Bente Holmgaard

E-mail: kbh@aalborgsymfoni.dk

Phone (+45) 60 20 35 53

Application Fee

The LMISC does not require an application fee.

Distribution of the audition material

Distribution and mailing of the application material to the Application jury will be managed by the staff of the LMISC.

The review period of the Application Jury

The review period of the applications is from Monday, 6 November 2024, until Monday 18 December 2024.

Notification to participate

Applicants will be notified by Friday, 5 January 2024 if they have been chosen to participate in the quarter-final.

The structure of the competition

The competition has three rounds:

- Quarter-final, with piano accompaniment: Thursday, 4 April 2024.
- Semi-final, with Aalborg Symphony Orchestra: Wednesday, 10 April 2024.
- Gala final, with Aalborg Symphony Orchestra: Saturday, 13 April 2024.

Number of participants

- 16* participants will be selected for the quarter-final
- 8 participants will go through to semi-final
- 4 participants will go through to the Gala final

*The Application Jury reserves the right to adjust the number of participants in the Quarter-final round.

All rounds are open to the public

At the semi-final and Gala final admission to the public is by ticket only.

Masterclass and coaching

Jury member Kirsten Schötteldreier will give a masterclass on Friday 5 April 2024 titled: *Expressive Phrasing and precise pronunciation in Wagner repertoire*. This masterclass is offered to the participants not selected to move forward to the semi-final. Applicants must indicate if they wish to participate in the masterclass on the application form. This masterclass is open to the public.

Semi-finalists are offered a private coaching session with Kirsten on Saturday 6 April 2024 as part of their preparation for the semi-final. Participation in the masterclass/coaching is free to the participants. An accompanist is provided by LMISC.

Time schedule

Wednesday, 1 November 2023

Application deadline.

Friday, 5 January 2024

Applicants will be notified by email if they have been accepted as participants in the quarter-final of the competition. Please consult item **Draw**

Friday, 16 February 2024

Candidates will receive a time schedule for the quarter-final.

Tuesday, 2 April 2024

Arrival of participants who require a piano rehearsal with one of the LMISC accompanists.

Please consult item **Procedure on arrival** and **Accompanists**.

Wednesday, 3 April 2024

Piano rehearsals with official accompanist(s).

Arrival of participants who do not require a piano rehearsal with one of the LMISC accompanists.

Please consult item **Procedure on arrival** and **Accompanists**.

Thursday, 4 April 2024

Quarter-final: 11.00

Announcement of the semi-finalists: 21.00

Friday, 5 April 2024

Expressive phrasing and precise pronunciation in Wagner repertoire: Masterclass with Kirsten Schötteldreier. An optional masterclass for candidates not selected for the semi-final. This masterclass is open to the public.

Applicants must indicate on the application form if they wish to participate in this masterclass.

Saturday, 6 April 2024

Kirsten Schötteldreier coaching for semi-finalists: 11.00-15.00.

Each semi-finalist will have 50 minutes time available. This session is not open to the public.

Applicants must indicate on the application form if they wish to participate in this coaching session.

Sunday, 7 April 2024

Piano rehearsals with conductor Johannes Fritzsich: 12.00-17.00

Monday, 8 April 2024

Orchestra rehearsal with four semi-finalists: 10.00-14.00

Each semi-finalist will have 45 minutes of rehearsal time in total.

Tuesday, 9 April 2024

Orchestra rehearsal with four semi-finalists: 10.00-14.00

Each semi-finalist will have 45 minutes of rehearsal time in total.

Wednesday, 10 April 2024

Semi-final with Aalborg Symphony Orchestra: 19.30

Thursday, 11 April 2024

Orchestra rehearsal with two finalists: 11.00-15.00

Each finalist will have 90 minutes of rehearsal time in total.

Friday, 12 April 2024

Orchestra rehearsal with two finalists: 10.00-14.00

Each finalist will have 90 minutes of rehearsal time in total.

Saturday, 13 April 2024

Gala Final with Aalborg Symphony Orchestra: 19.30

Sunday, 14 April 2024

Departure

Draw

Draw for the quarter-final

The draw to determine the order of appearance for the quarter-final will be conducted by LMISC. The result will be communicated to the participants in an e-mail no later than Friday, 16 February 2024.

Draw for the semi-final

After the voting of the quarter-final and the publication of the result at 21.00 on Thursday, 4 April 2024, the order of appearance for the semi-final will be drawn. The draw will be conducted by LMISC.

Draw for Gala final

After the voting of the semi-final and the publication of the result, the order of appearance for the Gala final will be drawn. The draw will be conducted by LMISC.

Accompanists

LMISC provides accompanists for the participants (free of charge).

The accompanists are assigned to each singer by LMISC.

Participants are permitted to bring their own accompanist. This will be at the participants' own cost and must be mentioned on the application form. A practice room will be provided for rehearsing at a mutually agreed time between the participant and LMISC.

Rehearsal with LMISC official accompanist quarter-final

It is possible to have a piano rehearsal with an official accompanist on Wednesday, 3 April 2024. It must be mentioned on the application form that the participant will use one of the official accompanists.

The duration of the rehearsal time for the quarter-final is one rehearsal of 30 minutes in total.

No later than Friday, 16 February 2024 the time of the rehearsal with the official accompanist as well as the time of the appearance at the quarter-final will be communicated via e-mail together with further information about the competition.

The piano rehearsals start at 10.00 and will take place at the following address:

Musikkens Hus
Musikkens Plads 1
9000 Aalborg

The location of rehearsal rooms will be published on notice boards.

Rehearsals with the Aalborg Symphony Orchestra.

