

JJ Fest!

VOCAL COMPETITION

10 - 13.11.2023





Jean Sibelius: «Music begins where the possibilities of language end»
The International Culture Association in Turku in collaboration with Finnish company SEM Consulting as well as The Union of Russian Composers invites singers and musicians from all over to celebrate a festival of music JSFest. Come and join us in Turku and celebrate with us this international festival of choral, vocal and instrumental music! Every year in November we welcome again the participants from all over the world for the International Competition, dedicated to Jean Sibelius. The JSFest concept includes the Competition as the main part of the event but also allows concerts and manifold encounters between the participants. Participants from around the globe will again have the chance to discover the beauty of the Northern country, combined with an international music event, dedicated to Sibelius. All concert and competition venues as well as accommodations and other event locations in Turku are situated within walking distance. Here participants will meet, celebrate, play music and sing together and get to know other nations and their traditions.

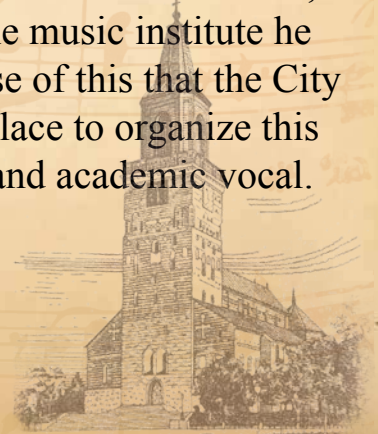
One of the most important things for the artist and his heirs: keeping up the musical spirit. Following this intension, I would like to warmly welcome you to our festival JSFest. With all my heart, I wish all participants a beautiful, inspiring and successful time in Turku! Take a chance on the opportunity to get to know new people and continue together with us the musical tradition of Jean Sibelius! Good luck at the competition! I hope and I wish that you can show your best performance. I wish all competitors, organizers and supporters but above all the audience an exciting competition!

President of the International Culture Association in Turku, Finland
Svetlana Myhkyrä

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Svetlana Myhkyrä'.



«Jean Sibelius is one of those composers who express the character of the Finnish people by their music truthfully and effortlessly», wrote the critic K. Flodin about the remarkable Finnish composer in 1891. The creativity of Sibelius is not only a bright page in the history of the music culture of Finland, but his popularity as a composer has reached far beyond his native land. His most prosperous creative period was between the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century — a time of growing national liberation and revolutionary movements in Finland. At the time, the small state was a part of the Russian Empire and tested by the moods of an epoch of social changes preceding a storm. It is remarkable that in Finland, as well as in Russia, this period created a significant rise in the growth of nationalistic art. Sibelius composed in various genres. He wrote seven symphonies, symphonic poems, three orchestral suites, a concert for a violin with an orchestra, two string quartets, piano quintets and trios, chamber vocal and instrumental works, music and drama performances, but his greatest talent lay in symphonic music. In Finland Sibelius played and plays an important role: he is recognized as the quintessential national composer, a symbol of greatness of the country. During his lifetime Sibelius received honours rendered to few artists. There are streets, parks and an annual music festival named after him, and the music institute he studied in was renamed as the Sibelius Academy. It is because of this that the City of Turku, which houses the Sibelius Museum, is a perfect place to organize this international competition of choruses, instrumental music and academic vocal.



*The Eleventh
International
JSFest Vocal
Competition*

10 - 13.11.2022



Contestants of the Eleventh International JSFest Vocal Competition

Sapulete Raphael Sebastian
DKI Jakarta, Indonesia



Accompanist:
Hazim Rahmanto Suhadi

I love Music. Music makes me feel happy. My vocal type is Boy Soprano. I start learn vocal lesson since I am 6 years old. Most of my lesson is Classical Music/Song. I learn songs in some languages such as English, Italy, Deutsch, Indonesia, Batak. I made two videos music in my Youtube. First is my own origin song, about my little sister. The Second one is cover song about religion song. I really love the videos.



