



## More live TV coverage than ever before for BBC Cardiff Singer of the World 2019

Extensive coverage across BBC TV, radio and online

15-22 June 2019



Backstage at BBC Cardiff Singer of the World © Brian Tarr

The BBC brings all the drama and excitement of this year's BBC Cardiff Singer of the World through extensive broadcasting on TV, radio and online, including more live TV coverage of the prestigious competition than ever before.

The biennial competition, which has helped launch the careers of such stars as Jamie Barton, Elīna Garanča, Bryn Terfel and Dmitri Hvorostovsky, returns to Cardiff between 15-22 June 2019. Twenty of the world's most outstanding young singers representing 15 countries compete for the title of BBC Cardiff Singer of the World and a £20,000 cash prize, and audiences can follow every note on BBC iPlayer and watch and listen on BBC TV and radio.

The Main Prize Final on Saturday 22 June - in which the five final contenders are accompanied by the BBC National Orchestra of Wales conducted by Ewa Strusińska and Ariane Matiakh - is broadcast as live from St David's Hall, Cardiff, by BBC Four, BBC Radio 3 and live on BBC Radio Cymru. The first Main Prize round on Sunday 16 June is broadcast on BBC Four as live at 9pm.

For the first time, viewers across the country can follow their progress through every round in tandem with audiences in Cardiff, with most of the Main Prize rounds relayed as live on BBC Two Wales (Monday 17 – Wednesday 19 June). Viewers from outside the region can also follow the action on the BBC iPlayer.

Presenters for the TV coverage of the competition include opera star **Danielle De Niese** (Main Prize final only), broadcasters **Petroc Trelawny** and **Josie D’Arby**, and soprano **Elin Manahan Thomas**.

BBC Radio 3 also broadcasts extensively from the competition, with all Song Prize rounds featuring across the week in its Lunchtime Concert slot, presented from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama by pianist **Iain Burnside** and soprano **Rebecca Evans**. The Song Prize final (Thursday 20 June) is broadcast live on Radio 3 from St David’s Hall, with full coverage also on BBC Four at 10pm.

Reflecting the truly international nature of the Competition, music lovers from across the globe can also enjoy the high-level music making and competition drama via the BBC Cardiff Singer of the World website ([bbc.co.uk/CardiffSinger](http://bbc.co.uk/CardiffSinger)), which can be accessed from anywhere in the world.

Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, Patron of BBC Cardiff Singer of the World, said: *“BBC Cardiff Singer is the foremost competition of its kind and is a key part of the international classical calendar. I’m delighted that this year we can bring the high energy atmosphere of the competition to audiences at home through more live BBC coverage than ever before.”*

Jan Younghusband, Head of Commissioning BBC TV commented: *“We hope to convey the thrill of the competition to audiences through changing the way we broadcast the competition. It’s such a special moment in the career of these singers and we’re delighted to provide them with this platform to the world and allow audiences outside the concert hall to engage in real time.”*

Alan Davey, Controller BBC Radio 3 and classical music, added *“Classical music is going through a resurgence at the moment and opera has an important part to play within that. We know our audience love hearing new things and we hope they’ll enjoy being transported by these very special performances from some of the biggest stars of the future.”*

Rhodri Talfan Davies, Director BBC Cymru Wales said: *“With twenty of the brightest singing talents from all over the world coming to Cardiff in June, this truly extraordinary competition promises to light up the capital city once again in 2019. With world-class artists performing across the week, it’s going to be a wonderful celebration of music and song.”*

The full breakdown of coverage across the BBC of the competition can be found below.

BBC Cardiff Singer of the World is organised by BBC Cymru Wales in association with Welsh National Opera and is supported by Cardiff Council.

Full details of this year’s competitors - 20 talented young singers from 15 countries – can be found [here](#).

More details, ticket information and full list of events can be found at [bbc.co.uk/CardiffSinger](http://bbc.co.uk/CardiffSinger).

**For further press information please contact Victoria Bevan or Yasmin Hoy at Premier, or BBC Arts**

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**High-resolution photos of presenters can be downloaded [here](#).**

Images from BBC Cardiff Singer of the World in 2017 can be downloaded [here](#).

