

CONCOURS ERNST HAEFLIGER

Int. Gesangswettbewerb - concorso int. di canto - int. singing competition

RULES CONCOURS ERNST HAEFLIGER 2008

1. The competition is open to opera singers of all nations who study or have studied at conservatories, music colleges or similar institutions. Private singing students with sufficient qualifications will be admitted too.
2. There is no minimum age for the competition. Candidates cannot be older than 32 years (1976 and younger).
3. Applications arriving after the dead-line of 31 May 2008 will normally not be considered. In special cases exceptions can be made by the jury.
4. Selected members of the jury choose from the applications the participants for the competition in Gstaad/Bern. The jury can refuse applications without giving reason.
5. Participation in the competition is only legally valid upon payment of registration fee of CHF 100.-. Participants who do not pay their registration fee by 17. August 2008 are not admitted to the competition. The registration fee will not be reimbursed if the participant is unable to take part.
6. The competition is divided in 3 days of preliminary rounds (18, 19, 20 August 2008 in Gstaad), semifinale (21 August 2008 in Gstaad) and finale (24 August 2008 in Bern).
7. Participants will be informed about their date for the preliminary round. On that date (18, 19 or 20 August 2008) they will have to show-up at 09.30 am at the Kirchgemeindehaus (Community Centre) in Gstaad. Candidates who do not show-up at this time can be expelled from the competition. They will then be informed about their exact audition time, pianist and rehearsal time. Each participant has to bring an official document in order to prove their identity (passport, identity card). Participants who cannot prove their identity can be expelled from the competition.
- 7.1 Audition time for the preliminary rounds is planned as follows:
10.30 h – 14.00 h und 16.30 h – 20.00 h

Audition time for the semifinale is planned as follows:
10.00 h – 13.00 h und 14.00 h – 16.30 h

All participants qualified for the semifinale have to show-up on 21 August 2008 at 09.00 h at the Kirchgemeindehaus (Community Centre) in Gstaad in order to get their audition time.
8. The names of the qualified participants for the semifinale will be announced by the jury on 20. August 2008 evening after the end of the auditions. All participants will have to show-up at the Kirchgemeindehaus (Community Centre) in Gstaad for this occasion. Participants may be excused from being present upon explicit permit by the competition administration. Absent participants will have to inform themselves by telephone about their qualification. Unexcused absent, qualified participants can be expelled from the competition. Maximum 30 participants will be admitted to the semifinale.

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9. The finalists will be announced by the jury on 21. August 2008. Maximum 10 participants will be admitted to the finale.
10. Preliminary rounds, semifinale and finale will be open to public. The finale is a concert with orchestra in Bern.

In all rounds of the competition the participants will sing in the order decided by the competition administration. The participants will be informed in good time about their date for the preliminary round. Special requests about dates may be considered if announced well in advance.

11. The arias of each participant are stated on the application form. These arias are binding and cannot be changed. The participants have to bring the music for their arias in print (for the pianists). Arias have to be sung by heart and in original language.
12. Each participant has a short time to rehearse with their competition pianists. For the finale there will be two rehearsal days with orchestra in Bern.
13. The selected participants undertake to compete in each round of the competition for which they qualify. All participants agree to attend all rehearsals and concerts relating to the competition. Failure to attend the rehearsals and concerts shall result in forfeiture of the prize.
14. In the preliminary round each participant can choose one aria from his list. In case of very long arias the jury maybe permitted to ask some cuts. A second aria can be requested and chosen by the jury.

In the semifinale each participant can choose one aria from his list and sing it in full length.

The aria for the finale will be chosen by the jury in agreement with the finalist.

15. Prizes 2008:
 1. prize: CHF 10'000.-
 2. prize: CHF 6'000.-
 3. prize: CHF 4'000.-

CH Scholarship: CHF 8'000.- for the best Swiss participant (Swiss nationality required).

Special prizes: Debut-Concert at the Lucerne Festival, engagement at the Stadttheater Bern, Concert at the Menuhin Festival Gstaad

The jury reserves the right not to award prizes or to award prizes jointly. The jury's decision is final and binding. Criteria of judgment is secret. There is no guarantee that all auditions will be held before the entire jury.

16. Concours Ernst Haefliger reserves the right to create copy, distribute or edit recordings and visual material during the entire course of all rounds of the competition. The rights granted shall extend to use for television, radio, print media and other electronic, digital and audiovisual media and online services.

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17. No performer's fees shall be paid to the participants. The participants have to cover their expenses themselves. The competition is ready to help participants in finding suitable housing. For the finalists a hotel in Bern has been reserved for the rehearsal days and final concert day.
18. The German version of these rules shall be solely authoritative in case of doubt with regard to interpretation of the text. The jury's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. Signed application form and payment of registration fee state the acceptance of these rules and the decisions of the jury by each participant.

Bern, September 2007
Competition administration/AC