

Nomination: 18130

2023 IFAC Handa Australian Singing Competition Finals Concert

Page: General Information
Name of Organization / Company Music & Opera Singers Trust Ltd. (MOST)
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Web Site Address https://mostlyopera.org (https://mostlyopera.org)
Page: Entry Information
Entry Title 2023 IFAC Handa Australian Singing Competition Finals Concert
Category G01 - G07 - Award for Innovation in Events > G06. Award for Innovation in Non-Profit/NGO Events
Submission Format An Essay of up to 625 Words
Essay <p>The 2023 IFAC Handa Australian Singing Competition (ASC), a production of Music & Opera Singers Trust (MOST), is an innovative operatic event that develops over the period of 7 months. Entries are received from all over Australia as well as internationally. Live auditions are adjudicated by renowned industry heavyweights in capital cities around Australia and New Zealand, and digital entries are also assessed. Following the auditions, 10 Semi-Finalists are selected to perform in both a private adjudication session as well as a public concert at The Independent Theatre in North Sydney where the classical vocalists are accompanied by celebrated collaborative artist, Bradley Gilchrist. In the leadup to the Semi-Finals, MOST also hosted a Workshop at the Sydney Opera House, with presentations given by an operatic language coach, an operatic Director, a Senior Artist Manager, a Stage Manager, and global superstar soprano and 2003 ASC Winner, Jessica Pratt. Following the Semi-Finals, 5 singers were selected to progress to the Finals. The ASC Finals was presented at The Concourse Concert Hall on 31 August. The 5 singers were accompanied by the Opera Australia Orchestra, and conducted by Vladimir Fanshil. The ASC Finalists perform with the the 65-person orchestra. Presentations were given by the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), and former Prime Minister of Australia, the Honourable Tony Abbott AC. Over \$100,000 of prizes, awards, scholarships, and cash was awarded to the Finalists. The winner was Samoan tenor Emmanuel Fonoti-Fuimaono. The Runners-Up were New Zealander soprano Michaela Cadwgan, German-Australian mezzo Cassandra Doyle, Australian mezzo Ellena Hicks, and Chinese-Australian soprano Yvette Keong.</p> <p>The 2023 ASC executed innovation in conception by recruiting a diverse range of acclaimed operatic greats, and distinguished opera educators. Having numerous adjudication panels of diverse celebrated performers and educators of the opera world results in the best entrants progressing through the competition. The New Zealand Heats had Brad Cohen (Artistic Director of New Zealand Opera) and Richard Greager (acclaimed performer and Senior Vocal Tutor at New Zealand School of Music). The Queensland Heats had Hayley Sugars (celebrated mezzo, Opera Queensland) and Andrew Dalton (Griffith Conservatorium). In Melbourne, Roxane Hislop (regaled international mezzo and Head of Voice at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music) and Richard Mills (Artistic Director of Victorian Opera). In Sydney Dr. Rowena Cowley (Senior Lecturer of Voice and Opera at the Sydney Conservatorium) and Jane Ede (Principal soprano of Opera Australia). The Semi-Finals and Finals panel was comprised of Professor Deborah Cheetham-Fraillon AO (Yorta Yorta soprano, composer, educator, performer, Artistic Director), Nicole Dorigo (Opera Australia's Language Coach), Amelia Farrugia (highly successful international career in opera), Paul Fitzsimon (conductor and Chorus Master at Opera Australia), and Dr. Anke Hoepfner-Ryan (International principal performer, Helpmann Awards Winner). The National Adjudicator, Patrick Togher, is a classical music Artist Manager, and former principal tenor with Opera Australia and London's West End Phantom of the Opera.</p> <p>We're able to ensure the best classical/opera singing performers and concerts due to recruiting the best possible adjudicators who can identify outstanding singing. Our competition is unlike any other major Australian competition due to partnering with the national opera company, Opera Australia, for the finals concert, and collaborative artist, Bradley Gilchrist in the Semi-Finals. We're able to have the most impressive winners who go onto have superb professional careers due to the crucible of performing with the 65 instrumentalists-strong orchestra to a packed concert hall. We're able to attract the best entrants due to having a suite of highly sought-after prizes. We're able to have the most important opera company senior management's eyes and ears on the 5 Finalists because we are recognised as the foremost 'feeder' of emerging talent for the industry.</p>
For this category please provide An essay of up to 625 words describing the nominated innovation(s) in event conception, development, planning, promotion, and/or execution since July 1 2021, OR a video of up to five (5) minutes in length illustrating the same. Up to 10 supporting files and web addresses that you may upload to our server to support your entry and provide more background information to the judges. These may include video clips, photographs, press reviews, news articles, and so on. Optionally, you may list creative and production credits for your event(s) - a list of the people and organizations that contributed to its development.

Credits

International Foundation for Arts and Culture (IFAC)

Dr. Haruhisa Handa AO

Midori Miyazaki

Opera Australia

Fiona Allan

Sydney Conservatorium of Music

Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA)

Melbourne Conservatorium of Music

Opera Queensland

Queensland Conservatorium of Music

New Zealand Opera

New Zealand School of Music

Winkipop Media

2MBS Fine Music Sydney

Mona Omar

Ussher Direction

His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

The Honourable Tony Abbott AC

Dialogic Studios

Limelight Magazine

Nespresso

Drago Marin Cherina

Jonathan Palmer

Lyric Opera of Chicago

Royal Northern College of Music

Saluzzo Opera Academy

Equity Trustees

Nicole Car

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Canadian Vocal Arts Institute (CVAI) Montreal

Merenda Foundation

Huntington Estate

Israeli Opera

Songmakers Australia

Andrea Catzel

V&A Accountants

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Tinkler Trust

Istituto Italiano di Cultura

Radziminski Family

Diana Ritch

Lili Ussher

Deliciously Yours

Running Bare

Eleanor Greenwood

Paul Nicolaou

Vladimir Fanshil

Camille Merčep

The Independent Theatre

The Concourse

North Sydney Council

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URL 3

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URL 5

<https://limelight-arts.com.au/news/finalists-in-the-2023-ifac-handa-australian-singing-competition-announced/> (<https://limelight-arts.com.au/news/finalists-in-the-2023-ifac-handa-australian-singing-competition-announced/>)

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<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/waikato-news/news/australian-singing-competition-2023-hamilton-tenor-one-of-five-finalists/2ETXSTJL6FHQZLJ4SFAHUY4P5M/> (<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/waikato-news/news/australian-singing-competition-2023-hamilton-tenor-one-of-five-finalists/2ETXSTJL6FHQZLJ4SFAHUY4P5M/>)

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