



THE
MIRJAM HELIN
COMPETITION

VIII 20–29 MAY 2019
HELSINKI

THE
MIRJAM HELIN
COMPETITION





PRIZES

I €30,000

II €20,000

III €15,000

IV €10,000

For both women and men.

Special and engagement prizes will also be awarded.

The semifinalists will, furthermore, receive an award of €1,000.

JURY

Jorma Silvasti, chairman

Olaf Bär

Ben Heppner

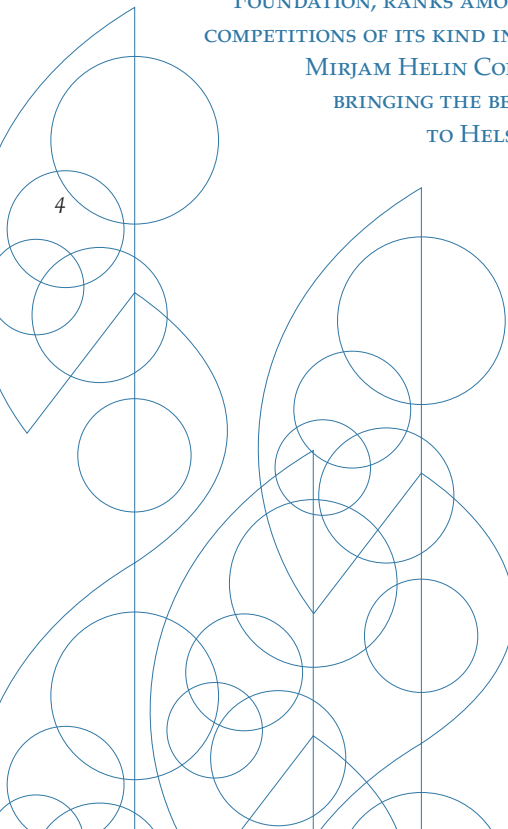
Vesselina Kasarova

François Le Roux

Waltraud Meier

Deborah Polaski

Kiri Te Kanawa



THE MIRJAM HELIN INTERNATIONAL SINGING COMPETITION,
ORGANISED EVERY FIVE YEARS BY THE FINNISH CULTURAL
FOUNDATION, RANKS AMONG THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS
COMPETITIONS OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD. THE EIGHTH
MIRJAM HELIN COMPETITION WILL AGAIN BE
BRINGING THE BEST YOUNG VOCAL TALENTS
TO HELSINKI ON 20–29 MAY 2019.

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Previous winners include mezzo-soprano Elīna Garanča and bass René Pape. The Mirjam Helin Competition became a member of the World Federation of International Music Competitions (Fédération Mondiale des Concours Internationaux de Musique, Geneva) in 1987.

The Mirjam Helin Competition is intended for young singers with experience and maturity. It has two categories, one for women and one for men. Women born in 1989 or later and men born in 1987 or later are eligible to participate, regardless of nationality.

RULES AND APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Candidates are invited to apply through the Mirjam Helin Competition website at mirjamhelin.fi. The application deadline is 30 November 2018. Applications begun by that date may, however, be supplemented up to 14 December 2018. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. The rules are available on the Mirjam Helin Competition website in seven languages: Chinese, English, Finnish, French, German, Russian and Spanish.

REPERTOIRE

Preliminary round (performance duration max. 20 minutes)

1. An aria from a passion, oratorio, mass or cantata composed before 1760
2. Two solo songs of which at least one must be a Lied sung in German
3. An opera or concert aria

Semifinals (performance duration max. 30 minutes)

1. A song by a Finnish composer
2. A group of solo songs (lasting 15-20 minutes)
3. An opera or concert aria

Final (performance duration max. 20 minutes)

Two works with orchestral accompaniment, of which at least one must be an opera, oratorio, cantata or concert aria.

The repertoire must be performed from memory and must contain works in a minimum of three different languages. Works performed during a previous round may not be repeated.

In the preliminary round and semifinals, competitors may be accompanied by their own or an official pianist. The finalists will be accompanied by the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Hannu Lintu.

