

Welcoming Speech

„All those having a gift for singing may sing!“

Ludwig Uhland



In my capacity as patron of the International Singing Contest “Alexander Girardi” 2009 I should like to extend a hearty welcome to all the participants.

During the singing contest, which meanwhile has become firmly established in the cultural life of this town, young talented people are given the opportunity to present their abilities to an expert jury. The town of Coburg provides the best possible setting to ensure that the contest will represent a meeting place for the next generation of international youthful singers.

It is my desire to thank all the members of the jury as well as all the helpers, who will contribute to turning this contest into a cultural highlight once more by showing great commitment as they always do.

Let me conclude by wishing each and every interpreter their well-deserved success and a pleasant stay in Coburg.



Norbert Kastner
First Mayor

General Regulations

The International Song Contest „Alexander Girardi“ 2009 to be held in Coburg will have the special fields of **opera and operetta** as its motto.

The contest will be a public event, which is going to be held from 26th June to 5th July 2009 in the town of Coburg (Federal Republic of Germany).

The contest is open to:

Singers of all nationalities.

Female Singers

born between 1st jan 1979 and 31st dec 1991.

Male Singers

born between 1st jan 1977 and 31st dec 1991.

Prizewinners of other Song Contests are also entitled to compete. Any award winners of the past „Alexander Girardi“ Contests, however, are not eligible.

Prizes and System of Adjudication

The following prizes may be awarded:

Opera and Operetta	1st prize of	7.500 €
	2nd prize of	6.000 €
	3rd prize of	4.500 €

Special prizes:

A scholarship from HUK-Coburg Versicherungsgruppe (HUK-Coburg Group of Insurance Companies) for the best vocal performance by a young talent in the amount of 1.500 €.

1 special prize of 1.500 € donated by the German Johann Strauss Gesellschaft for the best stylistic performance of a vocal part (song/couplet) from a Johann Strauss Operetta.

1 special prize of 1.500 € donated by the Sparkasse Coburg-Lichtenfels for a particularly mature expressive form.

1 special prize of 1.500 € donated by the SÜC Energie und H₂O GmbH Coburg for the most convincing artistic rendition of a vocal excerpt from any contemporary opera beginning with the „New Music“, as it is called, from circa 1920 up to the present time.

1 audience award of 1.500 € donated by the VR-Bank e.G, Coburg.

The special prizes can, but do not have to be awarded to the prizewinners. The contestants who have not reached the next round, but who have shown that they should be considered for a special prize, remain guests of the contest and are permitted to take part in the next qualifying round for the distribution of the special prize, as far as the rest of the contest is concerned, however, they are excluded from competition.

Assessment

First Examination

The jury assesses the competitor's singing performance in the first examination by stating the judgement "yes" or "no". A simple majority will decide on the permission to continue in the competition.

In the event of a tied vote the body must decide afresh. If this second vote is identical with the first one, a decision in favour of the candidate is granted, i.e. he or she will be admitted to the next round.

Second Examination

During the second examination the jury evaluates each participant's vocal performance within the framework of a scale of points ranging from 0 to 25. Those competitors exceeding a limit of 18 points (= total figure of points awarded by all the jurors divided by the number of jurors) are entitled to take part in the third examination.

Third Examination

In the third examination the jury once more marks the competitors' work by giving out points between 0 and 25. At maximum 12 participants whose average score is higher than 20 will be granted admission to the final examination with orchestral accompaniment.

Final Examination with Orchestral Accompaniment

Also in respect of the final examination with orchestral accompaniment points between 0 and 25 are awarded. To the points achieved in this fourth examination the points previously obtained in the second and third round must be added. The candidate who succeeds in collecting the most points of all examinations represents the winner of the highest prize available in the competition. As far as the other candidates are concerned, their order of standing will be proportionate to their respective scores collected.

If there is a considerable difference between the total average of points and the upper limit of points to be achieved (25 points), the jury has the option to refuse the award of a 1st or 2nd prize. Again a simple majority will suffice to effect this refusal. In the event of a tie the vote cast by the jury's chairperson will decide.

The prizes will be awarded by an international, independent jury. They will be entitled to divide the prizes, to alter the original partition of the prizes or not to award them at all.

The areas of assessment consist in:

1. Technique
2. Musical presentation (rhythm, phrasing, expression)
3. Vocal quality
4. Artistic personality

Presence at the Place of Contest

The contestants have to report in person at the Contest Office one day before their first test (they will be notified in writing of this date in good time).

They may not leave Coburg during the time of participation in the contest without having the contest organizers' consent. (Prizewinners may not leave until the presentation of the prizes is over.)

Furthermore the contestants confirm by their entry that they are free from all professional obligations for the duration of the contest.

Accommodation

The participants will be provided by the Competition Office with a list of suggestions as to board and lodging of the Tourist-Information Coburg, Herrngasse 4, D-96450 Coburg, Phone: +49 (0)9561 - 74180, Fax: +49 (0)9561 - 741829, eMail: info@coburg-tourist.de, Internet: www.coburg-tourist.de

The competitors are free to either look for accommodation on their own or to enlist the help of the Tourist-Information Coburg in making suitable arrangements.

All candidates will on reaching the second round receive an expense allowance of 50 € a day for the rest of their participation in the contest and, for the day of their departure, another 25 €.

Contest Procedure

Four qualifying examinations have been planned, namely the Preliminary Examination, the Second Examination, the Third Examination and the Final Examination with orchestral accompaniment.

Each prizewinner is obliged to accept his prize in person. Prizewinners are to perform, without a fee, at the final public concert. The jury will decide upon the programme and the order of stage appearances in the final concert.

