

FERRIER COMPETITION WINNERS 2022



“The prize winners of the 67th Kathleen Ferrier Awards were announced on Friday 22 April after the competition’s return to the Wigmore Hall after two years of streaming the semi-finals and finals because of the pandemic.

The 2022 Kathleen Ferrier Award first prize of £12,500, went to Esme Bronwen-Smith, mezzo-soprano, a graduate of the RCM. Future engagements include Glyndebourne Festival Chorus 2022 and the role of Nerone in ETO’s production of *Agrippina* this Autumn.

Emma Roberts, mezzo-soprano won the second prize of £6,000. She is a student at the RCM International Opera Studio. Future engagements include *Hänsel* (RCM) and *Minsk Woman* (Dove’s Flight/RCM). Emma Roberts also won the Ferrier Loveday Song Prize of £5,000.

The Accompanist’s Prize of £5,000 - funded by Help Musicians in memory of Arthur and Gwyneth Harrison - went to British-Sri Lankan pianist Avishka Edirisinghe, a first-year student at the Royal College of Music.

The jury for the Awards was chaired by Sir Brian McMaster, of Welsh National Opera and the Edinburgh Festival, who was joined by two sopranos, Dames Josephine Barstow and Anne Evans, the tenor Ben Johnson, who himself won first prize in the 2008 competition and Sholto Kynoch, leading song and chamber music accompanist, founder and Artistic Director of the Oxford Lieder Festival.

The annual Awards Competition is held in memory of Kathleen Ferrier the extraordinary contralto who captured the hearts of the British public in her tragically short career cut short by cancer when she was 41. Her extraordinary success was due not only to a magnificent voice but a fundamental level of communication with her audience recognised by those who worked with her: those who heard her rarely forgot her. The search for those same qualities - a beautiful voice, a mastery of technique and the ability to speak directly to the audience - is at the heart of the Kathleen Ferrier Awards, which began in 1956. The Ferrier, as it known, has long had a reputation for making a significant start in the careers of the talented young singers who have won it.

Notable previous winners of the awards include amongst others Elizabeth Harwood, Alfreda Hodgson, Felicity Palmer, Joan Rodgers, Bryn Terfel, Karen Cargill, Ben Johnson, Christina Gansch and Natalya Romaniw. Recent winners of the awards have included Alessandro Fisher and James Newby (2016), Julian Van Mellaerts (2017) Will Thomas (2018), Benson Wilson (2019) and Jesscia Cale in 2020. The 2021 winner was Hugh Cutting, the first counter-tenor to win the first prize in the history of the Awards.

23/04/2022

info@ferrierawards.org.uk

@FerrierAwards

THE KATHLEEN
FERRIER
AWARDS

PATRON: HRH THE DUCHESS OF KENT GCVO
