



NORDIC EDITION
POLSTJÄRNEPRISET
SWEDEN VÄNERSBORG THE NORDICS

Vänersborg, December 27, 2022

PRESS INFORMATION

Only days left until giving the first award of the Polstjärnepriset Nordic Edition 2023

For the first time, young people from all over the Nordics are participating in the final of the Polstjärnepriset for young classical musicians. 'The competition reaches a completely new level when a total of 23 talents from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden compete for the prize,' states jury chairman Sten Cranner, CEO and artistic director of the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra.

The competition begins on January 2. Each of the 23 selected young musicians gets to play in front of a highly qualified international jury in Vänersborg.

In the next step, 8 of the 23 will enter the semi-finals and this also happens in Vänersborg. At a public concert, it is decided which four go to the final. The concert offers a unique opportunity to get to know some of the Nordics' new stars in classical music.

The final will take place in the Gothenburg Concert Hall on January 5. There, the finalists play together with the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra before an audience. A Polstjärnepriset winner will be appointed for the 16th time and that young musician will also be the first winner in the Nordics.

– With competitors from all over the Nordics, the Polstjärnepriset strengthens its international status, says Sten Cranner.

– The competition provides a fantastic exposure of the young musicians' artistic and technical levels. This can give them a good starting point towards becoming professional classical musicians.

– For professional orchestras, such as the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra, the Polstjärnepriset provides a good picture of which young people are on their way to a career and who may be looking for a job with us within a few years.

– Another thing that the Polstjärnepriset offers, are excellent opportunities for young people to build their own networks. A lot of positive things happen during the Polstjärnepriset courses. The young musicians get to meet, play and socialize regularly. It is extremely valuable.

The Polstjärnepriset is organized by the non-profit association "National Centre for Music Talents". First prize is SEK 50,000. Second prize SEK 10,000. Third and fourth prize SEK 5,000.

For any additional questions regarding this press information, please contact:

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Participants in the Polstjärnepriset Nordic Edition 2023

DANMARK

Alana Hjort – Violin
Selma Christensen Teilmann – Violin
Sufiya Ainan Taufik – Violin
Valdemar Wenzel Most – Piano

FINLAND

Ilona Liiman – Piano
Jino Pieviläinen – Clarinet
Maxim Larionov – Violin
Pekko Aakko – Bassoon
Saima Malmivaara – Cello

ISLAND

Matthildur Traustadóttir – Violin

NORGE

Amanda Noor Vatn – Violin
Bjørge Pas – Violin
Clara Yuna Friedensburg – Cello
Sophia Mina Friedensburg – Piano
Torje Råbu – Violin

SVERIGE

Daniel Iourtchik – Violin
Elias Xie – Piano
Inez Karlsson – Cello
Jānis Vītols – Flute
Philip Engström – Cello
Sara Hagman – Violin
Selma Sköld – Cello
Vigovajk Sagvik – Cello

See and hear the finals:

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



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

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



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.