



PETER HULSEN ORCHESTRAL SONG AWARD

Are you a graduate singer? Would you enjoy the opportunity to perform with an orchestra? Now is your chance, as Southbank Sinfonia welcomes applications for the prestigious **Peter Hulsen Orchestral Song Award**.

The winner – chosen in a live final with the orchestra in May 2024 – will not only win a prize of £1000 but also become an Associate Artist of Southbank Sinfonia for 2024-25, resulting in at least one public performance with the orchestra.

BACKGROUND

Established in 2008, the Peter Hulsen Orchestral Song Award is a biennial award for outstanding young singers embarking on the profession. While the Kathleen Ferrier Award is for recital with piano and Cardiff Singer of the World for operatic arias, the Peter Hulsen Orchestral Song Award distinctly offers emerging artists a much-valued opportunity to explore the treasures of the orchestral songbook and perform with Southbank Sinfonia.

The award is named after the late Peter Hulsen, a remarkable music lover and longstanding friend and supporter of Southbank Sinfonia. A native of Breslau, Peter came to England as a boy on one of the last Kindertransport trains out of Germany. In the face of such stark origins in life, he found great consolation in classical music and its enduring spirit manifest in outstanding young artists who may champion it for decades to come. In his lifetime, it was his wish to establish an award offering young voices the opportunity to perform with orchestra, and it has been Southbank Sinfonia's honour to make this happen every alternate year.

The Award is adjudicated by Southbank Sinfonia Music Director & Principal Conductor Simon Over alongside distinguished specialists who in previous years have included Sir Thomas Allen, Sally Matthews, Della Jones, Andrew Staples, Catherine Wyn-Rogers, Susan Gritton and Paul Nilon. The 2024 panel will be announced shortly.

Previous winners are soprano Chloe Morgan (2019), mezzo-soprano Lotte Betts-Dean (2017), soprano Soraya Mafi and bass-baritone Bozidar Smiljanic (2015), baritone Gavan Ring (2013), soprano Susanna Hurrell (2011) and baritone Gerard Collett (2009).

Commenting on the Award, soprano Susan Gritton says 'Orchestral song demands both great artistry and great singing. Listening to these wonderful young singers specifically for orchestral song is a fantastic way to find our great artists of the future.'

WHO CAN APPLY?

In 2024, singers who have completed a postgraduate course at a British music college in the last ten years may apply.

Additionally, the Heads of Vocal Studies at 9 UK conservatoires – Birmingham Conservatoire, Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Royal Academy of Music, Royal College of Music, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Royal Northern College of Music, Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Trinity Laban and the Welsh International Academy of Voice – are invited by Southbank Sinfonia to nominate one outstanding postgraduate student each. If you are nominated in this way,



please nonetheless complete the application form to ensure we get all the details we need from you. Please note, it is not otherwise possible to apply as a student, but do consider applying in a future year when you have completed your studies.

If shortlisted, all applicants must be available on Wednesday 03 April (Piano Round), Tuesday 21 May (rehearsals) and Thursday 23 May (Final) in order to be able to participate fully. All these take place at Southbank Sinfonia's home, St John's Smith Square in central London.

It is not essential that you are currently living in the UK but you must nonetheless be able to attend all the dates above, at your own expense.

Please note you must also have your own accompanist available to join you if selected for the Piano Round on 03 April.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Graduate singers who are interested in applying must submit the following items:

- a completed **application form** (see below)
- recent **filmed footage** of yourself in performance (see below)
- a recent colour **photo** (headshot) of yourself (up to 2mb)
- your up-to-date **CV** (strictly no more than two pages)

Your CV must include details of two referees, stating their name, role, how they know you (eg. teacher) and contact details. The first of these should be your most recent singing teacher. You should alert both that you are including them as referees, and Southbank Sinfonia may contact them at any time for their view on your singing ability.

The application form asks you to list 10 minutes' worth of repertoire that you would sing if shortlisted for the Piano Round in April. This should ideally be orchestral song, but not opera. We recommend you choose multiple pieces that demonstrate different vocal qualities. If you prepare in excess of 10 minutes' music, the panel may only choose to hear select passages. The repertoire you choose here need not be the same pieces you would sing if selected to proceed to the Final with orchestra, but it is worth bearing in mind now that the Final involves a chamber orchestra so anything you may hope to perform in the Final should be for chamber orchestra forces.

All applicants must submit recent filmed footage of themselves in performance. This can be anything from Baroque through to contemporary music. You can either specially film it or it can be from a solo performance you have recently filmed, such as a final recital. The footage should be no longer than five minutes. Please ensure it is of good quality and accurately represents your ability as a musician. Please note we cannot accept purely audio recordings; it must be filmed footage in which you are clearly visible.

You should upload the footage using YouTube, Vimeo or an equivalent which makes it instantly accessible (rather than something that requires a download or password), then include the link to it in your application form. Wherever possible, please ensure the composer and title of the piece you are playing are included in the video's title or description.

The footage should remain fully accessible online until the end of April. Before sending us the link, please check that your footage is definitely visible, ensuring that you have deactivated privacy settings so that we can view it easily.



If there is any reason why your circumstances may not enable you to submit filmed footage as described above, please contact us at info@southbanksinfonia.co.uk. *Please see Tips for Video Footage below.*

All applications must be emailed to info@southbanksinfonia.co.uk by 12.00 noon (GMT) on Wednesday 13 March 2024. We regret that incomplete or late applications cannot be considered.

Applications will then be reviewed, and we will contact you the following week to let you know if you have been shortlisted to participate in the Piano Round on 03 April.

You must bring your own accompanist to the Piano Round. You will have the opportunity to warm up briefly together in an adjacent room prior to your audition.

Following the Piano Round, we will contact you to let you know if you have been chosen to perform in the Final in May. If you have been successful, we will arrange for you to talk with Simon Over to agree a 15 minute programme to sing in the Final, suitable for Southbank Sinfonia's chamber orchestra forces.

While we regret it is not possible to provide feedback for all applicants, those who have participated in the Piano Round and Final may request feedback from the panel, and we will aim to supply some insightful and constructive observations from them that we hope will be of use to you. If you would like this feedback, please email info@southbanksinfonia.co.uk after the Piano Round or Final with the following subject heading: Feedback – Forename Surname. It may take some time before we can send you feedback, so thank you for your patience.

If you have any queries about applying for the Peter Hulsen Orchestral Song Award, you are warmly welcome to email us on info@southbanksinfonia.co.uk and we will be happy to help you.

TIPS FOR VIDEO FOOTAGE

You do not have to submit a professional, studio produced video. The most important thing is that your singing is well represented. If you are specially filming for your application, there are a few easy tips to consider when creating your footage which will help present yourself in the best possible way.

- Use a room with a good acoustic
- We recommend using a digital camera or phone camera, consider using an external microphone to best capture the sound
- Listen back with a good pair of headphones to check you are happy with the sound quality. It doesn't have to be of professional quality, but should allow the listener to easily and clearly hear your singing
- Use a tripod so your footage is stable
- Ensure that you can be seen in the frame, not so close that any of you is cropped out but not too far back either. We need to be able to clearly see that it is you singing