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Andrei Kymach wins BBC Cardiff Singer of the World 2019



Baritone Andrei Kymach, 31, from Ukraine, was tonight [Saturday 22 June 2019] announced as the winner of BBC Cardiff Singer of the World 2019.

Following his win, Andrei Kymach said: *"I'm overwhelmed to have won the BBC Cardiff Singer of The World 2019. It's literally a dream come true. I can remember watching the competition when I was very young and it would never have occurred to me that I could one day even take part, let alone win."*

I wish to thank the jury and everyone involved with the competition for being so supportive and welcoming."

Kymach performed pieces by Bizet, Rachmaninov and Donizetti at the final held at St David's Hall, Cardiff. The competition's Patron, Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, presented the winner with a £20,000 prize (increased this year thanks to support from the Dame Kiri Te Kanawa Foundation) and the Cardiff Trophy. In a new innovation this year, Kymach will also be offered a recital at the Queen Elizabeth Hall at London's Southbank Centre.

The winner was chosen by a distinguished jury which included Sir David Pountney (chair), acclaimed singers José Cura, Dame Felicity Lott and Frederica von Stade and Grange Park Opera Surrey founder Wasfi Kani.

Over 400 singers from across the globe entered BBC Cardiff Singer of the World 2019, with 20 singers from 15 countries selected to compete in the competition. Recognised as one of the most important music competitions in the world, BBC Cardiff Singer of the World has launched the careers of some of the world's biggest opera stars including Bryn Terfel, Jamie Barton, Karita Mattila, Dmitri Hvorostovsky and more.

The four other finalists were Sooyeon Lee, Mingjie Lei, Guadalupe Barrientos and Patrick Guetti who sang arias and concert repertoire ranging from Mozart to Copland accompanied by the BBC National Orchestra of Wales conducted by Ariane Matiakh and Ewa Strusińska.

The £2,500 Dame Joan Sutherland Audience Prize was presented to Katie Bray from England by conductor Richard Bonyngne, the husband of the first patron of the competition, soprano Dame Joan Sutherland, after whom the prize is named. The prize was dedicated to the memory of Dmitri Hvorostovsky, the beloved and much missed baritone who became BBC Cardiff Singer of the World in 1989.

David Jackson, Artistic Director of BBC Cardiff Singer of the World, said: *"All 20 contestants are winners for having reached the finals and for impressing everyone here. But there can only be one winner and Andrei Kymach is a worthy winner who captivated all of us with his artistry and ability to connect with the audience. Everyone associated with the BBC Cardiff Singer of the World looks forward to watching his career develop in the years ahead."*

BBC Cardiff Singer of the World 2019 was broadcast extensively across the BBC, with television coverage on BBC Four and BBC Two Wales, and radio coverage on BBC Radio 3 and BBC Radio Cymru. Performances are available to view and listen to on the BBC iPlayer, the BBC Cardiff Singer website and BBC Sounds.

As previously announced, the Song Prize was won by tenor Mingjie Lei from China.

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

bbc.co.uk/CardiffSinger

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Andrei Kymach

Born in the Vinnitsa region of Ukraine, Andrei Kymach studied philosophy at the Shevchenko Ukrainian National University from 2007-2010. Kymach got interested in music rather late, when he was singing in the church choir as an amateur. It was his future wife who inspired him to start musical studies; she was studying vocal technique and told him that his voice had a lot of potential.

In 2010, Kymach entered the vocal/choral conducting department at the Kiev National Music Academy and in September 2016 he joined the young artist programme of the Bolshoi Theatre of Russia. In January 2017 he made his debut there in the role of Don Carlos in Dargomyzhsky's *The Stone Guest*.

In October 2018 Kymach made his debut at the Liceu in Barcelona in the role of Sir Riccardo Forth (*I puritani*). In November he sang Lord Enrico Ashton (*Lucia di Lammermoor*) in Tenerife, and in January and February this year, he performed the title role of Don Giovanni in Nice and Antibes. Upcoming engagements include the title role in Rubenstein's *Demon* with Chelsea Opera Group at the Queen Elizabeth Hall in London.

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.

BBC Music

BBC Music is the corporation's strongest commitment to music in 30 years – comprising of new partnerships and ground-breaking music initiatives. BBC Music has created music mixes for the BBC Sounds app, which brings together unmissable music, radio and podcasts, live and on-demand in a personalised single app and website.

