

# Heidelberger Frühling Wettbewerb Das Lied

## Heidelberger Frühling Wettbewerb “Das Lied” with Thomas Quasthoff from 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Renowned jury around Thomas Quasthoff – Livestream of all competition rounds

From 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> March 2023, the biennial Heidelberger Frühling Wettbewerb “Das Lied” will take place under the jury chairmanship of competition founder Thomas Quasthoff. The International Lied Competition will be held in public and can be followed worldwide via livestream. Tickets for the local audience will be available from 19<sup>th</sup> December. Students and pupils will be admitted free of charge. The competition will take place at the Alter Saal of Theater Heidelberg.

From a total of 131 applications from all over the world, 38 singers and 33 pianists were admitted to participate, coming from 20 different nations on five continents, from Italy to South Korea and Australia, the USA to Brazil. The competition repertoire includes selected Lieder by Aribert Reimann, Franz Schubert and Viktor Ullmann. The first round will take place on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> March, followed by the semifinals on 3<sup>rd</sup> March and the final with prize ceremony on 5<sup>th</sup> March.

Thomas Quasthoff (chair) will once again be assembling great Lied experts around him on the renowned jury: John Gilhooly (Artistic and Executive Director of London's Wigmore Hall), Richard Stokes (Professor of Lieder at the Royal Academy of Music in London), James Taylor (Professor in the Practice of Voice at Yale University, USA), the soprano Juliane Banse, the mezzo-soprano Bernarda Fink, the Lied pianists James Baillieu and Justus Zeyen as well as artist manager Helga Machreich. Competition pianist is Professor Alexander Fleischer.

The Heidelberger Frühling Wettbewerb “Das Lied” is considered one of the most important singing competitions. The winners receive prize money totalling 40,000 euros and appearances at renowned concert promoters and music festivals. The public radio SWR2 also donates a professional production in a radio studio to the 1<sup>st</sup> prize winner. The publisher Schott Music donates various prizes for sheet music.

Founded as “Das Lied – International Song Competition” in 2009 by Thomas Quasthoff, the competition was initially held in Berlin before moving under the roof of the Heidelberger Frühling in 2017. The 2021 edition had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. The Wettbewerb “Das Lied” is a project of Heidelberger Frühling Liedzentrum, which was founded in 2016 to bundle activities around the Lied and to create a centre for inventiveness, excellence and competence in Lied.

***Thomas Quasthoff, jury chairman and competition founder:***

***“For young musicians, competitions are an important station in their professional careers and can be a springboard. Since the young generation of artists was particularly affected by the pandemic, I am all the more pleased that ‘Das Lied’ can finally take place again after a four-year break.”***

*Thorsten Schmidt, director of Heidelberger Frühling:*

*„The Heidelberger Frühling Wettbewerb ‘Das Lied’ presents nothing less than the future of Lied – excellent interpreters who have dedicated themselves to this unique art form. Giving these young artists a stage, awarding and promoting them is one of the most important tasks of Heidelberger Frühling Liedzentrum.“*

Tickets are available from 19<sup>th</sup> December online at [www.heidelberger-fruehling.de](http://www.heidelberger-fruehling.de), by telephone on +49 (0)6221 584 00 44 and at all known booking offices in Germany. To visit the competition, you can buy a full pass (60 euros/red. 45 euros) or day tickets (first round & semifinals 15 euros/ red. 12 euros, final & prize ceremony 18 euros/erm. 15 euros). Admission is free for students and pupils. All rounds of the competition will be broadcast free of charge via livestream.