



VersaillesGrandParc
communauté d'agglomération



SINGING COMPETITION

An Ode to European Youth 2020

Selection of the vocal
quartet performing
Beethoven's *Ninth
Symphony* as part of an
"Ode to European Youth".

Conservatoire à Rayonnement
Régional de Versailles Grand Parc
(Versailles Grand Parc Regional
Conservatoire)

Landesjugendorchester Berlin
(Berlin Regional Youth Orchestra)

crr.VersaillesGrandParc.fr

SINGING COMPETITION

INITIATIVE

In October 2020, Landesjugendorchester Berlin and the Conservatoire à Rayonnement Régional de Versailles Grand Parc will join forces for the initiative "Ode to European Youth".

As the musical world celebrates the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth, a symphony orchestra made up of 80 young European musicians, under the direction of French conductor Michael Cousteau, will share the message of brotherhood in the *Ninth Symphony*. The tour comprises a series of workshops followed by five to six concerts in France, Poland and Germany.

On this occasion, the orchestra will be joined by choirs in each of the three countries, with around a hundred singers from the Choirs and Orchestras of the Grandes Ecoles (COGE) in France. The choirs for the concerts in Germany and Poland are currently auditioning.

MUSIC PROGRAMME

The tour programme will be enriched by works representative of French and German musical aesthetics in the early 20th century with the *Musical Offering* by Johann-Sebastian Bach orchestrated by Anton Webern and *D'un soir triste* by Lili Boulanger.

In view of this exceptional heritage, the initiative will include a contemporary music component. As such, the composer Jean-Baptiste Robin has been commissioned to create a piece for soprano and orchestra. He is also the organist at the Royal Chapel of the Palace of Versailles, a professor of organ and composition at the Conservatoire à Rayonnement Régional de Versailles Grand Parc and the winner of the 2018 Grand Prix Lycéen des Compositeurs.

SCHEDULE

- Singing competition rounds: **Thursday, 30 April 2020, 11 pm** (deadline for receipt of videos) and the final on **21 June 2020** in Versailles, France
- Workshops and tour: **11 to 27 October 2020**
- First rehearsals with soloists and choir: **Wednesday, 14 October**
- Concerts from **Friday, 17 October** in France, at the Palais des Congrès in Versailles, at the Church of St Eustache (Paris) and/or at La Seine Musicale (Boulogne-Billancourt), and then at Szczecin Philharmonic and/or in Poznań in Poland and, in Germany, at the Konzerthaus Berlin.

THE COMPETITION

Landesjugendorchester Berlin and the Conservatoire à Rayonnement Régional de Versailles Grand Parc are organising a European competition to select the **four solo singers (soprano, alto, tenor and bass)** who will perform the vocal quartet in the finale of Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony*.

The **soprano** will also perform a piece with orchestra (in French and German) which the composer Jean-Baptiste Robin has been appointed to write.

MUSIC PROGRAMME OF THE COMPETITION ROUNDS

1ST ROUND

Video recordings (via a YouTube or WeTransfer link) to be sent to julianne.foureau@agglovgp.fr by Thursday, 30 April 2020, 11 pm

Programme for sopranos, altos, tenors and basses:

- One piece in German of your choice
- Two lines from the *Finale* of the Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* :
 - from bar 296 (upbeat of letter F) „Freude trinken alle Wesen“ to bar 312 (letter G)
 - from bar 830 (2 bars before *Poco Adagio*) „Menschen werden Brüder“ to bar 842 (cf. website)

And for sopranos only, a 20th century piece in French, with a choice of:

- Francis Poulenc: « Miel de Narbonne » from *Cocardes*
- Maurice Ravel: *Sur l'herbe*
- Claude Debussy: « Le balcon » extrait des *Cinq poèmes* de Baudelaire

Durée : 12 minutes max

The results will be published on the website crr.versaillesgrandparc.fr mid-May (to be confirmed). The list of competitors selected for the final will be published mid-May (to be confirmed) on the CRR de Versailles Grand Parc website.

FINAL:

Public round: **Sunday, 21 June 2020**, in the Claude Debussy auditorium at CRR de Versailles Grand Parc (France).

Rehearsal with the accompanying pianist David Jackson: **Saturday, 20 June 2020**.

Programme:

- A piece of your choice
- The entire vocal score of the finale of Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony*

Duration: 10 minutes

PANEL IN THE FINAL (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

- **Bernard Soulès**, director of CRR of Versailles Grand Parc and chair of the panel
- **Matthias Kamps**, Landesmusikrat Berlin
- **Michael Cousteau**, conductor
- **Christophe Dravers**, programme adviser at CRR of Versailles Grand Parc
- **Nicolas Bucher**, director general of the Centre de Musique Baroque de Versailles
- **Jean-Baptiste Robin**, organist and professor of organ and composition at CRR of Versailles Grand Parc

REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

- Competition open to singers aged **18 to 35** (born after 21/06/1984).
- For issues specific to the free movement of artists for the workshops and tour, competitors must be citizens or residents of a member state of the European Union or a country of the Schengen area.
- Registration fee: **€35** (payable by card or a SEPA direct debit mandate – non-refundable).
- Deadline for online application with video submission: **Thursday, 30 April 2020, 11 pm.**

PRIZES

- A grant of €1,500 for each alto, tenor and bass singer
- A grant of €2,000 for the soprano.

PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS

Transport and accommodation will be provided for the winning singers for the duration of the tour, from their arrival in Versailles until the day after the last concert in Berlin. During the tour, soloists will be hosted by carefully selected host families so that they are as comfortable and independent as possible.

NB: the singers are responsible for their own travel arrangements to Versailles and back from Berlin the day after the last concert.

Similarly, to ensure they can eat as they wish, they will also be responsible for their meals.

Detailed information and competition rules can be found on:

crr.VersaillesGrandParc.fr

