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New singing competition, SingFinzi2021, honours Gerald Finzi

SingFinzi2021, a new online singing competition, is announced by The Finzi Trust and Boosey & Hawkes to celebrate composer Gerald Finzi's 120th birthday in 2021.

A new international singing competition, **SingFinzi2021**, is announced on 14 July, the birthday of Gerald Finzi, in anticipation of the composer's 120th birthday next year. The competition is a joint collaboration between **The Finzi Trust** and **Boosey & Hawkes** and final entries will be judged by an international jury of musicians and administrators closely associated with the promotion of vocal performance. Finzi's songs are among the most admired in the repertoire, combining a technical mastery of writing for the human voice with a sensitive appreciation of poetry, especially that of English writers including Thomas Hardy and Shakespeare.

"...a song outlasts a dynasty..."

- Gerald Finzi's creed as quoted in the biography by Diana McVeagh

The SingFinzi2021 competition will be free to enter and will be conducted online with participants around the globe submitting their performances on YouTube. The first-placed singer will receive a cash prize of £5000 and the winning pianist a prize of £2000. Video submissions will open on 5 October 2020 and close on 1 March 2021, with the winners being announced on Finzi's 120th birthday, 14 July 2021.

Entrants will be requested to submit their performances of up to 15 minutes of Finzi songs with piano accompaniment (excluding *Dies Natalis* and *Farewell to Arms*). The final selection of YouTube performances will be judged by an expert international jury: celebrated singers **Anne Schwanewilms**, **Eric Owens** and **Roderick Williams**, **Helen Lewis** (Executive Producer at Decca Classics), **Iain Burnside** (leading pianist and Artistic Director of the Ludlow English Song Weekend, **Joseph Middleton** (leading pianist and Director of the Leeds Lieder Festival) and **Michelle Williams** (Head of Casting at English National Opera).

Jury member and trustee of The Finzi Trust **Iain Burnside** writes: "This is a wonderful initiative, spreading the net worldwide to find the next generation of Finzi interpreters. I can't wait to see the range of approaches - we're hoping for a tsunami of applications!"

Continued...

For full details of SingFinzi2021 visit:

www.boosey.com/singfinzi

For images visit: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/hljlrhqspuqqxzg/AADQiSSQMPyQKiBMojojlnzba?dl=0>

Press Contacts:

David Allenby (VP Publicity & Marketing, Boosey & Hawkes)

david.allenby@boosey.com

Bronte Larsen-Disney (Publicity & Media Co-ordinator, Boosey & Hawkes)

bronte.larsendisney@boosey.com

Sara Ascenso (Trustee, The Finzi Trust)

sara.ascenso@gmail.com

Alex Patterson (Trustee, The Finzi Trust)

alexpattersonmusic@gmail.com

NOTES TO EDITORS

The Finzi Trust

Founded in 1969, the Finzi Trust seeks to further the music, work and ideals of Gerald Finzi, assisting individuals and organisations and initiating projects which reflect its policy of encouraging artists and composers to develop their creativity. The Trust has given support to recordings, performances, masterclasses, lectures, music festivals, composition awards, song competitions, composer-in-residence schemes and commissions. It works closely with Finzi's publisher, Boosey and Hawkes, in ensuring the composer's music is available globally in scholarly editions and versatile arrangements.

www.geraldfinzi.org/

Gerald Finzi (1901-1956)

Gerald Finzi studied composition with Farrar in Harrogate and Bairstow in York, and counterpoint with RO Morris. Early musical influences include Parry, Elgar and Vaughan Williams, and song composers such as Ivor Gurney. He moved to London in 1926 where he befriended Ferguson and Rubbra and met Vaughan Williams, Holst and Bliss. Early successes included the Thomas Hardy cycles *A Young Man's Exhortation* and *Earth and Air and Rain*, which established him as a masterly and sensitive setter of poetry. Finzi's oeuvre includes classics such as his *Dies Natalis*, *Clarinet Concerto*, *Intimations of Immortality*, and extends to over 100 songs for soloist or choir.

www.boosey.com/finzi

Boosey & Hawkes

Boosey & Hawkes is the world's leading publisher of contemporary classical music, with a blue chip catalogue of 20th-century masters including Bartók, Bernstein, Britten, Copland, Prokofieff, Rachmaninoff, Shostakovich, Strauss and Stravinsky alongside an eminent front list of composers that includes John Adams, Louis Andriessen, Harrison Birtwistle, Unsuk Chin, Anna Clyne, Brett Dean, Detlev Glanert, Osvaldo Golijov, HK Gruber, Karl Jenkins, Elena Kats-Chernin, Magnus Lindberg, James MacMillan, Steve Reich, Mark-Anthony Turnage and Eric Whitacre. Boosey & Hawkes has published the music of Gerald Finzi since the early 1930s and works closely with The Finzi Trust.

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