

LEACH AWARD FOR SINGING 2026

**LONDON
CHORAL
SINFONIA**

The Competition

Founded in 2023 to celebrate English song and oratorio, the annual LCS Leach Award for Singing seeks to promote new, emerging talent across the UK and beyond.

This year's competition will be judged by world-renowned soprano and vocal consultant, Janice Chapman and LCS Artistic Director, Michael Waldron.

Prizes

First Prize

£1,000 and an invitation for a paid engagement to sing as a soloist for the London Choral Sinfonia at a performance in the 2027/28 season

Second Prize

£500

Accompanist Prize

£300

Further Information

- The competition is open to singers of all classically-trained voice types aged 18-35.
- Entrants are required to provide their own pianist for every round.
- Please ensure before applying that you are available for the Semi-Final and Final dates given below. We will do our best to accommodate entrants' availability on those days, but can't guarantee being able to do so for those with limited availability.
- The Final is a public concert.
- The full regulations can be found at the LCS website: www.thelcs.org
- In case of any conflict between this document and the full regulations, the full regulations take priority.

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Entry and Preliminary Round

To enter the competition, please submit the following materials to competitions@thelcs.org by Wednesday 28 October 2026:

- A YouTube link to a video recording of one English-language song or English-language oratorio aria, clearly stating the title and composer of the work
- A CV or biography (maximum 1 side of A4) and a headshot

A £10 administration fee is required on submission of application. Payment details will be sent via email.

Entrants will be informed via email whether they are progressing to the Semi-Final, and those who are will be asked to submit their proposed 12-minute Semi-Final programme.

Semi-Final

The Semi-Final will take place between 2pm - 6pm on Friday 6 November 2026 at St John's, Waterloo.

Semi-Finalists will perform a programme of no longer than 12 minutes of music, including at least one English-language song or English-language oratorio aria. The work performed in the Preliminary Round may be repeated.

Final

The Final will take place at 7pm on Thursday 12 November 2026 at St John's, Waterloo.

Finalists will perform a programme of no longer than 20 minutes of music, including at least one English-language song **and** one English-language oratorio aria. At most one work performed in the Semi-Final may be repeated.