Sofia Fedorova
Saint-Petersburg, Russia



Accompanist:
Anna Kudryashova

Laureate and diploma winner of all-Russian and international competitions. Winner of special prizes. She took part in theatrical productions such as "La Bohème" (children at the market), "Brundibar" (children), and the musical "Scarlet Sails" - Assol in childhood. He studies piano and vocals at the studio school at the Conservatory Rimsky-Korsakov in St. Petersburg.



Hermione Lau Kanasook Bangkok, Thailand



Accompanist: **Juliette Galstian**



Hermione Lau KANASOOK (Nicny) is 11 years old and is a student of Harrow Bangkok. Nicny started classical voice training at Heavenly Voice Studio by Professor Nancy in Feb 2023. Nicny loves classical music and has the opportunity to perform Ave Maria Caccini at River City, Alleluja by W.A. Mozart at Steinway and Sons Bangkok, Nella Fantasia by Ennio Morricone at Mahidol University. In Oct, she will be performing at Tobata Wel Hall, Fukuoka. From Jan-July 2023, Nicny has won: Gold Prize in Section III, 24th Osaka Int. Music Competition Regional Round; Vocalist of the Year Award & Annual Maestro Creative Performance Prize, London Young Musician of the Year 2023; First Prize Winner 2023 American Music Talent Competition; Gold Prize, 3rd Thailand National Youth Vocal Competition 2023; Grand Finalist of Music@e-Contest, 2022; European Classical Music (ECM) Annual Grand Award Second Prize Winner 2022; 1st Prize Winner, VII, Voice, X Odin Int. Music Online Competition 2023; Gold Prize & Expressive Performance Special Prize, British Composition, London Young Musician 2022-2023, Season 4; Absolute First Prize & Unique Interpretation Special Prize, Musical Theatre, UK Int. Music Competition 2023, Season 1.



Agnieszka Grabowska Poland



Accompanist: **Marcin Werner**



She has begun her adventure with music at the Music School in Mława in the vocals class. She graduated with honours Department of Performing Arts at the Academy of Music in Łódź in the vocal class of Patrycja Krzeszowska-Kubit. Currently, she is a PhD student on the Department of Musical Arts of the Kazimierz Wielki University in Bydgoszcz under the artistic supervision of Prof. Sławomir Czarnecki and Dr. Hanna Okońska-Ratajczak. She is also a soloist of The Grand Theatre in Łódź. This young artist has already performed on the stages and at the concert halls in Poland and abroad. She took part in different competition in which she won numerous awards. Her successes include: 1st prize at the Stanisław Jopek Polish National Vocal Competition in Warsaw, 3rd prize at the 6th Polish National Zdzisław Skwara Vocal Competition in Mława, 1st distinction at the "Golden Voices" International Vocal Competition in Warsaw, bronze diploma at the 13th Feliks Nowowiejski Festival of Chamber Music "O Warmio Moja Miła" in Olsztyn, the prize for the best performance of Norina's aria from the opera "Don Pasquale" and the award of the Artistic Director of the Jan Kiepura Festival – a special concert during the 54th Jan Kiepura Festival in Krynica Zdrój at the 7th Jan Kiepura International Vocal Competition in Krynica Zdrój. She graduated with honors from the Internationalen Meisterkurs Musikakademie in Rheinsberg. She is a finalist of the 22nd Mikulas Schneider Trnavsky International Vocal Competition in Trnava. In 2019, she also received a bronze medal of Stanisław Ostoja-Kotkowski in the debut category for achievements and artistic activity.