### **Broadcast details**

#### **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June**

BBC Radio Wales, Arts Show – 1830-1900 (preview programme)

#### **Saturday 15 June**

BBC Two Wales, Preview programme – 2130-2200

#### **Sunday 16 June**

BBC Four, Main Prize Round 1 – 2100-2300

BBC iPlayer, Main Prize Round 1 – available for 30 days after transmission

#### **Monday 17 June**

BBC Two Wales, Main Prize Round 2 as live – 1930-2130

BBC iPlayer, Main Prize Round 2 – live and available for 30 days after transmission

#### **Tuesday 18 June**

BBC Radio 3, Song Prize Recitals – 1300-1400

BBC Two Wales, Main Prize Round 3 as live – 1930-2130

BBC iPlayer, Main Prize Round 3 – live and available for 30 days after transmission

#### **Wednesday 19 June**

BBC Radio 3, Song Prize Recitals – 1300-1400

BBC Two Wales, Main Prize Round 4 as live – 1930-2130

BBC iPlayer, Main Prize Round 4 – live and available for 30 days after transmission

#### **Thursday 20 June**

BBC Radio 3, Song Prize Recitals – 1300-1400

BBC Radio 3, Song Prize Final live – 1900-2130

BBC Four, Song Prize Final – 2205-2405

BBC iPlayer, Song Prize Final – available for 30 days after transmission

#### **Friday 21 June**

BBC Two Wales, Highlights – 1930-2030

#### **Saturday 22 June**

BBC Four, Main Prize Final as live – 1930-2200

BBC Radio 3, Main Prize Final as live – 1930-2200

BBC Radio Cymru, Main Prize Final live – 1900-2130

BBC iPlayer, Main Prize Final – live and available for 30 days after transmission

#### **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June**

BBC Radio Wales, Beverley's World of Music – 2100-2300; highlights of this year's Cardiff Singer (presented by Beverley Humphries)

### **Notes to Editors**

#### **About BBC Cardiff Singer of the World**

BBC Cardiff Singer of the World is a competition known throughout the classical music world as the premier showcase for opera and concert singers at the outset of their careers. It has launched the

careers of some major stars including Karita Mattila, Dmitri Hvorostovsky, Bryn Terfel, Anja Harteros and Jamie Barton.

In 1983, BBC Wales created BBC Cardiff Singer of the World (J Mervyn Williams was the man credited with founding the competition) and continues to develop the format of the competition and its broadcast coverage. It takes place every two years and is organized in association with Welsh National Opera and supported by The City of Cardiff Council. The competition's patron is Dame Kiri Te Kanawa and the artistic director is David Jackson.

The competition is open to singers at the start of their professional careers, aged 18-32. After a three-stage selection process involving DVD and live auditions, 20 singers are invited to compete in Cardiff, to perform opera and concert music with full orchestra in four concerts, in front of a distinguished jury. The winner from each concert plus one wild card (the best of the rest) compete in the final in St David's Hall, Cardiff.

The singers may also take part in a parallel competition, the BBC Cardiff Singer of the World Song Prize, in which they perform art songs with piano accompaniment. The preliminary round of four recitals takes place in the Dora Stoutzker Hall at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, with the five singers selected by the jury going on to perform in the final at St David's Hall. It is not possible to enter the Song Prize only.

#### **Main Prize**

The performances are broadcast across the BBC to audiences around the UK and beyond, and the five singers who take part in the exhilarating Grand Final at St David's Hall face arguably the greatest challenge and opportunity of their careers. The singer named BBC Cardiff Singer of the World is presented with the Cardiff Trophy and £20,000.

#### **The Song Prize**

The Song Prize puts our singers well and truly under the spotlight. Performing some of the most beautiful Lieder and art songs in the repertoire, the singers are accompanied by internationally renowned pianists including Llŷr Williams and Simon Lepper.

The intimate recitals take place at the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama, with a final at St David's Hall. The winner receives the BBC Cardiff Singer of the World Song Prize Trophy, the Patron's Cup and £10,000. This prize is supported by the Kiri Te Kanawa Foundation.

#### **The Audience Prize**

The Audience Prize is voted for by our audiences and presented during the Grand Final. Winners receive The Dame Joan Sutherland Audience Prize, £2,500 and a crystal trophy. This year the prize is presented by Richard Bonyng, widower of Dame Joan, and dedicated to the memory of Dmitri Hvorostovsky, the much missed and beloved baritone who became Cardiff Singer of the World in 1989.