Highlights from last year include BBC Music's Biggest Weekend (a music festival across four sites in four nations with over 175 000 people in attendance) in May as well as live coverage of the Mercury Prize on TV and Radio in September. Ten Pieces, the classical music initiative for schools which aims to open up the world of classical music to children, returns for its sixth year. BBC Music supports nationwide initiatives including Record Store Day and Independent Venue Week, and will present at many summer festivals around the UK this summer.

Recent TV programming includes: Kylie Live at Radio 2 in Hyde Park (which reunited her onstage with Jason Donovan), Ariana Grande at the BBC and Madness Rocks Big Ben Live on BBC One; Later... with Jools Holland, Our Classical Century, BBC Young Musician and David Bowie: Finding Fame on BBC Two; Primal Scream: The Lost Memphis Tapes, Back to Black, Boys on Film – A Night with Duran Duran, BROS: After the Screaming Stops (which had the largest number of iPlayer requests for a music programme broadcast in 2018) and The Defiant Ones on BBC Four.

Coming up this year, BBC One presents The Hit List a new music quiz show hosted by Rochelle and Marvin Humes as well as the ABBA special.

Andrei Kymach yn ennill BBC Canwr y Byd Caerdydd 2019

Y bariton Andrei Kymach, 31, o Wcráin, a gyhoeddwyd heno [dydd Sadwrn 22 Mehefin 2019] fel enillydd BBC Canwr y Byd Caerdydd 2019.

Yn dilyn y fuddugoliaeth, dywedodd Andrei Kymach: *"Mae'n brofiad anhygoel i gael ennill cystadleuaeth Canwr y Byd y BBC eleni. Mae'r freuddwyd wedi dod yn fyw. Gallaf gofio gwyllo'r gystadleuaeth pan o'n i'n fengach a wnaeth o ddim croesi fy meddwl mai fi fyddai'n ennill un diwrnod. Hoffwn ddiolch i'r beirniaid ac i bawb sydd ynghlwm wrth y gystadleuaeth am fod mor gefnogol a chroesawus."*

Perfformiodd Kymach ddarnau gan Bizet, Rachmaninov a Donizetti yn y rownd derfynol a gynhaliwyd yn Neuadd Dewi Sant, Caerdydd. Cyflwynodd Noddwr y gystadleuaeth, y Fonesig Kiri Te Kanawa, wobwr o £20,000 i'r enillydd (sydd wedi cynyddu eleni diolch i gefnogaeth gan Sefydliad y Fonesig Kiri Te Kanawa) a Thlws Caerdydd. Eleni am y tro cyntaf, cynigir cyfle hefyd i Kymach berfformio datganiad yn Neuadd y Frenhines Elizabeth yng Nghanolfan Southbank yn Llundain.

Panel nodedig o feirniaid a ddewisodd yr enillydd, a oedd yn cynnwys Syr David Pountney (cadeirydd), y cantorion enwog José Cura, y Fonesig Felicity Lott a Federica von Stade, a sylfaenydd Grange Park Opera Surrey, Wasfi Kani.

Roedd mwy na 400 o gantorion o bob rhan o'r byd wedi gwneud cais i BBC Canwr y Byd Caerdydd 2019, a chafodd 20 canwr o 15 gwlad eu dewis i gystadlu yn y gystadleuaeth. Ystyrir bod BBC Canwr y Byd yn un o'r cystadlaethau cerddoriaeth pwysicaf yn y byd, ac mae wedi lansio gyrfaoedd rhai o sêr mwyaf y byd opera, gan gynnwys Bryn Terfel, Jamie Barton, Karita Mattila, Dmitri Hvorostovsky a mwy.

Y pedwar canwr arall a gyrhaeddodd y rownd derfynol oedd Sooyeon Lee, Mingjie Lei, Guadalupe Barrientos a Patrick Guetti ac roedden nhw wedi canu arias a repertoire cyngerdd yn amrywio o Mozart i Copland gyda Cherddorfa Genedlaethol Gymreig y BBC yn cyfeilio, dan arweiniad Ariane Matiakh ac Ewa Strusińska.

