



Projects Completed in 2014

Support for Young Musicians – Two Special Prizes Awarded for Outstanding Interpretation of Bach Works at the Bundeswettbewerb Gesang Berlin 2014

The support of young musicians is enshrined in our articles of association as an important objective of our Foundation. In 2014 we participated in the national singing competition Bundeswettbewerb Gesang Berlin by offering two special prizes for concert engagements.

The €5,000 in prize money for each recipient will be given as financial support to organisers who commit to hosting a concert with the artist (for Bach vocal music, preferably cantatas – not passions/oratorios). The money will be donated in smaller amounts in order to help fund as many performances as possible.

Following the recommendations of the jury members Ingeborg Danz and Tobias Berndt, who observed the main and junior competitions for us, the prizes for outstanding interpretation of Bach works in the concert category of this singing competition were awarded to the soprano Sara Magenta Schneyer from Berlin and the baritone Sebastian Wartig from Dresden.



Sara Magenta Schneyer

Sara Magenta Schneyer was born in 1988 in Schweinfurt, attended a secondary school (Gymnasium) in Bamberg with an emphasis on music education and studied singing at the Hochschule für Musik C. M. von Weber, University of Music, in Dresden under Prof. Christiane Junghanns. She was also a soloist in the Dresdner Kammerchor (Dresden Chamber Choir) under Hans-Christoph Rademann. After further studies in France and Berlin, Ms Schneyer began performing throughout Europe in a wide variety of musical styles. Since 2012 she has also been active in the support of young musicians in Berlin. In 2014 she was awarded

a sponsorship prize by the Johann Sebastian Bach Foundation.

At the national singing competition Bundeswettbewerb Gesang, her interpretation of the soprano aria *Zerfließe, mein Herze* from the St. John Passion, BWV 245, demonstrated impressive vocal colour, great stylistic assurance and technical fluency.



Sebastian Wartig

Sebastian Wartig was born in 1989 in Dresden, sang in the Dresdner Kreuzchor (Choir of the Church of the Holy Cross) from 1998 to 2008 under Kreuzkantor (Head of Music) Prof. Roderich Kreile, finished his studies at the University of Music and Theatre “Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy” Leipzig (Hochschule für Musik und Theater, or HMT) under Prof. Roland Schubert in the summer of 2013 and is a member (bass-baritone) of the Junges Ensemble of the Semperoper Dresden.

2011 Prizewinner at the Albert Lortzing competition, scholarship from the Ad Infinitum Foundation of the Freundeskreis der HMT Leipzig (Friends of the HMT)

2012 2nd prize at the Robert Schumann competition in Zwickau
2013 Recipient of the Rudolf Mauersberger Scholarship in Dresden
2014 1st prize at the 43rd national singing competition Bundeswettbewerb Gesang in Berlin and recipient of the sponsorship prize from the Johann Sebastian Bach Foundation

At the competition, Sebastian Wartig performed the aria *Großer Herr, o starker König* from the Christmas Oratorio BWV 248 with impressive technical virtuosity, a beautiful voice and great inner strength.

We hope that both prizewinners will continue unwaveringly on their musical paths, keep their passion for music alive and always find appreciative audiences.

We are delighted at the opportunity to support the prizewinners Sara Magenta Schneyer (soprano) and Sebastian Wartig (baritone) in the coming months through concert promotion and funding. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the two jury members Ingeborg Danz and Tobias Berndt for their support.

The Bundeswettbewerb Gesang Berlin was founded in 1966 as a competition for solo singers. It has been held annually since 1979 with different categories in alternating years: Musical/Chanson (in uneven years) and Opera/Operetta/Concert (in even years). The aim of the competition is to support young musicians and identify exceptional vocal, musical and performance talents. In 2014, a total of 234 young singers from all over Germany took part in the Bundeswettbewerb Gesang in Berlin, Europe’s largest singing competition. Of them, 61 were nominated for the final rounds.