

Bampton Classical Opera

Young Singers' Competition 2025

www.bamptonopera.org

INFORMATION & RULES

WELCOME

Since 1993 Bampton Classical Opera has been engaged on an intriguing journey into the byways of later 18th-century opera and has emerged as one of the most widely-acclaimed small companies, enjoying an enviable critical reputation. Bampton's strength is also founded on its remarkable ability for spotting the best of emerging talent amongst young artists: many singers who have appeared on the Bampton stage have gone on to enjoy successful national and international careers. The company is delighted to be running this competition aimed at identifying and supporting the country's finest young singers. Bampton's artistic directors and the expert team of judges are looking forward to discovering some very special voices, musicianship and communication. This year's final is held at the Leonard Wolfson Auditorium, Oxford. Details of the competition and how to apply are below; we look forward to receiving your application.

COMPETITION DETAILS

First round – Saturday 1 and/or Sunday 2 November 2025:

Craxton Studios, 14 Kidderpore Avenue, London NW3 7SU (closed session)

Final – Tuesday 25 November 2025, 6pm:

Leonard Wolfson Auditorium, Wolfson College, Linton Road, Oxford, OX2 6UD (open to the public)

Applications open on Monday 31 March. Here is a link to the [Competition Entry Form](#).

Application entry deadline is Sunday 31 August 2025.

First prize £2,000

Second prize £1,000

Accompanists' Prize £750

ADJUDICATION PANEL

Bonaventura Bottone, Jean Rigby and Ingrid Surgenor.

PROGRAMME REQUIREMENTS

Preliminary round

Submit with your application a 10-minute audio recording of material of your choice.

Please note: videos will not be accepted.

First round

Prepare three items from which the judges will choose to hear two. One work should be an 18th-century aria.

Final

20 minute performance: a varied and balanced programme of contrasting items to include opera and song. At least one work should be in English and one should be an 18th-century aria. One repetition from the first round will be allowed.

ELIGIBILITY

- Both singers and eligible accompanists must be UK residents aged between 21 and 32 on Tuesday 25 November 2025.
- Previous First Prize winners are not eligible to enter.
- Previous winners of the Accompanists' Prize are welcome to perform but will not be considered for the prize.

ACCOMPANISTS

Eligible accompanists are judged on their performance in the final only, but are encouraged to participate in the first round as well. A house accompanist can be available for the first round but singers are expected to provide their own for the Final.

REFERENCES

All singers and eligible accompanists should provide contact details for two referees in your application form. One should be from your singing/piano teacher, if appropriate, and the other from a professional musician of standing. Referees may or may not be contacted.

PAYMENT

£35 non-refundable entry fee. Please make a direct online payment to Bampton Classical Opera (sort code: 40-02-06; account number: 31305786, with your name followed by "YSC2025" as a reference).

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. The company cannot be responsible for travel expenses.
2. Proof of age and UK residency may be requested at the first round.
3. Please remember that it is illegal to use photocopied copyright music.
4. The judges' decision is final and not open to correspondence.
5. The judges reserve the right not to award a first prize.
6. The judges reserve the right not to hear the whole programme.
7. The company reserves the right to use photographs for publicity purposes.
8. Judges will select candidates for the first round on the strength of their preliminary application.
9. Candidates who proceed to the final will be asked to provide the programme and details of their accompanist by Saturday 8 November 2025.
10. Complimentary tickets for the final are available to participants; maximum two per candidate.
11. Details correct at time of going to press.

Once you have completed the online [Competition Entry Form](#), please email your 10-minute audio recording of material of your choice (a link or MP3 attachments), CV and 150 word biography to ysc@bamptonopera.org.