Cyflwynwyd Gwobr y Gynulleidfa'r Fonesig Joan Sutherland o £2,500 i Katie Bray o Lloegr gan Richard Bonyng, yr arweinydd a gŵr noddwr cyntaf y gystadleuaeth - y soprano y Fonesig Joan Sutherland, sef y sawl y mae'r wobwr wedi'i henwi ar ei hôl. Cafodd y wobwr ei chyflwyno er cof am Dmitri Hvorostovsky, y bariton annwyl y mae colled fawr ar ei ôl a Chanwr y Byd Caerdydd yn 1989.

Dywedodd David Jackson, Cyfarwyddwr Artistig BBC Canwr y Byd Caerdydd: *"Mae bob un o'r 20 cystadleuydd yn enillwyr am eu bod wedi cyrraedd y rowndiau terfynol ac am greu cymaint o argraff ar bawb. Ond dim ond un all hawlio coron yr enillydd ac mae Andrei Kymach yn gwbl heuddianol o'r wobwr am ein swyno'n llwyr ac am y gallu anhygoel i gysylltu gyda'r gynulleidfa. Mae pawb sy'n gysylltiedig gyda'r gystadleuaeth arbennig hon yn edrych ymlaen at ddilyn ei hanes dros y blynyddoedd sydd i ddod."*

Cafodd BBC Canwr y Byd Caerdydd 2019 ei ddarlledu'n helaeth ar draws y BBC, gyda sylw ar y teledu ar BBC Four a BBC Two Wales, a sylw ar y radio ar BBC Radio 3 a BBC Radio Cymru. Gallwch wyllo a gwrando ar y perfformiadau ar BBC iPlayer, gwefan BBC Canwr y Byd Caerdydd, a BBC Sounds.

Cyhoeddwyd eisoes mai'r tenor Mingjie Lei o Tsieina a enillodd Gwobr y Gân.

Mae cystadleuaeth BBC Canwr y Byd Caerdydd yn cael ei threfnu gan BBC Cymru Wales ar y cyd ag Opera Cenedlaethol Cymru, ac mae'n cael cefnogaeth gan Gyngor Caerdydd.

bbc.co.uk/CardiffSinger

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NODIADAU I OLYGYDDION

Andrei Kymach

Cefais fy ngeni yn ardal Vinnitsa yn yr Wcráin, ac astudiais athroniaeth ym Mhrifysgol Genedlaethol Shevchenko yn yr Wcráin rhwng 2007 a 2010. Roeddwn i'n eithaf hwyr yn dechrau dangos diddordeb mewn cerddoriaeth, a hynny pan oeddwn i'n canu yng nghôr yr eglwys fel amatur. Fy narpar wraig wnaeth fy ysbrydoli i ddechrau astudio cerddoriaeth. Roedd hi'n astudio technegau lleisiol, a dywedodd wrthyf fod gan fy llais i lawer o botensial. Yn 2010, cychwynnais yn yr adran arwain lleisiol/corawl yn Academi Gerdd Genedlaethol Kiev, ac ym mis Medi 2016 ymunais â rhaglen artistiaid ifanc Theatr Bolshoi Rwsia. Yno, ym mis Ionawr 2017, y rhoddais fy mherfformiad cyntaf, a hynny'n chwarae rhan Don Carlos yn The Stone Guest gan Dargomyzhsky.

Ym mis Hydref 2018 perfformiais am y tro cyntaf yn y Liceu, Barcelona, yn chwarae rhan Syr Riccardo Forth (I puritani). Ym mis Tachwedd, cefais gyfle i ganu rhan yr Arglwydd Enrico Ashton (Lucia di Lammermoor) yn Tenerife, ac ym mis Ionawr a Chwefror eleni perfformiais y brif ran yn Don Giovanni yn Nice ac Antibes.

Yn y dyfodol, byddaf yn chwarae'r brif ran yn Demon gan Rubenstein gyda Grŵp Opera Chelsea yn Neuadd y Frenhines Elizabeth yn Llundain.

Gair am BBC Canwr y Byd Caerdydd

Mae cystadleuaeth BBC Canwr y Byd Caerdydd yn ddigwyddiad sy'n adnabyddus ym myd cerddoriaeth glasurol fel y prif lwyfan i gantorion opera a chantorion cyngerdd ar ddechrau eu gyrfa. Mae wedi lansio gyrfa rhai o'n sêr mwyaf, gan gynnwys Bryn Terfel, Karita Mattila, Dmitri Hvorostovsky, Anja Harteros a Jamie Barton.

