

---

Date: 2 July 2009

## **The Ninth Leeds Conductors Competition**

### Results of Round 1 Announced

The results of Round One of Leeds Conductors Competition have just been announced at Leeds Town Hall. The following six competitors have made it through to the semi-finals of the Leeds Conductors Competition: **Jessica Cottis, Thomas Carroll, Tom Hammond, Geoffrey Paterson, Alexander Prior** and **Simon Philippo**. Three competitors were eliminated after the Chamber Round on Tuesday and six competitors were eliminated today as the first round closed.

The event, which is held every three years, is the **foremost competition of its kind** to find young British conducting stars of the future. It offers £12,000 of prizes and a highly valued list of engagements with leading British orchestras which will help launch a career for the winner.

After the Second Round, which will finish on Friday, three finalists will go forward to compete in the Gala Final Concert this coming Saturday in Leeds Town Hall. This concert will see entrants conduct works by **Sibelius, Elgar** and **Beethoven** in front of a live audience, who also have the opportunity to vote for the winner of the competition's Audience Prize.

The second round of the Competition commences this evening, Thursday 2 July and finishes tomorrow morning, Friday 3 July at 1.30pm. Entry to these sessions is **free**. 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](http://www.leedsconductors.com).

**\*\*ENDS\*\***

---

**Leeds International Concert Season, Leeds Town Hall, LS1 3AD**  
Tel. 0113 247 8336 Fax. 0113 247 8334  
For more news and information visit [www.leedsconcertseason.com](http://www.leedsconcertseason.com)

---

## 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, **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.

The full list of contestants is:

John Andrews	James Grossmith
Hugh Brunt	Tom Hammond
Thomas Carroll	Courtney Lewis
Jessica Cottis	Rebecca Miller
Robert Dick	Geoffrey Paterson
Ben Gernon	Simon Phillippo
Dominic Grier	Alexander Prior
Kevin Griffiths	Daniele Rosina

### **Diary listings:**

- First round (12 contestants): Wednesday 1 & Thursday 2 July, Leeds Town Hall – free entry
- Second round (6 contestants): Thursday 2 & Friday 3 July, Leeds Town Hall – free entry
- **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](http://www.leedsconductors.com).

For further information, photos and full listings contact:

Liz Fox, Senior Music Officer, Tel: 0113 395 2147

Email: [liz.fox@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:liz.fox@leeds.gov.uk)

---

**Leeds International Concert Season, Leeds Town Hall, LS1 3AD**  
Tel. 0113 247 8336 Fax. 0113 247 8334  
For more news and information visit [www.leedsconcertseason.com](http://www.leedsconcertseason.com)