SCHEDULE

2018	30 November	Application deadline
	14 December	Application supplements deadline
2019	25 January	Shortlist of competitors published
	18 May	Registration and ballot
	20–23 May	Preliminary round
	25–26 May	Semifinals
	27–28 May	Master Classes
	29 May	Final
	31 May	Prizewinners' concert in Oulu

TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION

Competitors will be responsible for their own return travel expenses and those of an accompanying pianist. Discretionary travel bursaries may, however, be awarded for competitors travelling from outside Europe. Competitors will be offered free accommodation with private families in the Helsinki region. Competitors will also be paid a daily allowance for the days they are participating.

For information about accommodation and other practical matters please see mirjamhelin.fi

Rules

THE VIII MIRJAM HELIN INTERNATIONAL SINGING COMPETITION 2019

6 GENERAL

- 1 The Finnish Cultural Foundation is organising the eighth Mirjam Helin International Singing Competition in Helsinki, Finland, on 20–29 May 2019. There will be two categories: one for women and one for men.
- 2 The Mirjam Helin Competition is open, regardless of nationality, to women born in 1989 or later and men born in 1987 or later.
- 3 Applicants for the Mirjam Helin Competition undertake to abide by the

rules, the regulations on performance and the decisions of the Jury, and to refrain from all professional engagements or duties during the competition.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

- 4 Singers wishing to enter the competition must apply online using the application form at mirjamhelin.fi by 30 November 2018. The application form must be accompanied by a quality audiovisual recording for the pre-selection procedure.

The application form, its attachments and other notifications mentioned later in the rules must be submitted by the dates indicated. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

- 5 Should the number of participants have to be restricted, adjudicators nominated by the Competition Committee will carry out a pre-selection procedure on

the basis of the received application documentation and recording. Applicants selected for the Mirjam Helin Competition will be informed in writing by 25 January 2019.

- 6 Amendments to the repertoire stated by the applicant will be accepted up to 8 February 2019.
- 7 Competitors must register in person at the Competition Office in Helsinki between 2 and 5 pm on 18 May 2019 and be present at 6 pm for the ballot for the order of performance.

SHEET MUSIC

- 8 The following regulations apply to competitors without their own pianist:
 - a) Clear, easily legible sheet music must be provided for the official pianist.
 - b) In special cases the Executive Director may require that the music be submitted in advance for preliminary study.

- 9 The scores and parts required by the orchestra will be provided by the Executive Director. If the work with orchestral accompaniment chosen by the competitor has no publisher, or if the work is not generally obtainable, the competitor must on the request of the Executive Director deliver the orchestral scores and parts by 8 February 2019.
- 10 A competitor who intends to perform unpublished works or ones outside the standard European repertoire must, at the request of the Executive Director, bring a copy of the music for the Jury.

SCHEDULE

- 11 There will be three rounds:
 Preliminary round 20–23 May 2019
 Semifinals 25–26 May 2019
 Final 29 May 2019
- 12 Sixteen to twenty competitors will be selected in the Preliminary round to

take part in the Semifinals. Eight semifinalists will be selected for the Final.

- 13 The order of performance decided by ballot for the Preliminary round will be the same in each round of the competition.
- 14 Any competitor who is not ready to appear at the allotted time may be disqualified. A singer who falls ill during the competition may be allowed to sing at a later stage during the round in question, on production of a certificate from the Competition Doctor.
- 15 A competitor wishing to leave the Helsinki region while still taking part in the Competition must seek the permission of the Executive Director.
- 16 Competitors may bring their own pianist. The Executive Director will place a pianist at the disposal of competitors without their own pianist. Each competitor is entitled to one

rehearsal (maximum 60 minutes) before the Preliminary round and to one before the Semifinals. The finalists will be entitled to one orchestral rehearsal on the day before the Final. Any additional rehearsals must be arranged and paid for by the competitor. Competitors who reach the Final must be prepared to perform at the Prizewinners' Concert.

REPERTOIRE

- 17 Each competitor must, on application, state the repertoire he/she intends to perform. Any changes to this repertoire must be submitted by 8 February 2019.
- 18 Repertoire
- Preliminary round**
1. An aria from a passion, oratorio, mass or cantata composed before 1760.
 2. Two solo songs, of which at least one must be a Lied sung in German.