BBC Cymru Wales sefydlodd BBC Canwr y Byd Caerdydd yn 1983 (J Mervyn Williams sy'n cael y clod am sefydlu'r gystadleuaeth), ac mae'n parhau i ddatblygu fformat y gystadleuaeth a sut y mae'n cael ei darlledu. Mae'r gystadleuaeth yn cael ei chynnal bob dwy flynedd ac yn cael ei threfnu ar y cyd ag Opera Cenedlaethol Cymru, gyda chefnogaeth Cyngor Dinas Caerdydd. Noddwr y gystadleuaeth yw'r Fonesig Kiri Te Kanawa a David Jackson yw'r cyfarwyddwr artistig.

Mae hi'n gystadleuaeth i gantorion sy'n cychwyn eu gyrfaedd proffesiynol, 18-32 oed. Ar ôl proses ddethol tri cham sy'n cynnwys DVD a chlyweliadau byw, mae 20 o gantorion yn cael eu gwahodd i gystadlu yng Nghaerdydd, i berfformio cerddoriaeth opera a chyngerdd gyda cherddorfa lawn mewn pedwar cyngerdd, gerbron rheithgor enwog. Bydd yr enillydd ymhob cyngerdd ynghyd ag un arall (y gorau o'r gweddill) yn cystadlu yn y rownd derfynol yn Neuadd Dewi Sant, Caerdydd.

Caiff y cantorion hefyd gystadlu mewn cystadleuaeth gyfochrog, sef Gwobr y Gân BBC Canwr y Byd Caerdydd, lle byddant yn perfformio caneuon celfyddyd i gyfeiliant piano. Mae'r rownd ragbrofol o bedwar datganiad yn cael ei chynnal yn Neuadd Dora Stoutzker yng Ngholeg Cerdd a Drama Cymru, a'r pum canwr a fydd yn cael eu dewis gan y rheithgor yn mynd yn eu blaenau i berfformio yn y rownd derfynol yn Neuadd Dewi Sant. Does dim modd cystadlu yng Ngwobr y Gân yn unig.

BBC Music

BBC Music yw ymrwymiad cryfaf y gorfforaeth i gerddoriaeth ers 30 mlynedd – mae'n cynnwys partneriaethau newydd a mentrau cerddoriaeth arloesol. Mae BBC Music wedi creu cymysgedd o gerddoriaeth ar gyfer ap BBC Sounds, sy'n dod â cherddoriaeth, radio a phodlediadau byw ac ar-alw hollbwysig at ei gilydd mewn gwefan ac ap wedi'i bersonoleiddio.

Ymhlith uchafbwyntiau y llynedd mae Biggest Weekend (gŵyl gerddoriaeth ar draws pedwar safle mewn pedair gwlad gyda mwy na 175 000 o bobl yn bresennol) gan BBC Music ym mis Mai yn ogystal â darllediadau byw o Wobr Mercury ar y teledu a'r radio ym mis Medi. Mae Deg Darn, y fenter cerddoriaeth glasurol ar gyfer ysgolion sy'n ceisio cyflwyno cerddoriaeth glasurol i blant, yn dychwelyd am ei chweched flwyddyn. Mae BBC Music yn cefnogi mentrau cenedlaethol sy'n cynnwys Diwrnod Siop Recordiau ac Wythnos Lleoliad Annibynnol, a bydd yn cyflwyno mewn sawl gŵyl yr haf ledled y DU eleni.

Mae'r rhaglenni teledu diweddar yn cynnwys: Kylie Live ar Radio 2 yn Hyde Park (a ddaeth â hi a Jason Donovan yn ôl at ei gilydd ar y llwyfan), Ariana Grande yn y BBC a Madness Rocks Big Ben

Live ar BBC One; Later... with Jools Holland, Our Classical Century, Cerddor Ifanc y BBC a David Bowie: Finding Fame ar BBC Two; Primal Scream: The Lost Memphis Tapes, Back to Black, Boys on Film – A Night with Duran Duran, BROS: After the Screaming Stops (a gafodd y nifer uchaf o geisiadau ar iPlayer am raglen gerddoriaeth a ddarledwyd yn 2018) a The Defiant Ones ar BBC Four.

Ar y gweill eleni, mae BBC One yn cyflwyno The Hit List, sef rhaglen gwis cerddoriaeth newydd a gyflwynir gan Rochelle a Marvin Humes, yn ogystal â rhaglen arbennig ABBA.