Pichamon Mookmaneeekun
Bangkok, Thailand

Accompanist:
Anant Changwaiwit



Pichamon Mookmaneeekun was born in 2002 in Bangkok, Thailand. She started singing lessons at a very young age. Being in Catholic schooling for 12 years, Pichamon was indoctrinated with a deep appreciation for music, leading to her enthusiastic participation in the choir singing as well as a soloist, and joining competitions during her primary and secondary schoolings. In December 2019, she was admitted to the undergraduate program in Classical Vocal Performance at College of Music, Mahidol University. During her vocal studies, Pichamon has won several prizes in competitions. She was the finalist of the 22nd and 23rd Osaka Int-I Music Competitions in University Voice category, and Duo Ensemble category. In 2021 Pichamon was the 1st prize Winner of Princess Galyani Vadhana Institute of Music Voice Competition in both Art Song, and Opera Ensemble (Duet) categories, a Gold prize winner of Cambridge Music Competition in Advanced Age division, and the 2nd prize Winner of Young Artist Music Contest in University Voice category in Thailand. In performance, Pichamon also had the opportunities to perform as Fiordiligi in Mozart's *Così fan tutte* in "Opera Gala Concert" with Classical Voice Department, a special concert in "The Badminton World Federation" with the Mahidol Symphony Orchestra, and a performance with the Swiss guitarist Christoph Denoth in Thailand, and repeated the concert in Penang, Malaysia. In March 2023, she performed the role as Fiordiligi in Mozart's opera "*Così fan tutte*" with Classical Voice Department. Pichamon is currently a fourth year Classical Vocal Performance major under the studio instruction of Prof. Nancy Tsui-Ping Wei at College of Music, Mahidol University.



Che Qi
Qingdao, China



Started learning vocal music at the age of 15 and has held two solo concerts. Has won the first prize in the Shandong Division of the 6th Korea-China Culture and Arts Festival Vocal Competition and the first prize in the Shandong Division of the 12th Hong Kong International Culture and Arts Competition Vocal Competition. First prize, the 24th Chopin Festival Vocal Concert in Warsaw, Poland, and the Outstanding Singing Award in the China University Opera Competition.

Tanja Soininen
Hallstahammar, Sweden



Tanja Soininen, born in Sweden with Finnish parents, is a light dramatic soprano with a wide repertoire. She has both a Master Degree from the Academy of Music at Örebro University, one year studies in Opera interpretation, and a Master in Music Drama at the Academy of Music and Drama in Gothenburg, Sweden. Masterclass studies for several well-known opera singers, such as for example the world class sopranos Korita Mattila and Camilla Nylund. Tanja has received for example the Bayreuth Scholarship 2016, accomplished a concert tour in Milan, Italy, 2016, singing "La Contessa" in "Le Nozze di Figaro" with BOA, Berlin 2017, "Gianetta" in "L'elisir d'amore" in Stockholm, both 2019 and 2022, "La Zelatrice" in "Suor Angelica" with Moderna Operan in 2023, and a well-booked soloist in concerts. In the beginning of November she sings the leading part in a children's opera at Teater Aftonstjärnan in Gothenburg, with baroque ensemble Baroque Avenue. She is also composing songs for voice/piano.

Accompanist:
Octavian Leuva Dragomir

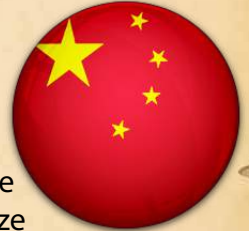


Xiaoyi Yuan
ShanDong, China



In 2023, she won the Gold Medal at the Manchester International Music Competition, the First Prize at the Vivaldi International Music Competition, the First Prize at the London Yong Musician Competition, the Gold Medal at the Royale International Music Competition, the Third Prize at the Medici International Musi Competition and the First Prize at the Città di Fasino International Competition. In 2023, I gave a concert lyrico at the P. F. Tosti Theatre - Castel di Sangro.

