
Date: 3 July 2009

The Ninth Leeds Conductors Competition

Finalists Announced

The results of Round Two of Leeds Conductors Competition have just been announced at Leeds Town Hall. The following three competitors have made it through to the finals of the Leeds Conductors Competition: **Geoffrey Paterson, Simon Phillippo and Alexander Prior.**

Following rehearsals this evening and tomorrow afternoon, the three finalists will conduct in the Gala Final Concert tomorrow evening. **Simon Phillippo** will conduct **Beethoven Symphony No 5**, **Alexander Prior** will conduct **Sibelius Symphony No 3** and **Geoffrey Paterson** will conduct **Elgar's Enigma Variations.**

The winners of the event, which is held every three years, will share £12,000 of prizes whilst the first prize winner will gain a highly valued list of engagements with leading British orchestras which will help launch his career. In addition, tomorrow evening's live audience will have the opportunity to vote for the winner of the competition's **Audience Prize.**

Tickets for the Gala Final concert on Saturday 4 July are available from the Box Office priced £9.50 - £27.50 (concessions available) on **0113 224 3801**. For more information visit www.leedsconductors.com.

****ENDS****

Notes for Editors

The ninth Leeds Conductors Competition is organised by **Leeds City Council in association with Opera North** and is one of only a few of its kind in the UK, existing to support young British conductors at the start of their careers. The Competition puts young conductors through their paces with the Orchestra of Opera North, with heats taking place at Leeds Town Hall.

The Jury will be chaired by **David Whelton**, Chief Executive of the Philharmonia, who will be joined by Opera North's Music Director, **Richard Farnes**, Principal Guest Conductor of the BBC National Orchestra of Wales,

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Jac van Steen, and British violinist **Tasmin Little**. £12,000 is available in prize-money and a string of professional engagements with the country's finest orchestras awaits the winner.

Winners of previous competitions include Martyn Brabbins (Associate Principal Conductor of the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra), Garry Walker (Associate Conductor, Royal Scottish National Orchestra), Paul Watkins (Associate Conductor of the English Chamber Orchestra) and most recently, Alexander Shelley, who will become Principal Conductor of Nuernberger Symphoniker in September 2009.

Diary listings:

- **Gala Final Concert:** Saturday 4 July, 7.30pm, Leeds Town Hall. Tickets £9.50 - £27.50 (concessions available). Box Office 0113 224 3801.

For more information visit www.leedsconductors.com.

For further information, photos and full listings contact:

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