All orchestral rehearsals will take place at the following address:

Musikkens Hus
Musikkens Plads 1
9000 Aalborg

The rehearsals will take place in the Concert Hall.

Selection of repertoire

The scenes/arias selected specifically for each of the three rounds from the official repertoire lists must be mentioned on the application form.

Quarter-final

For the quarter-final participants must choose one or more scenes/arias from the official repertoire list. The chosen repertoire must have a total duration of 5 to 10 minutes.

Repertoire overlap between the application round and the quarter-final is not allowed.

Semi-final

For the semi-final participants must choose one or more scenes/arias from the official repertoire list. In the semi-final it is allowed to repeat one scene/aria from the application round or the quarter-final. The chosen repertoire must have a total duration of 5 to 10 minutes.

Gala final

For the Gala final the participant must choose one or more scenes/arias from the official repertoire list. At the Gala final it is allowed to repeat one scene/aria from the application round or the quarter-final. Repertoire overlap between the semi-final and the Gala final is not allowed. The chosen repertoire must have a total duration of 10 to 15 minutes.

General

The applicant's chosen repertoire for the entire competition must be sung in the original key and in German. The chosen competition repertoire for the entire competition must be mentioned on the application form. The repertoire must be sung from memory. The choice of repertoire cannot be changed.

Private practice

Participants will have access to a practice room.

Prizes

1st prize: € 20.000 (and a concert with Aalborg Symphony Orchestra)

2nd prize: € 12.000

3rd prize: € 6.000

4th prize: € 3.000

There will possibly be an audience prize.

There will be an orchestra prize.

The engagement with Aalborg Symphony Orchestra will be offered at a time mutually convenient to the winner and the Aalborg Symphony Orchestra.

The winner of LMISC 2024 will receive invitations to attend open casting auditions at the following opera houses and festivals:

Royal Opera House, Covent Garden
Glyndebourne Festival Opera
Berliner Staatsoper Unter den Linden
Bayerische Staatsoper
Welsh National Opera
Norwegian National Opera
The Royal Danish Opera
Opéra national de Paris
Gothenburg Opera
Grazer Oper
Wiener Staatsoper
Royal Swedish Opera
Staatsoper Hamburg

LMISC is not directly responsible for organizing the auditions but will provide administrative introduction to the opera houses to assist in arranging the auditions. The costs for such auditions lie with the singer and there is no guarantee from the opera houses of future employment or engagement. LMISC may update this list.

Agents and representatives from opera houses and festivals will be invited to both the semi-final and the Gala Final.

Juries

Main jury

The main jury will function as judges at the semi-final and the Gala final.
The jury consists of six members and a non-voting Chairperson.

Stephen Langridge – Artistic Director, Glyndebourne Festival Opera
Elisabeth Linton – Head of Opera at the Royal Danish Opera
Tobias Hasan – Operndirektor der Berliner Staatsoper Unter den Linden.
Waltraud Meier – Kammersängerin, mezzosoprano
Sir John Tomlinson - bass
Lilli Paasikivi-Ilves – Intendantin, Bregenzer Festspiele
Per Erik Veng – Chairperson, former CEO & Artistic Director Danish National SO & Choirs

Application and quarter-final jury

This jury adjudicates all applications, review the videos submitted and chooses the singers to appear in the quarter-final, and the semi-finalists. The jury consists of three members, with the competition's Artistic Director, Tecwyn Evans, acting as Jury Chair.

Susanna Eken, Associate Professor at The Royal Danish Academy of Music and the Opera School in Copenhagen.
Kirsten Schötteldreier – Voice coach and casting consultant
Mats Knutsson – Repetiteur and vocal coach, Royal Danish Opera.

Rules of the juries

Voting

The voting of both juries is confidential. The decisions are final and cannot be appealed.

Votes

The voting of rounds, including the application round will be done by points over three categories:

- the quality of the voice, vocal phrasing and technique
- the ability to convey the dramatic content of the arias/scenes
- the suitability of the applicant to fulfil the objectives of the competition.

Further participation and the awarding of prizes will be decided based on the total number of points given.

Disqualification

If a jury member is closely related to a participant, the juror will not be able to cast a vote concerning the person in question. The total number of points will be adjusted according to this.

Award of prizes

The jury can:

- choose not to award one or more of the prizes
- split a prize between two participants

Practical Information

Travel expenses, room, and board

Travel expenses for participants and their accompanists are not covered by LMISC.

Accommodation and expenses

For participants in the semi-final LMISC covers room (bed and breakfast) from Friday, 5 April 2024 until Thursday, 11 April 2024.

For participants who continue to the Gala final LMISC covers room (bed and breakfast) until Sunday, 14 April 2024.

Food expenses (per diem) are covered by allowances according to rates set by the State of Denmark.

Procedure on arrival

The participants check-in at Musikkens Hus, Musikkens Plads 1, 9000 Aalborg on Tuesday 2 April, 2024 or Wednesday 3 April, 2024 between 08.30 and 16.00.

Participants who intend to arrive later than 16.00 must give notice in advance to LMISC.

In the case of delay or other irregularities please call project manager Karen Bente Holmgaard Phone (+45) 60 20 35 53.

Media agreement

The media partner of the competition is The Danish National Broadcasting Radio P2.

With the permission of LMISC all rehearsals and all four rounds and concerts may be recorded or photographed for radio, television, Internet, video, tape, CD etc.

The media rights remain with LMISC and no fee will be paid to the participants, accompanists or jury members.

All singers who participate in THE LAURITZ MELCHIOR INTERNATIONAL SINGING COMPETITION automatically accept the rules and regulations of the competition as well as the decisions of the juries.

Errors, omissions & misprints excepted.