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ELIZABETH
CONNELL
PRIZE INTERNATIONAL
SINGING COMPETITION

Open to Sopranos and Mezzo sopranos
of all nationalities under 35 as of 1 June 2023

Over £30,000 in prize money
1st Prize: £15,000

ENTRIES CLOSE: 19 March 2023

9th ELIZABETH CONNELL PRIZE INTERNATIONAL SINGING COMPETITION - 2023

Elizabeth Connell was a South African dramatic soprano, who attained international acclaim for her performances throughout her career. She began her professional life, singing as a mezzo soprano before transitioning to soprano. Her repertoire ranged from Rossini, Mozart and Bellini, to Strauss, Verdi and Wagner. It was her love of the dramatic repertoire, which led her to establish the Elizabeth Connell Prize. The competition's aim, based on Elizabeth Connell's own wishes, is to foster aspiring young dramatic female voices who show the potential to sing the more dramatic repertoire. Entrants do not have to currently be a dramatic soprano or dramatic mezzo soprano to enter, simply show potential. All repertoire is accepted, especially the lyric repertoire, which is highly encouraged for this age group. This competition is Elizabeth Connell's legacy to the opera world.

The 2023 Competition

1. The Elizabeth Connell Prize will be held live in London from 31 May - 3 June 2023, with the Final at Wigmore Hall.
2. Open to all professional **Sopranos** and **Mezzo sopranos under 35** as of **1 June 2023**.
3. Singers from all nationalities, who are currently performing or show the potential to perform the more dramatic repertoire, may enter.
4. Any female professional opera singer may enter the competition with the exception of previous first prize winners of the Elizabeth Connell Prize competition between 2014 - 2019.
5. Entrants must provide all the items listed before the closing date of entries.
6. Successful entrants chosen to compete in London must pay for their own accommodation in and travel to London.
7. The competition will be held over 4 Rounds and performed with piano. Two arias are to be performed in each round.
8. Entrants must compete in all rounds to be considered for a place in the Final and a prize.
9. The Final will be live streamed from Wigmore Hall in London.
10. Entries close: **19 MARCH 2023**.

Round 1 - Online Application

All items must be provided. Please ensure your name is at the top of each page of your documents.

1. Provide two (2) video links of two (2) contrasting arias - see page 2 for aria criteria.
2. Fill in the Online Application form on the website attaching all necessary information and documents.
3. CV/biography - two (2) page maximum, bullet points preferable, outlining your education, current experience, current repertoire and future plans.
4. Publicity photo (JPEG or PNG)
5. Proof of ID with age - Passport or Driver Licence.
5. **AUD\$100** entry fee payable through Paypal online - entry fees are non-refundable.

Round 2 - London Heat - Wednesday 31 May, 2023

1. Up to twenty-five (25) entrants will be chosen to compete in London.

Round 3 - London Semi-final - Thursday 1 June, 2023

1. Up to twelve (12) entrants will be chosen to compete in the semi-final.

Round 4 - London Final at Wigmore Hall on Saturday 3 June, 2023 at 1pm.

1. Six (6) Finalists will be chosen to compete each performing two arias.
2. Prizes awarded will range from £15,000 - £3,000.
3. An audience prize of £500 will be awarded as voted by the audience.
4. All finalists will receive a cash prize.

Patrons
Richard Bonyngé AC CBE
Dame Anne Evans DBE
Bernadette Cullen

Criteria & Repertoire

1. A list of five (5) operatic arias must be presented. Age appropriate repertoire should be considered carefully.
2. One (1) aria must be sung in German and one (1) aria must be sung in Italian.
3. At least one (1) of these arias must be composed by either Mozart, Puccini, Verdi, R. Strauss or Wagner.
4. All arias must be sung in their original key, original language and be no longer than 8 minutes in length.
5. Arias must be sung from memory.
6. Oratorio, lieder or art song are unacceptable.
7. Videos can be either from a live performance or recorded in a studio, accompanied by piano or orchestra. They can be filmed on any device and must be of as high a quality as possible, showing the entrant clearly, unedited or enhanced in any way or form. It is vital the audio and visual quality is clear and not distorted.
8. Please ensure all Youtube and/or cloud storage links are publicly viewable. Use either the public privacy settings or unlisted settings to ensure ease of access.
9. Videos must be recorded no earlier than **January 2022** and posted on either Youtube or in cloud storage.
10. Social media links for example on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or Tik Tok are unacceptable.
11. Please ensure you provide the date of each recording in your application material.

Notes

1. Entrants are responsible for arranging their own visas if required to enter the UK.
2. The Judges' decisions are final and no feedback will be provided to unsuccessful entrants.
3. The Judges will be looking for singers who show the potential to sing the dramatic repertoire with an unforced beauty of vocal tone, musicality, advanced technical ability, languages and communication skills. A proficient current level of performance experience is preferable but not essential. Entrants' CV's and future plans will also be taken into consideration.
4. The Judges are NOT looking for the biggest or loudest voices.
5. Incomplete and/or late entries will NOT be accepted.
6. All information provided to the Elizabeth Connell Prize administrators and Judges will be used to assess entrants' suitability for a cash prize based on Elizabeth Connell's own criteria.
7. The organisers reserve the right to record, broadcast and promote the winners on social media and the website.
8. Successful entrants for Rounds 2-4 will be notified via email in April.
9. The ECP encourages women of all nationalities and backgrounds to enter this competition. In these difficult times for artists, it is the Trustees' wishes to continue Elizabeth Connell's legacy by providing financial assistance to as many singers as possible within the boundaries of the Trust's ruling regulations.
10. Entrants' private information will not be shared publicly by the organisation.

Enquiries - econnellprize@jsrbfoundation.com

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