YORK EARLY MUSIC INTERNATIONAL YOUNG ARTISTS COMPETITION 2017
National Centre for Early Music, York
12, 13, 14 & 15 July 2017

RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

York Early Music Festival invites applications from ensembles to take part in the York Early Music International Young Artists Competition. The competition (Saturday 15 July) and preliminary recitals (Thursday 13 & Friday 14 July) will take place at the National Centre for Early Music as part of the York Early Music Festival.

The competition on Saturday 15 July will be judged by an international panel of performers and promoters. This panel (as well as the audience) regularly includes representatives of the broadcasting, recording, festival and music promotion worlds who see the competition as a prime opportunity to identify and select new and promising young talent. The competition recitals will be recorded by BBC Radio 3 and highlights featured on The Early Music Show. The competition can thus be a key stage on the way to national and international recognition for young performers.

The competition is supported by the National Centre for Early Music, BBC Radio 3, Arts Council England and Creative Europe.

PRIZES

First Prize:
- £1,000
- a paid concert as part of the 2018 York Early Music Festival
- a CD recording professionally produced by Linn Records, to be recorded in York. Travel and accommodation will be provided

YEMF Friends Prize
A prize of £250 awarded by the Friends of the York Early Music Festival to their chosen ensemble

Special prizes:

Cambridge Early Music Prize
A paid concert in Cambridge to take place within three years of the competition date, awarded by a member/s of Cambridge Early Music's Board of Trustees or staff to their chosen ensemble. The concert will be subject to the availability of the artists on the dates
offered, and subject to negotiation of fees. If any member of the winning ensemble has attended one of Cambridge Early Music’s Summer Schools as a full-time participant, a further award of £500 will be made to the chosen ensemble.

Emerging Prize
A place on the emerging (Emerging European Ensembles) programme, awarded by a panel of the project partners to their chosen ensemble. To be eligible for the prize, the majority of the ensemble members must be EU residents; and the ensemble must have been established for no longer than three years - that is, its first performance must have taken place since 15 July 2014.

Please note that a condition of acceptance of any of these prizes is that the winners include mention of the competition and the relevant prize in their biographies and website for a minimum period of 5 years from the date of the competition.

ELIGIBILITY

- Ensembles (instrumental and/or vocal, in any combination) must have a minimum of two members. Soloists are not eligible.
- There is no restriction to the maximum number in the ensemble but competitors should be aware that future professional viability may be limited for larger groups.
- All ensemble members must be adults, with their average age being 32 years or under on 15 July 2017
- Competitors must perform repertory from the period ranging from the middle ages to the nineteenth century using appropriate historically informed playing techniques, instruments and stylistic conventions
- Applications are welcomed from ensembles of all nationalities
- There is no restriction to the number of ensembles in which any individual can take part

HOW TO APPLY

Entries must be received no later than Tuesday 17 January 2017. The competition organisers reserve the right not to consider applications that are incomplete or received after the deadline.

Applications should be completed online at www.ncem.co.uk/youngartists2017. Please ensure that you include the name of your ensemble in the name of each file you upload. They must include the following.

- A completed online application form.
- An unedited audio recording in either digital or CD format. You should give the date and place of the recording and its contents. The recording must feature only the people who will take part in the competition. All individual members of the ensemble must be included. If not everyone is playing in every piece, name the players on each track. The timing and content of the recording is up to each ensemble but should demonstrate the group’s diversity and range of repertoire. It may include music related to your proposed competition programme, but this is not
obligatory. Audio files (mp3, mp4, wma or mpg) and links to audio recordings can be uploaded via the application form. If submitting a CD, obtain proof of posting and post in time for it to arrive at the NCEM no later than Tuesday 17 January 2017.

- **programme details for both the preliminary and competition recitals.** They must include the title of each recital; full names of composers with dates; full titles of pieces; titles of movements; full names of musicians and instruments. Care should be taken to ensure that these details are accurate, as they will be printed in the festival brochure if your application is successful. Translations and programme notes are not required at this stage.

- **biography** - of the ensemble (not of individuals), maximum 200 words.

- **letter of recommendation** from a prominent personality in musical life (such as a teacher or professional musician).

- **two recent photographs** of the ensemble (not of individuals) in high-resolution jpg files.

- **proof of age** of each member of the ensemble (such as passports or ID cards)

- **Fee of £100 per ensemble.** Fees must be paid by PayPal through the NCEM website. They are non-refundable. Please ensure that the name of the ensemble is included in the payment reference

Application forms must be completed, and all attachments uploaded no later than Tuesday 17 January 2017.

**SELECTION PROCESS**

**Initial selection process**
Finalists will be selected on the basis of their audio recording. No-one will be expected to come to York at this stage.

The initial selection panel will comprise the Artistic Advisers of the York Early Music Festival: John Bryan, Kati Debreteni, Lindsay Kemp and Peter Seymour, and the Director of the National Centre for Early Music, Delma Tomlin.