Accompanist:
Shuheng Chen



Yang Wang
ShanDong, China



Accompanist:
Shuheng Chen

My name is Wang Yang, the voice is baritone.
In ITALY, 2021 September i participated the FESTIVAL D'AUTUNNO-II fanciullo Mozart festival.
In ITALY, 2021 November i participated the music festival MUSIC IN NAPLES IN 700, CIMAROSA.
In ITALY, 2022 July i participated the VAGA LUNA music festival.
In ITALY, 2022 July i participated the new opera conferenza "Amalia e Carlo" to sing the Marchese aria "Ne Marche, tu stai zitto" in Theater "Maria Caniglia".
In 2022 June i won the 1st Prize Concorso Musicale Nazionale Saverio Mercadante.
In 2022 August i won the 3rd Prize in London International Competition.
In 2023 May i won the 1st Prize in Concorso Musicale Internazionale CITTA DI FASANO.
In 2023 June i won the Golden Prize in Manchester International Music Competition.



Yan Chen
Huzhou, China



Accompanist:
Marzio Fullin

My name is Yan Chen, I'm mezzosoprano, a musical student from China. After graduating in Musicology at Xi'an Conservatory in 2018, I moved to Italy to continue my studies. From 2019 to October 2021, I studied at Vicenza Conservatory where I achieved a Bachelor Degree in Vocal Chamber Music. During that period, I also took part in the 2019 Christmas Concert at Vicenza Prefecture, a recital of Chamber Music. In 2021, I participated to a 3 days master class in Porlezza (CO) that ended with a concert in the Church Caravina. In September 2022, I also took part in another Master Class of Opera Singing at "Amici Del Loggione" of Scala Theatre at the end of which I participated to another concert as Mezzo Soprano. In April 2023, I also participates to anther concert at Circolo Lirico Pavia. From November 2022, I'm studying Opera Singing master at Pavia Conservatory.



Yujie Zhou
Xinjiang, China



I am a soprano from China, currently studying in the second year of postgraduate studies at the Conservatory of Music in Bologna, Italy. I love opera very much. Hope to get good results in the competition



Mateusz Kulczyński
Warsaw, Poland



Accompanist:
Taisiia Dyniak

Mateusz Kulczyński started singing at just 4 years old when he first appeared on the Polish national television. In his early years he participated in several TV shows and played lead roles in a local theater in Lublin. At the age of 7 he started his music education at the 1st degree music school in Świdnik, where he played the violin. Later, at the age of 16 he started learning classical singing. In April 2021 he won the 3rd prize in a National Vocal Competition in Mława, in the category of Music School students. He is currently in the beginning of his 3rd year of bachelor studies in Solo Singing and Acting at Fryderyk Chopin University of Music in Warsaw where he already made his opera debut, playing Papageno in a student production of W. A. Mozart's „Die Zauberflöte“. He also achieved a huge success playing Papageno in „Die Zauberflöte“ in a project outside of the university, in front of more than two thousand viewers.



Thuradee Kantapasara

Bangkok, Thailand



Accompanist: Anan Changwaiwit

Thuradee starts singing at the age of 9 and won 2nd prize of Yamaha Thaibud Junior Singing Contest in 1991. She graduated from College of Music Mahidol University under instruction of Tsui-Ping Nancy Wei in vocal performance. After her master degree, she won national selection singing contest and was nominated to participant in "Academy Fantasia Season 4". She had shown her talent in various artistic areas in several of her nationwide concerts, acting, musical theatre and TV show. Currently, Thuradee is a PhD candidate of Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts Chulalongkorn University.



Heavenly Voice

College of Music, Mahidol University,
Thailand

Accompanist: Yoshimi Matsushima

Heavenly Voice is a group of young and talented award-winning singers trained and formed by Prof. Nancy Tsui-Ping Wei of College of Music Mahidol University in June 2004. Over two decades, it has sent many honor scholarship voice students to Europe for further studies, concert performances, and competitions. Heavenly Voice singers receive an active, comprehensive and competitive one-to-one vocal training besides studying the required supporting music courses, they rehearse and perform regularly to bring a variety of vocal repertoire to a wide range of audiences.



HEAVENLY VOICE



ORGANIZATION
Turun kansainväliset
kulttuurimarkkinat yhdistys ry



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