

PRESS RELEASE

## NEUE STIMMEN 2024: Application phase for 20<sup>th</sup> international singing competition begins

Young opera singers have from tomorrow until January 31, 2024 to apply to compete in the international singing competition organized by the Bertelsmann Stiftung's Liz Mohn Center. The final round of NEUE STIMMEN's 20<sup>th</sup> edition will take place in October 2024.

Gütersloh – November 15, 2023. Since it was established in 1987, the NEUE STIMMEN International Singing Competition has been one of the opera industry's largest such events worldwide. Thanks to NEUE STIMMEN, numerous talented singers have been able to attract the opera world's attention and lay the foundation for a successful career. Two examples of singers who have done so in recent years with particularly impressive performances are the French-Danish soprano Elsa Dreisig and the Canadian mezzo soprano Emily D'Angelo. Anyone wishing to emulate them will have the opportunity as of tomorrow. That's when the application phase begins for NEUE STIMMEN 2024, whose aim is to find and promote the best young opera talents.

Liz Mohn, president of the Liz Mohn Center and initiator of the NEUE STIMMEN International Singing Competition, says: "It's a major success story for all of us that NEUE STIMMEN is now discovering and bringing together young opera singers from around the world for the 20<sup>th</sup> time. Through their participation in the NEUE STIMMEN competition, they experience the unifying power of music while making valuable contacts and furthering their personal development. NEUE STIMMEN is much more than just a singing competition. I'm confident that we will once again receive many international applications from first-class talents, and I'm very much looking forward to the final round in Gütersloh in October 2024."

### Auditions in 13 cities worldwide

In its 20<sup>th</sup> edition, the international singing competition will again be divided into three rounds. Beginning tomorrow and until January 31, 2024, any singer aspiring to a professional opera career can take the first step by applying on the NEUE STIMMEN website. Applicants must not be older than 30 when the final round concludes. In addition to the usual documents, they are asked to submit two opera arias they have recorded on video. Applications will be reviewed by Brian Dickie, former general director of Chicago Opera Theater, Sophie Joyce, casting director of Opéra National de Paris, and Evamaria Wieser, casting director of the Salzburg Festival. As in past years, the experienced trio will serve as the jury for the preliminary selection phase.

Those singers who impress the judges with their applications will be invited to the "live auditions." These events give young talents an opportunity to perform for the jury in person at various locations worldwide. This second application round will be held next year between April 11 and June 9 in 13 cities: Amsterdam, Berlin, Cape Town, Frankfurt, London, Milan, Munich, New York, Paris, Vienna, Warsaw, Yerevan and Zurich.

### Samuel Gelber to join jury

Based on the live auditions, the jury for the preliminary selection process will decide which performers qualify for the final round to be held from October 5 to 12, 2024. Experience has shown that 40 to 45 singers can expect to receive an invitation to Gütersloh. That is where, in the city's Stadthalle, they will demonstrate their skills to the full NEUE STIMMEN jury and to representatives of the opera industry. As in past years, the chairman of the 2024 jury will be Dominique Meyer, director of Milan's La Scala opera house. The jury members will receive additional support this year from Samuel Gelber. The director of artistic planning at the Washington National Opera will be contributing his expertise to the competition for the first time and will join the jury for the auditions in New York.

Singers who sufficiently impress the jury members in Gütersloh will advance to the semi-finals, where they will perform with piano accompaniment. Only the best will reach the competition's crowning conclusion: the finals, where they will sing in front of a live audience accompanied by the Duisburg Philharmonic Orchestra.

### Prizes totaling €60,000

The Liz Mohn Center will be awarding a total of more than €60,000 in prizes to final-round participants. At least as important are the interactions with opera house managers, festival directors and music agents that the contestants have during the competition. Under the "Creating Careers" brand, the singers receive ongoing advice and support from the NEUE STIMMEN team and international opera experts. Only last October, 12 talents from the NEUE STIMMEN network were given the opportunity to improve their skills by working with experienced coaches during the [International Masterclass in Gütersloh](#).

Almost 1,400 singers from 67 countries submitted applications to participate in the 2021/2022 competition. The two first prizes were awarded to soprano Francesca Pia Vitale from Italy and baritone Carles Pachon from Spain.

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### About NEUE STIMMEN

Organized by the Bertelsmann Stiftung's Liz Mohn Center, the NEUE STIMMEN International Singing Competition was initiated in 1987 by Liz Mohn, president of NEUE STIMMEN. The competition is considered one of the world's most important platforms for up-and-coming opera singers, who can use the event to make contact with jury members, opera-house managers and music agents. NEUE STIMMEN has helped numerous talents launch international careers in past decades, including renowned singers such as Christiane Karg, Michael Kupfer, Marina Rebeka, Michael Volle, René Pape and Franco Fagioli. In the year following the competition, opera talents have the opportunity during the International Masterclass to work on their voice, stage presence and career together with experts from the NEUE STIMMEN network.

### For more information on #neuestimmen:

- NEUE STIMMEN website: [NEUE STIMMEN International Singing Competition](#)
- Instagram: [NEUE STIMMEN \(@neuestimmen\)](#) | Instagram
- Facebook: [NEUE STIMMEN Creating Careers | Gütersloh](#) | Facebook

**About the Liz Mohn Center:**

The Liz Mohn Center was founded in 2022 as an initiative of Bertelsmann Stiftung, and it continues the work of Liz Mohn in an independent institution. The Liz Mohn Center pursues the goal of promoting global knowledge transfer through a variety of activities in order to improve the quality of decisions made by leaders in the fields of politics, business and culture on the basis of sound evidence; supporting managers to lead in sustainable and responsible ways; developing understanding between nations and cultures; and fostering the personal development of young talents from all social spheres. The Liz Mohn Center is a non-profit limited company.

For more information, please visit: [www.liz-mohn-center.de](http://www.liz-mohn-center.de)

**About the Bertelsmann Stiftung: Inspiring people. Shaping the future.**

The Bertelsmann Stiftung is committed to enabling social participation for everyone – politically, economically and culturally. Our programs include Education and the Next Generation, Democracy and Social Cohesion, Digitalization and the Common Good, Europe's Future, Health, and Sustainable Social Market Economies. In our work, we focus on people, since only they can change the world and make it better. We share knowledge, promote expertise and develop solutions. A nonprofit foundation, the Bertelsmann Stiftung was established in 1977 by Reinhard Mohn.

For more information, please visit: [www.bertelsmann-stiftung.de](http://www.bertelsmann-stiftung.de)

