

# CONCOURS SUISSE ERNST HAEFLIGER

SWISS INTERNATIONAL SINGING COMPETITION

August 20 - 26 2012 · BERN - GSTAAD

## CONCOURS SUISSE ERNST HAEFLIGER 2012 RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. The competition is open to opera singers of all nations who are studying or have studied at conservatories, music colleges or similar institutions. Private students with sufficient qualifications are also eligible to compete.
2. There is no minimum age for the competition. Candidates cannot be older than 32 years (year of birth: 1980 and thereafter).
3. Applications received after the deadline on 30 April 2011 are normally not considered. The jury may, however, make an exception in special cases.
4. The artistic director selects the participants for the preliminary rounds in Gstaad/Bern from the applications. The jury is entitled to refuse applications without giving reason.
5. Participation in the final stage of the competition is only legally valid upon payment of registration fee of CHF 100.-. Participants who have not paid their registration fee by 20 August 2012 will not be admitted to the competition. The registration fee will not be reimbursed if the participant is unable to take part. Participants must ensure that no banking fees are charged to Concours Suisse Ernst Haefliger and that the amount of CHF 100.00 is paid in full without deductions.
6. The competition is divided into three days of preliminary rounds (20, 21, 22 August 2012 in Gstaad), semi-finals (23 August 2012 in Gstaad) and finals (rehearsal on 24 and 25 August 2012; final concert on 25 August 2012 in Bern).
7. Participants will be informed about their date of the preliminary round (20, 21 or 22 August 2012). They are expected to be at the Kirchgemeindehaus (Community Centre) in Gstaad by 9.30 a.m. They will then be informed about their exact audition time, pianist and rehearsal time. Each participant must present a formal identity document (passport, identity card). Candidates who do not appear at this time can be expelled from the competition. Participants who cannot prove their identity will be expelled from the competition.

Audition times for the preliminary rounds is planned as follows:

10 a.m. – 2 p.m. and 2.30 – 7 p.m.

Audition times for the semi-finals is planned as follows:

10 a.m. – 2 p.m. and 2.30 – 6 p.m.

All participants who have qualified for the semi-finals must be at the Kirchgemeindehaus (Community Centre) in Gstaad by 9 a.m. on 19 August 2012 in order to receive their audition time.

Artistic director: **Dominique Mentha** Director of Luzerner Theater  
Administration c/o Mrs Stephanie Witschi · Luzerner Theater  
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8. The participants who have qualified for the semi-finals will be announced by the jury after the auditions on the evening of 23 August 2012. All participants must be present at the Kirchgemeindehaus (Community Centre) in Gstaad for this occasion. Participants may be excused upon receipt of explicit permission from the competition administration. Absent participants must obtain information about their qualification by telephone. Unexcused absent, qualified participants can be expelled from the competition. A maximum of 30 participants will be admitted to the semi-finals.
9. The finalists will be announced by the jury on 23 August 2012. A maximum of 10 participants will be admitted to the finals.
10. The preliminary rounds, semi-finals and finals are open to the public. The final concert is performed with the orchestra in Bern.

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

11. Each participant's repertoire is stated on the application form. These arias are binding and cannot be changed. The participants must bring the music for their arias in print (for the pianists). Arias must be sung from memory and in the original language. Four pieces are required, one of which must be composed after 1960 and/or is a lied.
12. Each participant may briefly rehearse with the competition pianist. The finalists will have two rehearsal days with the orchestra in Bern.

Participants who bring their own pianist cannot be guaranteed that ample rehearsal time in a suitable rehearsal room with a piano will be available. Participants working together with the competition pianist with whom they are unfamiliar have priority to use the rehearsal room with a piano. Rooms for warming up are guaranteed.

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 will result in forfeiture of the prize.

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14. In the preliminary round each participant may choose at least one aria from his or her list. In the event of very long arias, the jury is permitted to request the aria to be shortened. A second aria can be requested and chosen by the jury.

In the semi-finals each participant can choose one aria from his or her list and sing it in full length.

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

15. Prizes 2012:

1<sup>st</sup> prize: CHF 10,000.-

2<sup>nd</sup> prize: CHF 6,000.-

3<sup>rd</sup> 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 Musik - Theater Bern, concert at the Menuhin Festival in Gstaad

The jury will determine the winner of each prize. 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 are secret. There is no guarantee that all auditions will be held before the entire jury.

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

17. No performer's fees shall be paid to the participants. The participants are responsible for their expenses. A list of hotels and guesthouses in Gstaad can be found at [www.concours-haefliger.com](http://www.concours-haefliger.com). Accommodation in Bern for the finalists has been reserved for the rehearsal days and final concert day.

18. All decisions are final. The signed application form and payment of registration fee assume the acceptance of these rules and the decisions of the jury by each participant.

Bern, October 2011  
Competition Administration

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