



NORDIC EDITION
POLSTJÄRNEPRISET
SWEDEN VÄNERSBORG THE NORDICS

Vänersborg, January 3, 2023

PRESS INFORMATION

The four finalists in the Polstjärnepriset Nordic Edition 2023 have been selected

Young classical musicians from Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Finland will compete in the Polstjärnepriset final in 2023. This is the first time that the competition has participants from all the Nordic countries. The final with the four musicians will be decided in the Gothenburg Concert Hall on Thursday, January 5.

In Tuesday evening's semi-final in Vänersborg, eight of the 21 young people who had qualified for the competition remained.

– Already in the first round, the level among the competitors was extremely high. Everyone, without exception, played very, very beautifully and it was wonderful to see and hear, says the world-famous Icelandic violinist Judith Ingolfsson. In addition to her global career, she teaches violin, among other things, at university level in Baltimore in the USA. For the Polstjärnepriset, she is both instructor and jury member.

– Appointing the finalists was a difficult task, but we had to do it, she says.

Judith Ingolfsson meets many young people who play the violin in international competitions and she notes that the participants in the Polstjärnepriset are absolutely at the same high international level.

– Even though they are young and still have a lot to learn, some of them already play with the skill I see in university students.

On Thursday afternoon, it remains for the jury to make a final decision and a winner will be chosen. These are the four finalists who get to perform their competition entries together with the Gothenburg Symphony in the Gothenburg Concert Hall:

Valdermar Wenzel Most, Denmark, Piano
Clara Yuna Friedsensburg, Norway, Cello
Pekko Aakko, Finland, Bassoon
Inez Karlsson, Sweden, Cello

The winner of the Polstjärnepriset Nordic Edition 2023 will receive SEK 50,000. The second prize winner receives SEK 10,000, while the third and fourth prize winners receive SEK 5,000 each.

Any remaining tickets for the final can be booked on the Gothenburg Symphony's website www.gso.se. It is also possible to watch the entire final in live streaming at www.gsoplay.se.

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

Ulrich Kaatz, Polstjärnepriset competition leader, ulrich.kaatz@vanersborg.se, + 46 521-722 191

Group photo caption:

The Polstjärnepriset finalists 2023 from the left, Valdermar Wenzel Most, Denmark, Piano Inez Karlsson, Sweden, Cello, Clara Yuna Friedsensburg, Norway, Cello, Pekko Aakko, Finland, Bassoon

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.