

## PRESSEMEDDELELSE

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# Record number of applicants for international competition for young Wagner singers

**The organizers behind the world's largest singing competition for young Wagner singers, The Lauritz Melchior International Singing Competition, are very excited about the record number of applications received for the prestigious competition. 162 applicants come from no fewer than 36 countries - with the USA and Germany well represented, but also South Korea, Japan, Canada, England, New Zealand and China on the list.**

"With an increase of more than 50 per cent in terms of the number of applicants from last time (97 applied in 2020) and such a large international spread among the applicants, we can be extremely proud and conclude that The Lauritz Melchior International Singing Competition puts not only the Aalborg Symphony Orchestra and Musikkens Hus on the map, but to a large extent also Aalborg and the entire North Jutland region", concludes artistic director of the competition, Aalborg Symphony Orchestra's Tecwyn Evans.

The great interest is not only due to the fact that since it was held for the first time in 2010, the competition has established itself as a sought-after platform for young talent but also, in addition to fine cash prizes and great attention, as something new this year, the participants can also look forward to taking part in masterclasses, and the winner is invited to audition at some of Europe's biggest opera houses.

"The great international attention the competition receives is significant and while prize money is very valuable for young singers, so is building a network of opportunities. As of today, there are 13 opera houses who offer the winner to come to open auditions - among them the Opera National de Paris, the Royal Opera in Covent Garden and Staatsoper Unter den Linden in Berlin", explains Tecwyn Evans, who is also delighted that the competition has become recognised in the international opera network that it manages to attract an impressive judging panel.

Members of the main Jury are one of the world's greatest Wagner singers, the mezzo-soprano Waltraud Meier, bass singer Sir John Tomlinson, Tobias Hasan, opera director of the Berliner Staatsoper Unter den Linden, Stephen Langridge, artistic director of Glyndebourne Festival Opera, Elisabeth Linton, Head of Opera at the Royal Danish Opera and Lilli Paasikivi-Ilves, Intendantin, Bregenzer Festspiele. Jury Chair is renowned Danish arts advisor and former head of the Danish National Symphony Orchestra and Choirs, Per Erik Veng.

Before they get to experience the Wagner stars of tomorrow, a pre-jury must now adjudicate the 162 entries and select 16 participants who will be invited to the quarter-final in Aalborg in April next year. The pre-jury is formed of Susanna Eken, associate professor at the Royal Danish Music Conservatory and the Opera Academy in Copenhagen, Kirsten Schötteldreier, voice coach, singing teacher and casting consultant in international demand, and a voice coach and répétiteur from the Royal Danish Opera Mats Knutsson.

It is the fifth time that the Aalborg Symphony Orchestra has organized and hosted the competition. Founded by the Danish Wagner tenor Poul Elming the competition first took place in 2010 and as he dreamed of The Lauritz Melchior International Singing Competition has developed into a prestigious competition that resonates in international Wagner circles.

The repertoire is demanding, and with an acclaimed international judging panel, the quality is high, so that only the most ambitious and the best can participate. All previous winners have subsequently established themselves with international careers. The previous winners are Allison Denise Oakes (UK), Tina-Maija Koskela (FIN), Cornelia Beskow (S) and Margrethe Fredheim (N).

The competition, which also took place in 2014, 2017 and 2020, is named after one of the world's greatest Wagner singers, the Danish Tenor Lauritz Melchior, and in addition to honouring him, the competition also aims to find and profile the best new Wagner singers of today worldwide, as well as putting Aalborg and the North Jutland region on the musical world map. Throughout the years, HM Queen Margrethe has been patron of the competition.

**For further information,**  
please see [www.LMISC.dk](http://www.LMISC.dk)

**Or contact**

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