Successful entrants will be notified of their selection as finalists by Wednesday 1 February 2017.

Ensembles who are not selected as finalists will receive a short paragraph of feedback written by a member of the selection panel, if previously requested on the application form.

**Finalists – Wednesday 12 to Saturday 15 July 2017**
Finalists will be invited to come to York from 12 to 15 July 2017. There will be a reception from 6pm – 7.30pm on Wednesday 12 July to welcome them to York and enable them to meet each other and the competition team.

Limited rehearsal space at the NCEM will be available from Wednesday 12 July and rehearsal times will be allocated equally to each ensemble. Finalists will perform twice as part of York Early Music Festival – an informal preliminary recital and the competition recital. All performances will be open to the public and will take place at the National Centre for Early Music.
Preliminary recitals – Thursday 13 and Friday 14 July 2017
- Finalists will present an informal 20-minute recital (this is playing time and does not include tuning or preparation) in front of a public audience with no judges present
- The aim of these preliminary recitals is to give Finalists the opportunity to adapt to the performance space and get to know the audience in advance of the competition
- The recitals will be introduced to the audience by performer and musicologist John Bryan, who will invite the musicians to explore aspects of their performance with the aim of increasing their confidence and performance skills.

Competition Day – Saturday 15 July 2017
- The competition will take place throughout the day. All Finalists will take part
- Finalists will present a 20-minute programme (again, this is playing time only) in front of the panel of judges and a public audience.
- The programme for the competition must be different from that presented in the preliminary recital.
- The results will be announced and prizes awarded after the final concert.
- All competitors will be required to stay for photographs after the prize-giving.

Representatives of international early music festivals, networks and radio stations are invited to attend the competition on Saturday 15 July.

Please note that it is expected that all individuals will be in York from Wednesday 12 July until 7pm on Saturday 15 July 2017.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Competitors will be assessed on the following:
- choice of repertory – and a sustainable interesting repertory for future performances
- application of appropriate historical style of performance
- musicianship
- interpretation
- creativity of programme planning
- technical ability
- presentation – stage presence, rapport with audience, professionalism
- quality of programme notes
- overall contribution to the early music scene
- eventual professional viability
- professionalism of dealings with the Festival office

INFORMATION FOR FINALISTS

Keyboard instruments
The following keyboard instruments, provided by Andrew Wooderson and the NCEM, will be available for use by the competitors:
Large single manual harpsichord (Italian)
Tuned at A=415 Valotti

Small single manual harpsichord (Italian)
Tuned at A=440 in 1/4 comma meantone

Double manual harpsichord (Flemish)
Tuned at A=415 Valotti

Chamber organ
Tuned at A=415 Valotti and A=440 1/4 comma meantone

Forte piano (Viennese)
Tuned at A=430

Competitors are reminded that the amount of space and retuning time will be limited. Competitors are advised to select only one keyboard instrument for their final programme.

Accommodation
Finalists will be provided with accommodation in York free of charge for
- 4 nights (Wednesday 12 July to the morning of Sunday 16 July) for those from the UK
- 5 nights (Tuesday 11 July to the morning of Sunday 16 July) for those from mainland Europe
- 6 nights (Monday 10 July to the morning of Sunday 16 July) for long-haul competitors.

Travel
- The NCEM will pay for return economy travel tickets from your point of arrival/departure in the UK direct to York up to a maximum of £65 per person.
- Each ensemble is responsible for booking their own travel.
- Competitors are advised to book UK rail tickets 12 weeks in advance of travel for cheap tickets. They can be bought online at www.thetrainline.com and there is an option to collect tickets at your station of departure. Please note that you must have with you the credit card that the tickets were booked with.
- These travel expenses will be reimbursed by the NCEM once we have received your receipts and bank details.
- Finalists must retain and submit all used travel tickets.
- The NCEM will pay subsistence of £20 per person per day up to a maximum of four days

Programme notes
Programme notes for both preliminary and final recitals must be supplied by Friday 21 April 2017. They should include
- programme notes about the music and concept of the programme (250 words for each recital)
- name of the author/s
- translations of texts if applicable
Recording and distribution
- The organisers reserve the right to record or arrange for the recording of any of the preliminary or competition recitals, and to organise broadcasts and/or distribution (such as REMA radio) without recompense to the competitors
- The BBC will record the competition for future broadcast of the highlights
- The NCEM will livestream the competition. The recording of the livestream will be posted on the NCEM website after the event

Other regulations
- There is no appeal against the decisions of the jury
- Participants will compete in the order given
- Each competitor will receive a programme and a free ticket to one of the evening concerts in the York Early Music Festival
- Tickets for the competition day - competitors will be given one week’s priority booking before tickets go on general sale. They sell out fast so friends and family should book both tickets and accommodation early to avoid disappointment.
- All participants must be fully acquainted with the regulations and schedules

For updated information about the 2017 York Early Music International Young Artists Competition see www.ncem.co.uk/youngartists2017

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