The contest organizers reserve the right to have the entire contest and final concert (or any part thereof) recorded and broadcast by radio or television stations. The same applies to possible recordings or shootings.

It is intended to record the entire contest for archive purposes. The declaration of consent required from the prizewinners and other contestants is regarded as given on applying for the participation in the contest. The prizewinners have no right to claim any additional fees.

Representatives of the media and concert agencies will be invited to the last round and the final concert.

Conditions of Entry

Applications must be made at the Contest Office by 8th april 2009 at the latest, whereby it must be pointed out that the number of participants might be restricted for organizational reasons. The judges' decision is final.

Applicants are requested to complete the enclosed entry form (in clear block letters or typed) and to send it to the following address:

**Internationaler Gesangswettbewerb
"Alexander Girardi"
Stadt Coburg – Kulturabteilung
Wettbewerbssekretariat
Pfarrgasse 4
D – 96450 Coburg**

Applications, which do not meet the contest requirements, will be returned within ten days of receipt. The remaining applicants will be notified in writing in the order in which the applications arrive. Immediately on receipt of this acknowledgement, contestants from abroad may apply for German entry visas, if required.

An application fee to the amount of 50 € (free of bank charges) is imposed on the participants.

The participants' fee is to be transferred to the account

Account No. 920 15 114, of the Sparkasse Coburg-Lichtenfels, Bank code No. 78350000.

simultaneously with their registration, which must be effected by 8th April 2009 at the latest.

The money transfer order should be made to:

Internationaler Gesangswettbewerb
„Alexander Girardi“
Produktkonto 0626021.4321000
IBAN: DE50 7835 0000 0092 015114
SWIFT-BIC: BYLADEM1COB

Contestants from the Federal Republic of Germany and other European countries are kindly asked to pay with bankcheque.

The name of the contestant on the money transfer order cheque even if he/she is not the drawer himself/herself, is to be written legibly.

The entry fee cannot be refunded if the applicant is unable to participate. If, however, an application is not accepted by the contest management, the fee will naturally be refunded.

Any participants whose residence is situated in the CIS countries or Poland, Hungary, Slovenia, Slovakia, the Baltic States, the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia and Yugoslavia are granted on request a 50 % reduction with regard to the registration fee. All those participants who are prevented from effecting a transfer in Euro due to their countries' foreign currency regulations can pay the registration fee upon their arrival in cash before the first round has started. It is not possible for anybody to take part in the competition without having previously paid the fee.

Please do not send cash.

Applicants are not entitled to take part in the contest before they have received a confirmation of their acceptance from the contest organizers and before they have paid the entrance fee.

Documents and Personal Papers

A valid statement of type and duration of study is to be submitted along with the entry form. Students require the permission of their teacher to participate in the contest. Please send no original documents, but only photocopies or officially attested copies (no press clippings!).

Each contestant is to enclose a legible list (in block letters or typed) of his complete repertoire together with the entry form - not only the contest programme - and a passport photo.

Upon arrival in Coburg all contestants are to report to the Contest Office and present an officially attested birth certificate or a valid passport.

Participation Rules

On entering this contest each contestant acknowledges the entry conditions, test regulations and the jury's decision as binding.

The repertoire is to be set down in block letters or typed on the back of the enclosed entry form. Exact details about the composer, the title of work, the part and the commencement of the text are to be given. Transcriptions are not permitted. However, the arias/couplets can be sung in all voice categories. The submitted repertoire is binding for the duration of the contest.

When choosing the arias, songs, couplets or vocal parts, participants, in their own interest, should make sure that amongst the works selected there are songs for which can be obtained orchestra material for the final concert at short notice, if need be.

For the first round of auditions (to last for a maximum of 10 minutes) the order of performance with regard to the submitted repertoire is left to the contestants' own discretion on condition that both special fields (opera and operetta) are covered.

The programme of the further rounds will be determined by the jury, but again the order is left to the contestants' discretion.

The jury has the right to have only excerpts performed from individual works.

The contestants appear in alphabetical order; the initials will be determined by a random selection. As for the field of „**Opera**“, participants are required to sing in the original language of the works if this is German, Italian, French or English. With regard to the special field of „**Operetta**“ a performance in the original language is desired, but not obligatory. All works have to be performed from memory.

Contestants may bring along their own pianist at their own expense. Official pianists will be available free of charge to those contestants who request one on their entry form.

An application made only for the field of opera or only for the field of operetta is not possible.

If a contestant does not appear at the appointed time, he/she automatically loses his/her right to assessment.

The participants are invited to prepare the following selection of works:

Special field op opera:

Two compulsory arias (see enclosure pp. 14 to 16) as well as five arias or scenic excerpts of operas of different style epochs and nationalities. Each of these arias must be taken from different operas and be sung in the original key and language.

and

Special field of operetta:

One compulsory aria (see enclosure, p. 16 + 17) as well as four arias, songs or couplets from operettas of different composers.

The finalists are under an obligation to declare at every engagement and performance for one year that they are prizewinners of the International Singers' Contest „Alexander Girardi“ of Coburg.

All queries or requests for further prospectuses, which are also available in German, should be addressed to:

**Internationaler Gesangswettbewerb
„Alexander Girardi“
Stadt Coburg - Kulturabteilung -
Pfarrgasse 4
D-96450 Coburg**

**Phone: (int.) +49 (0) 9561/89-2030;
-2031; -2032; -2034**

E-Mail: alexander-girardi@coburg.de

Internet: www.alexander-girardi.coburg.de

- Conditions are subject to change –