

PRESS RELEASE

Frankfurt am Main, June 1, 2006

3rd International Conductors' Competition Sir Georg Solti: More than 500 applicants from all over the world Ticket sales for the public finale have started on May 15, 2006

With more than 500 applications from 72 countries around the world, the International Conductors' Competition Sir Georg Solti, taking place for the third time now in September 2006, has already become established as an institution in the international classical music scene. For the first competition in 2002, 170 young conductors applied; and for the second competition in 2004 there were a solid 200 applicants.

The youngest applicant this time around is 19 and the oldest 35. Most of the applications come from the USA (61), followed by Russia (41), Germany (38), Japan (36) and Korea (31). The number of women has risen compared to 2004 by 10, to 32 female applicants this year.

Over the next few weeks, up to 24 candidates will be selected to be invited to the competition based on the documents received. For the first time, the entire competition – preliminary rounds and finale – will be held in Frankfurt am Main and completed within one week. This has been made possible by the newly agreed cooperation with Hessischer Rundfunk, whose **hr-Sinfonieorchester**, together with the **Frankfurter Museumsorchester**, will be participating in the rounds of the competition. The two renowned Frankfurt orchestras will alternate in playing in the preliminary and end rounds: this year, the hr-Sinfonieorchester will handle the preliminary decision and the Museumsorchester will participate in the final rounds. In 2008, the Museumsorchester will take the preliminary rounds, and the hr-Sinfonieorchester the finale. With this orchestral support, the Georg Solti Conductors' Competition is the only one of its kind in the world.

Also new this year: there were no application fees, and the invited candidate will not have to pay any costs for accommodations, but only their travel expenses. As a result, thanks to the generous support from the **Deutsche Bank Foundation**, young conductors from financially disadvantaged regions and backgrounds will also be able to participate. The Deutsche Bank Foundation, through its generous financial commitment, has made the competition possible right from the start, and is continuing its support and partnership as the principal sponsor. Furthermore, it will again be providing the prize money totalling € 30,000.

The two preliminary rounds of the competition will be taking place from September 4 to 7 in the broadcasting hall of Hessischer Rundfunk, and the final decision rounds will be from September 8 to 10 in the Alte Oper Frankfurt. At a **finale concert open to the public on Sunday, September 10, 2006, at 11 a.m. in the Alte Oper Frankfurt**, the jury will determine the three finalists' awards. The first prize in the competition is endowed with € 15,000, the second prize with € 10,000 and the third prize with € 5,000. The winners of the first and second prizes will also be invited to conduct the Frankfurter Museumsorchester and the hr-Sinfonieorchester as well as other German and international orchestras.

INTERNATIONALER
DIRIGENTENWETTBEWERB
SIR GEORG SOLTI



FRANKFURT AM MAIN
INTERNATIONAL CONDUCTORS COMPETITION

Ihr Kontakt:

Internationaler Dirigentenwettbewerb
Sir Georg Solti
Alte Oper Frankfurt, Presseabteilung
Postfach 170151
60075 Frankfurt am Main
Telefon 069 / 1340-321 / -385
Telefax 069 / 1340-208
presse@alteoper.de



The jury for the final rounds will be chaired by Dr. Rolf-E. Breuer and comprises the following members:

Lady Valerie Solti, Paolo Carignani (General Music Director of the Frankfurt Opera), Paavo Järvi (designated Music Director of the hr-Sinfonieorchester, Music Director of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and Artistic Director of the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen), Peter Ruzicka (Director of the Salzburg Festival, Artistic Director of the Munich Biennale, composer and conductor), Ulrich Edelmann (Conductor of the Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra) and Wolfgang Sandner (music critic with the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung and Professor at Frankfurt College of Music and Performing Arts).

Ticket sales for the finale open to the public have started on Monday, May 15, 2006.

Tickets ranges from € 12 to € 36 and are available by calling tel. +49 (0)69 1340-400.

Additional information is available at: www.dirigentenwettbewerb-solti.de

We please request publication.

Best regards,

Press Department

ALTE OPER FRANKFURT

The International Conductors' Competition Sir Georg Solti is a joint project of the Alte Oper Frankfurt, the Frankfurter Museums-Gesellschaft e. V., the Hessischer Rundfunk, the Frankfurt Opera and the Deutsche Bank Foundation. Lady Valerie Solti is Patroness of the Competition.