

Peter Hulsen Orchestral Song Award

FREELANCE ADMINISTRATOR required

Introduction

Established in 2008, the Peter Hulsen Orchestral Song Award is a biennial award for outstanding young singers embarking on the profession. While the Kathleen Ferrier Award is for recital with piano and Cardiff Singer of the World for operatic arias, the Peter Hulsen Orchestral Song Award distinctly offers emerging artists a much-valued opportunity to explore the treasures of the orchestral songbook and perform with Southbank Sinfonia, nominated for the 2017 Royal Philharmonic Society Ensemble Award.

In 2017, singers who have completed a postgraduate course at a British music college in the last ten years may apply, in addition to a number of current postgraduate students to be specially nominated by the Head of Vocal Studies at select London colleges in dialogue with Southbank Sinfonia.

The award is named after the late Peter Hulsen, a remarkable music lover and longstanding friend and supporter of Southbank Sinfonia. A native of Breslau, Peter came to England as a boy on one of the last Kindertransport trains out of Germany. In the face of such stark origins in life, he found great consolation in classical music and its enduring spirit manifest in outstanding young artists who may champion it for decades to come. In his lifetime, it was his wish to establish an award offering young voices the opportunity to perform with orchestra, and it has been Southbank Sinfonia's honour to make this happen every alternate year. Previous winners are soprano Soraya Mafi and bass-baritone Bozidar Smiljanic (2015), baritone Gavan Ring (2013), soprano Susanna Hurrell (2011) and baritone Gerard Collett (2009). In 2017, the Award brings a prize of £1000 and the prestigious opportunity of becoming a Southbank Sinfonia Associate Artist for 2018-19 comprising the chance to perform in concert with the orchestra during that period.

Commenting on the Award, soprano Susan Gritton says 'Orchestral song demands both great artistry and great singing. Listening to these wonderful young singers specifically for orchestral song is a fantastic way to find our great artists of the future.'

Requirements of the role

Southbank Sinfonia now seeks a Freelance Administrator to play a key part in overseeing this year's Award process, culminating in the orchestral Final at St John's Waterloo in October. It is anticipated this will involve approximately 15 days of work between May and October, roughly as follows:

May – equivalent to 2.5 days

June – equivalent to 2.5 days

July – equivalent to 3 days, one of which will include a day shortlisting applications with Southbank Sinfonia Music Director Simon Over

August – equivalent to 1 day

September – equivalent to 3 days, one of which is the initial Piano Round on Monday 4 September at St John's Waterloo, at which the Administrator must be present

October – equivalent to 3 days, one of which is the Final on Thursday 26 October at St John's Waterloo, at which the Administrator must be present

The role will involve initially circulating promotional material to the target market, making specific contact with the National Opera Studio, ROH Jette Parker Young Artists Programme and British Youth Opera, Samling, and other such organisations, key figures in the singing world, coaches and accompanists, to ensure maximum coverage. The Administrator will also make contact with the Heads of Vocal Studies at the four leading London conservatoires to welcome nominations of two current postgraduate students from each (a measure new to this year's Award). The Administrator will regularly monitor applicants, keeping them informed of their progress throughout each stage of the process, respond to any queries arising, and liaise with the Southbank Sinfonia team to ensure all is set for the Piano Round and Final, as well as keeping in touch with Simon Over and guest panellists for both rounds as required.

As a freelancer, the Administrator would be expected to work from home with access to their own computer with broadband connection and phone. Nonetheless, they could on occasion work from Southbank Sinfonia's office at St John's Waterloo as useful.

The Administrator will be paid £100 per 7.5 hour day for the agreed number of days with Southbank Sinfonia.

Applying for the role

Candidates for this role should have professional experience of administration in classical music, optimally in the vocal sector with an extant network of contacts such as singing tutors, coaches, accompanists, Heads of Vocal Studies at the UK music colleges, and other organisations that exist to nurture graduate singers.

If you are interested in this role, please submit an up-to-date CV, detailing your relevant experience and contact details of two referees, plus a short covering note outlining your interest and suitability to James Murphy, Managing Director, Southbank Sinfonia at james@southbanksinfonia.co.uk by 10am on **Friday 5 May 2017**. If you have any queries about the role, you are welcome to call James for an informal chat on 020 7921 0373.

Thank you for your interest and for sharing this opportunity with anybody whom you think may be suitable.