

Heidelberger Frühling Wettbewerb „Das Lied“

Tenors Laurence Kilsby and Tae Hwan Yun win Heidelberger Frühling Wettbewerb “Das Lied“ 2023

1st prize was awarded twice. Around 13,000 viewers followed the livestream.

The 24-year-old tenor **Laurence Kilsby** from England and the 33-year-old tenor **Tae Hwan Yun** from South Korea are the winners of this year's Heidelberger Frühling Wettbewerb “Das Lied”. The 1st prize was awarded twice. The piano partners were Ella O'Neill from England and Dokyung Han from South Korea. The singing competition for Lied, founded by jury chairman Thomas Quasthoff, is one of the most important in the world and, after a four-year break due to the pandemic, took place for the third time this year in Heidelberg, hosted by Heidelberger Frühling. In addition to prize money of 12,500 euros each, the 1st prize is linked to several concert appearances at renowned concert promoters and music festivals such as Wigmore Hall, Oxford Lieder or the International Hugo Wolf Akademie Stuttgart as well as a professional production in a radio studio, made possible by the German public radio SWR2.

The 2nd prize was not awarded. The 3rd prize of 7,500 euros went to the 33-year-old soprano **Alexandra Flood** from Australia. The best pianist of the competition and the prize money of 5,000 euros (donated by Christa Tonnecker) went to **Yuhao Guo** from Germany. The Audience Prize (donated by Freundeskreis Heidelberger Frühling e.V.) in the amount of 2,500 euros was awarded to baritone **Lars Conrad** from Germany. For the first time, voting was not only possible on site, but also via online voting from all over the world. The prizewinners also received various prizes for sheet music, donated by the publisher Schott Music.

131 young singers and pianists from all over the world applied to take part. After a preliminary selection, 27 singers and 24 piano partners were admitted. In addition to the chairman Thomas Quasthoff, the jury included John Gilhooly (Director of London's Wigmore Hall), Richard Stokes (Professor of Lieder at 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 agent Helga Machreich. The competition repertoire included selected Lieder by Aribert Reimann, Franz Schubert, Robert Schumann and Viktor Ullmann. The competition pianist was Alexander Fleischer.

In addition to the audience in the Old Hall of the Heidelberg Theatre, around 13,000 viewers from all over the world have so far watched the competition livestream. All videos of the competition are still available on the YouTube channel of the Heidelberger Frühling Liedzentrum.

The biennial competition “Das Lied” is a project of the 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. Former winners include Nikola Hillebrand, Samuel Hasselhorn, Hagar Sharvit and Manuel Walser.

Pictures are attached (photo credit: Martin Walz/Heidelberger Frühling):

Heidelberger Frühling Wettbewerb „Das Lied“

- 1st prize winner Laurence Kilsby
- 1st prize winner Tae Hwan Yun
- 1st prize winner with jury from left to right: behind: Richard Stokes, John Gilhooly, James Baillieu, Justus Zeyen, Helga Machreich-Unterzaucher, James Taylor, Bernarda Fink.
Front: Laurence Kilsby, Tae Hwan Yun, Thomas Quasthoff

About the first prize winners

Laurence Kilsby is also the winner of the 2022 Wigmore Hall/Bollinger International Song Competition. The youngest winner of the 13th Cesti International Competition, he made his Festival d'Aix-en-Provence debut last season, toured with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and Ensemble Pygmalion (St John Passion), and participated in the Carnegie Hall SongStudio with Renée Fleming. Recent engagements include “L'Orfeo” (Nederlandse Reisopera), A Little Night Music (Opera North) and Peter Sellars' production of the St John Passion with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and Sir Simon Rattle. He has given recitals at the International Lieder Festival Zeist, Snape Maltings, the Academy of the Arts and performed with Malcolm Martineau on the album “The Call”.

Tae Hwan Yun completed his vocal studies at the University of Suwon and at the Musikhochschule Mannheim. He has won several international singing competitions. He gained his first stage experience in “L'elisir d'amore” in South Korea and in “Cosi fan tutte” in Neustadt an der Weinstraße, Germany. From 2018 to 2020 he was a member of the opera studio at the Pfalztheater Kaiserslautern. In the 2021/22 season he made a guest appearance at the Theater Passau, appeared in Giuseppe Verdi's “Ernani” as well as in Clemens von Franckenstein's opera “Li-Tai-Pe” at the Bonn Opera and in “Madame Butterfly” at the Eutin Festival. In 2022/23 he returned to the Bonn Opera as an ensemble member. He will also take on two roles in Francesco Cilea's “Adriana Lecouvreur” at the Deutsche Oper am Rhein.

More information at www.heidelberger-fruehling.de/en/wettbewerb/

Contact

Heidelberger Frühling

Sophia Pick

Head of Communications

+49 (0)6221 – 584 00 10

+49 (0)1520 – 93 35 874

s.pick@heidelberger-fruehling.de

Jane Roth

Press/Communications

+49 (0)6221 – 584 00 46

j.roth@heidelberger-fruehling.de

Heidelberger Frühling Wettbewerb „Das Lied“

for artists

Maren Borchers-Fromageot

+49 (0)30 – 414 78 17 40

+49 –(0)173 – 29 49 111

maren.borchers@forartists.de

Martina von Brüning

+ 49 (0)30 – 644 752 - 43

++49 (0)174 – 3086118

martina.vonbruening@forartists.de