



NORDIC EDITION
POLSTJÄRNEPRISET
SWEDEN VÄNERSBORG THE NORDICS

Vänersborg, January 2, 2023

P R E S S I N F O R M A T I O N

The semi-finalists in the Polstjärnepriset Nordic Edition 2023 have been selected

The first competition stage of the Polstjärnepriset has been settled. The jury has appointed the eight young classical musicians who will advance to Tuesday's semi-finals, which will be decided at a public concert in Vänersborg.

There were 21 young talents in classical music who each played for the highly meritorious international jury of the Polstjärnepriset.

– This is the premiere for a new edition of the Polstjärnepriset. In the past, the competition has only been open to Swedish youngsters, but this year it is Nordic, says jury chairman Sten Cranner, CEO and artistic director of the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra.

– With participants from all the Nordic countries, the competition has gained a higher international status. The young musicians who participate now have even better opportunities to be seen and heard.

- Selecting eight semi-finalists among the 21 was a very challenging task. The artistic and technical level among the participants is very high.

The jury finally came to the conclusion that these are the eight who advance to the semi-finals where they compete for four final places:

Selma Christensen Teilmann, Denmark (violin)

Valdemar Wenzel Most, Denmark (piano)
Pekko Aakko, Finland (bassoon)
Matthildur Traustadóttir, Iceland (violin)
Clara Yuna Friedensburg, Norway (cello)
Daniel Iourtchik, Sweden (violin)
Sara Hagman, Sweden (violin)
Inez Karlsson, Sweden (cello)

The semi-final will be held on Tuesday evening, January 3 in Folkets Hus Vänersborg.

The final, in the afternoon on January 5, will take place in the Gothenburg Concert Hall. There, each of the finalists gets to perform their competition entries together with the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra.

See and hear the finals:

The **semi-final** can be streamed from Youtube;



youtube.com/watch?v=iOhL8R1NI2A

The **final** is an open event with an audience.

Stream it from the Gothenburg Concert Hall site,
gso.se/gsoeplay;

gso.se/gsoeplay/klipp/polstjarneprisets-final2023/



Press images semi-finalists, visit: www.yomacenter.se/en/polstjarneprisets-competitors-2023/

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Polstjärnepriset in brief

With the motto "More than a competition", the Polstjärnepriset is a unique venture and a Nordic meeting place for young talents in classical music. It is a forum where young musicians can meet like-minded people, test their technical and stage skills in the competition stage and, not least, get the opportunity to be taught by a very renowned collection of instructors. Parallel to the competition, the Polstjärnepriset course is arranged. It is open to young musicians up to 20 years of age. In total, around 70 young people are involved in the Polstjärnepriset each year.

Through individual teaching, master classes, and playing in chamber and orchestra settings, a system is offered where each competition and course participant grows as a musician both individually and in a group. First, everyone meets for four days during the autumn holidays to get to know each other, receive instruction and rehearse together. The next time everyone gathers, is the first week of January. Then the focus is on the

competition, which consists of three stages, and preparations for the concerts where the highlight is the final concert in the Gothenburg Concert Hall.

The winner receives SEK 50,000.

In 2023, the Polstjärnepriset competition will be held for the 16th time and the development has gone rapidly upwards. The competition is based in Vänersborg. This has been expanded with courses for young talents and long-term collaborations with the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra, the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra and the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra. The young people who apply for the competition and course are the Nordic countries' very best in their age groups.

It is the National Center for Music Talents, based in Vänersborg, that organizes the Polstjärnepriset. Eight of the country's orchestras, including the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra, the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra and the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra, and all music academies as well as the municipality of Vänersborg, are involved in the talent centre. In addition to the Polstjärnepriset, the centre organizes regular course weekends for young talents.