3. An opera or concert aria.
Each competitor will have a maximum of 20 minutes at his/her disposal.

Semifinals

1. A song by a Finnish composer.
2. A group of solo songs (lasting 15–20 minutes).
3. An opera or concert aria.
Each competitor will have a maximum of 30 minutes at his/her disposal.

Final

Two works with orchestral accompaniment, of which at least one must be an opera, oratorio, cantata or concert aria. Each competitor will have a maximum of 20 minutes at his/her disposal.

The group of solo songs in the Semifinals may, for example, consist of an entity comprising a song cycle or part of one, a group of songs by one composer, or a group of songs by different composers but having a common topic. The songs must be ones

composed specifically for voice and piano or arranged by the composer him/herself for voice and piano.

- 19 The repertoire must include works sung in at least three languages. Each piece may appear only once in the competitor's repertoire.

RULES FOR PERFORMANCE

- 20 In each round, each competitor will perform his/her entire programme without interruption.
- 21 Each competitor will decide the order of his/her pieces. The indicated maximum duration must not be exceeded.
- 22 The repertoire, including the oratorio arias, must all be performed from memory. All arias must be sung in the original key or in a commonly used transposition. Solo songs may be transposed. All songs must be

performed in the original language, except for those by Finnish composers, which may be sung in translation.

- 23 The Jury may, regardless of Rule 21, request a competitor to repeat a piece already performed.
- 24 All the Mirjam Helin Competition events will be open to the public. The audience is required to observe any instructions announced at the beginning of each event.

ADJUDICATION PROCEDURE

- 25 The performances will be adjudged according to the principles and procedures laid down in the Regulations for the Jury approved by the Competition Committee.
- 26 In choosing the finalists and in adjudicating the Final, the overall impression given by each competitor in all the rounds will be taken into account.

27 The decisions of the Jury will be final.

PRIZES

28 An honorary diploma will be awarded to all the finalists and a diploma to all the semifinalists. The prizes are:

	Women	Men
I	€30,000	€30,000
II	€20,000	€20,000
III	€15,000	€15,000
IV	€10,000	€10,000

A prize of €3,000 will also be awarded for the best performance by a non-Finnish singer of a Finnish song.

All the semifinalists apart from the prizewinners will each receive an award of €1,000.

The Jury reserves the right to distribute the prizes differently.

29 The Jury may also award other prizes approved by the Competition Committee.

30 The prize-giving ceremony will be held after the Final on the same evening. Each prizewinner must be present to receive his/her prize in person.

31 A Prizewinners' Concert at which all the finalists will sing will be held in Oulu on 31 May 2019.

OTHER RULES AND REGULATIONS

32 The Organiser has unlimited rights to transmit and record content and to broadcast competition performances on TV, radio, the Internet and other data networks without any payment to the competitors or their pianists.

The Organiser or an agreed third party also reserves the right to archive and disclose details of the competitors

and to broadcast their competition performances on TV, radio and the Internet with no time or country restrictions. Competitors will not be sent recordings of their performances.

33 Competitors eliminated in the Preliminary round or Semifinals will be given a chance to discuss their results with members of the Jury.

34 The Executive Director may disqualify any competitor who does not abide by the rules. The competitor may appeal to the Competition Committee against the decision during the round in progress.

35 The original language of these rules is Finnish. Any disputes will be decided by reference to the original Finnish text.



Finnish Cultural Foundation

THE FINNISH CULTURAL FOUNDATION IS ONE OF THE LARGEST PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS IN EUROPE. DEDICATED TO PROMOTING THE ARTS AND SCIENCES IN FINLAND, IT PROVIDES GRANTS TO INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS. AN ENDOWMENT FROM HONORARY PROFESSOR MIRJAM HELIN LAUNCHED THE MIRJAM HELIN INTERNATIONAL SINGING COMPETITION IN 1981. THE COMPETITION HAS SINCE BECOME THE MOST SIGNIFICANT INTERNATIONAL EVENT ORGANISED BY THE FOUNDATION.



The Mirjam Helin
International Singing Competition

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WORLD FEDERATION
OF INTERNATIONAL
MUSIC COMPETITIONS

