



founder
Paul Steinitz† (1909-1988)

LBS 80th ANNIVERSARY 2026

LBS BACHFEST 2026 **8th BACH SINGERS PRIZE COMPETITION**

ENTRY DETAILS *Please read carefully*
(The Entry Form is a separate pdf)

First Prize: The LBS Bach Singers Prize 2026 - £3,000

Runners Up: The runners up each receive - £750

The competition forms part of the London Bach Society's annual Bachfest, this year celebrating the Society's 80th anniversary.

Immediate Past Winners

2013 Nick Pritchard (tenor), 2015 Anna Harvey (mezzo soprano) 2017 Jess Dandy (contralto)
(2018-2023 =Covid break)

Competition period

21 October – 6 November 2024

(Entries by **30 September** at the latest. Each entry received will be checked and logged.)

The Venues chosen for each Round have strong and historic associations with music

The First Round Venue to be advised, but in Central London
Thursday 21 October from 10.00am

The Semi-Final will be held in public at
St. George's Church Hanover Square, London W1
Monday 26 October from 7.00pm *Oxford Circus tube*

The Final will take place in public at
The Priory Church of St Bartholomew-the-Great, West Smithfield, London EC1
Friday 6 November from 7.00pm *Barbican tube*

Artistic Director: Margaret Steinitz

The Four Finalists' reaction to the last Competition "

"...we were all saying how brilliant it is for those of us who love singing Bach to have a platform to perform music we love in such a wonderful setting with a brilliant orchestra."

Bach Prize Administration

London Bach Society (Prize), 73 High Street, Old Oxted, Surrey RH8 9LN

Telephone +44 (0) 1883 717372

E-Mail lbs@lonbachsoc.co.uk

No Fax

Website: www.bachlive.co.uk

LBS 8th BACH SINGERS PRIZE COMPETITION

The competition is open to postgraduate singers who are UK resident, non-UK resident, EU and non-EU residents. All non-UK resident entrants travelling to the UK to participate in the competition do so at their own expense and should acquire the appropriate visa for entry to the UK if necessary – please check this.

Age limit for Singers

The age limitations are minimum 21 years old to maximum 34 years old at **10 November 2026**

The Competition Timetable

Wednesday 30 September
Thursday 21 October from 10.00am

Monday 26 October from 7.00pm
Tuesday 10 November from 7.00pm

DEADLINE FOR ENTRY

Round One - individual times notified to entrants by email (Not in public)
Semi-Final (Open to public)
THE FINAL (Open to the public)

All accepted entrants will be heard in Round One and there is a preference for this to be 'live'. Entry by high quality CD or Video is acceptable, preferably only from entrants living abroad. These must be accompanied by a signed declaration that the disc or video has not been edited in any way (**See Entry Form**).

All singers should be available for each Round when applying. No CD or video entries will be accepted for the Semi Final or Final. The results of Round One and the Semi Final will be conveyed by email as soon as possible after each round and then posted on the LBS website www.bachlive.co.uk.

The Jury

The Jury will be a combination of professional musicians and administrators to be announced. The distinguished baroque violinist **Rodolfo Richter** will also direct **Steinitz Bach Players** at the Final. The decision of the jury is final throughout the Competition, and no formal feedback will be given.

Entry Details

Please read the information through carefully and then complete and return the Entry Form (*on separate PDF*), remembering to enclose the documents and fee required, and, if necessary, the Audition Disc or video and Declaration, so that we can process your entry.

1. All completed Entry Forms and biographies sent electronically **should be submitted on pdfs** and images, scan of birth certificate, passport or official document (see Note 4 below) **should also be sent on jpgs**. Entry Forms, complete with enclosures and entry fee, may be submitted any time **after Friday July 17th** until **the deadline of Wednesday 30 September at midnight** at the latest. No entries will be accepted after the deadline.
2. All entrants will be heard either 'live' or, if necessary, on a CD/video. Please label any disc/video clearly with your name. **A high-quality production is required.**
3. Please supply either a scan or photocopy of your Birth Certificate or any other official document, that confirms the date and place of your birth e.g. Passport.
4. Please supply a CV that tells us about your musical and academic education, scholarships, recent performances and plans, plus a concise biography (120 words max.). Please attach a colour or black & white photograph (**jpg preferred**).
5. Please submit the names of **two** referees who will support your entry. NB: They should not be members of the Jury, so please check with the ones you choose. The London Bach Society reserves the right to consult the referees. Both should be professional musicians of national or international standing or for example distinguished administrators, academics.

