

PRESS RELEASE

The NEUE STIMMEN 2019 semi-finalists have been selected

**18 young singers have qualified for the semi-final of the
NEUE STIMMEN 2019 international singing competition**

Gütersloh, 22 October 2019. 18 talented young opera performers have moved on to the semi-final of the NEUE STIMMEN 2019 international singing competition. Out of the 42 young participants who came to Gütersloh last weekend for the final round of the competition, 10 women and 8 men from 14 countries will go on to sing in the semifinal on Thursday, October 24.

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	VOICE TYPE	COUNTRY
Carpentier	Hélène	Soprano	France
Ciaponi	Marco	Tenor	Italy
Eickhoff	Valerie	Mezzo Soprano	Germany
El-Khashem	Anna	Soprano	Russia
Hadzetskyy	Yuriy	Baritone	Ukraine
Hottiger	Kathrin	Soprano	Switzerland
Kamani	Enkeleda	Soprano	Albania
Križaj	Domen	Baritone	Slovenia
Kubheka	Bongani	Baritone	South Africa
Long	Long	Tenor	China
Mbundu	Luvuyo	Lyric Baritone	South Africa
McCorkle	Jamez	Tenor	USA
Park	Changseong	Baritone	South Korea
Pluzhnikova	Valentyna	Mezzo Soprano	Ukraine
Redpath	Liv	Soprano	USA
Tanasii	Natalia	Soprano	Moldova
Yende	Nombulelo	Soprano	South Africa
Zámečníková	Slávka	Lyric Soprano	Slovakia

Liz Mohn, NEUE STIMMEN president and vice-chairwoman of the Bertelsmann Stiftung Executive Board, praised the semi-finalists. "These young people have shown us the great enthusiasm and passion with which they are pursuing their dream," Mohn said. "They have the potential to captivate audiences from the world's great stages. I therefore wish all of the semi-finalists every possible success, from the bottom of my heart." "To those who have not advanced to the next round, I want to say that they have already reached the ranks of the best," Mohn added. "They have come this far in a field of nearly 1,500 competitors from 80 nations, and all have a good chance of a successful career as an opera singer."

The competition's final round began last Sunday, October 20, with piano rehearsals for the participants. On Monday and Tuesday, each of the young singers performed for the international jury chaired by Dominique Meyer, director of the Vienna State Opera.

Non-finalists will receive a career-planning seminar

In order to strengthen participants' awareness of the increased requirements in the opera world, NEUE STIMMEN will offer all non-finalists a seminar and individual coaching session on the issue of career planning. This will take place on Friday, 25 October 2019. The opera performers will in this way be given valuable knowledge relating to issues such as personality development and self-marketing, and will additionally have the opportunity to discuss their professional experiences to date.

Public general rehearsals with the Duisburg Philharmonic

As in past competitions, the semi-final concert on Thursday, October 24, and the final concert on Saturday, October 26, will be accompanied by the Duisburg Philharmonic under the direction of Jonathan Darlington. NEUE STIMMEN is among the few singing competitions worldwide in which performers are accompanied by an orchestra even at the semi-final stage. The general rehearsals for the semi-final and final will be open to the public. These will take place in the Stadthalle Gütersloh on Thursday, October 24, and Saturday, October 26, each from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The semi-final and final will each be streamed live from 7:00 p.m. to about 10:30 p.m. at www.neue-stimmen.de and www.takt1.com/neue-stimmen. The final can also be watched live on arte Concert, at www.arte.tv/de/arte-concert/.

Additional information:

The Bertelsmann Stiftung's NEUE STIMMEN international singing competition was initiated in 1987 by Liz Mohn, president of NEUE STIMMEN and vice-chair of the Bertelsmann Stiftung Executive Board. It is considered one of the most important international events for early-career opera performers. The competition allows young opera singers to establish contacts with jury members, opera-house managers and agents. NEUE STIMMEN has already helped many young artists launch international careers, including internationally known singers such as Christiane Karg, Nathalie Stutzmann, Marina Rebeka, Michael Volle, René Pape and Franco Fagioli.

Additional information on the semifinalists, along with previous press releases, can be found at: www.neue-stimmen.de

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The Bertelsmann Stiftung is committed to enabling social participation for everyone – politically, economically and culturally. The issues we address are education, democracy, Europe, health, values and the economy. In so doing, we focus on people, since only they can inspire and change the world, and make it better. We develop knowledge, promote expertise and develop solutions. A nonprofit foundation, the Bertelsmann Stiftung was established in 1977 by Reinhard Mohn.

For more information, see: www.bertelsmann-stiftung.de