Entry Fee and Methods of Payment

The Entry fee is **£35 (or 42 Euros)**. Entry fees are non-refundable if no less than six days' notice is given of withdrawal, for which a medical certificate must also be produced. No exceptions will be made. Cheques should be made payable to **London Bach Society**.

Credit/Debit Cards (Visa/MasterCard) are accepted **by telephone (+44 (0) 1883 717372)** or **online** via PayPal using the facility on **www.bachlive.co.uk**

COMPETITION REPERTOIRE & GENERAL INFORMATION

Entrants are encouraged to delve deeply into the repertoire. This is to be **all *Joh. Seb. Bach* with no repeat repertory (arias or recitatives)** at any stage of the competition. Excluded works are listed under 'General Note'.

Round One

Thursday 21 October from 10.00am at Venue to be advised

The First Round comprises **one recitative (prescribed) and two contrasting Arias** of your own choice. Choose the recitative that applies to your voice from the following cantatas below

Soprano	Cantata BWV210 No 1
Alto/Countertenor	Cantata BWV26 No 3
Tenor	Cantata BWV10 No 3
Baritone/Bass	Cantata BWV11 No 11

We can supply a pdf of each recitative on request to lbs@lonbachsoc.co.uk. Otherwise use your own sources.

The Semi-Final

Monday 26 October from 7.00pm in St. George's Church Hanover Square W1

The Semi Final comprises a Recitative and an Aria from a Bach Passion (the St. Matthew, or St. John either 1724 or 1725 versions) or Christmas Oratorio. They can be a mix e.g. recitative from St. Matthew and aria from St. John or both from St. Matthew. Brief rehearsal slots available from 4.00pm.

The Final

Tuesday 10 November at 7.00pm in Priory Church of St Bartholomew-the-Great, EC1

This should be a mixed programme of your own devising that should be no longer than **20 minutes**. This programme should include **one recitative of substance**.

Orchestral Forces (The Final)

The professional orchestral forces for the Final will be: -

**up to two flutes including recorders , up to two oboes including d'amore and/or da caccia)
strings, basso continuo, organ/harpsichord**

The forces will be small scale, reflecting modern Bach scholarship.

Note: Please remember to consider the orchestral forces required when choosing your programme and make sure they match the forces offered above. Queries can be directed to the LBS office. This will not adversely affect how you are assessed at the Competition in any way. When answering your queries, we shall not advise you what to sing, signal approval of your programme content or choose any pieces for you.

General Note on Repertoire, Language & Editions, Use of Copies

Singers are encouraged to explore Bach's vocal repertoire. In making their choices credit will be given for *imaginative* programming. The repertoire should be sung in the original language at every stage i.e. German or Latin, using the most authoritative edition you can find. The following works should not be included:

Cantatas BWV 15, 53, 131, 141, 142, 143, 160, 189, 198, 200 or 203.

***You will not be marked up if you perform your programmes from memory or, conversely, marked down if you decide to use copies – choose whichever suits you.

Accompanists & Instrumental Accompaniment

Entrants should provide their own accompanists for the First and Semi-Final Rounds. They should be of a professional standard and conversant with continuo playing technique. Organ/Harpsichord will be provided.

First Round

a) 'Live' performance A Harpsichord (A= 415 Hz) will be available **or**

b) Entry Disc (if necessary) Piano, harpsichord or appropriate instrumental accompaniment is acceptable, and the recording should not be edited in any way – See Declaration on Entry Form for Signature.

The Semi-Final (Monday 26 October from 7.00pm)

Semi-finalists will have a Peter Collins Pipe Continuo Organ and a Harpsichord available, pitch A=415Hz. Choose whichever suits you. Appropriate instrumental accompaniment in addition to keyboard is welcome at your own cost and organisation.

The Final (Tuesday 10 November from 7.00pm)

The Finalists will each perform their programmes with the professional period instrumentalists of **Steinitz Bach Players**, directed by **Rodolfo Richter**. The pitch will be **A=415 Hz**.

A **compulsory** rehearsal for each finalist will take place from 2.30pm-5.30pm on 10 November in the historic setting of St Bartholomew-the-Great. The actual Final will begin at 7.00pm.

NB: Finalists will be asked to introduce their programmes to the audience prior to performance and be prepared to participate in a short interview afterwards.

Presentation of the Prizes

At the close of the performances, the Jury will retire to make their decision. The result of the Final will then be announced to the audience, followed by a formal presentation of the Prizes.

We hope that participating in this competition will be an enriching and enjoyable experience. We have devised the **application form** and **details** to ensure the smooth flow of the competition for your continuing enjoyment.

Good luck everyone!

Margaret Steinitz
Artistic Director
July 2026