

## MERIKANTO SINGING COMPETITION

The goal of the competition is to highlight the large compositional work of our cherished Oskar Merikanto. Taking on the modern vocal music of Aarre Merikanto, son of Oskar Merikanto, adds an interesting dimension to the competition. Merikanto competition aims also at finding young world-class singers and offering them a chance to acquire visibility and appreciation through the competition.

The next Merikanto singing competition will be arranged in the summer of 2013. Finnish citizens and foreign citizens permanently living in Finland can take part in Merikanto singing competition. Contestants must be under 35 years of age. III Merikanto singing competition was held in Mäntyharju on Sun 5th of July 2009, the semifinal at 1 p.m. and the final at 6 p.m. The winners of the competition were mezzosoprano Maija Skille (1st place), bariton Jussi Merikanto (2nd place) and soprano Hedvig Paulig (3rd place).

Pictures: Hedvig Paulig, Jussi Merikanto and Maija Skille{gallery}merikanto/Voittajat09{/gallery} Merikanto singers 2009 were: Kajsa Dahlbäck, soprano

Terttu Iso-Oja, soprano

Pauliina Linnosaari, soprano

Marion Melnik, soprano

Hedvig Paulig, soprano

Susanna Tuhkala, soprano

Emilia Vesalainen, soprano

Helena Lehmuskero, mezzosoprano

Elisabeth Lipinsky, mezzosoprano

Jeni Packalén, mezzosoprano

Maija Skille, mezzosoprano

Ossi Jauhiainen, tenor

Mikko Kilkkinen, tenor

Joonas Asikainen, baritone

Petteri Lehtikainen, baritone

Teijo Lindström, baritone

Jussi Merikanto, bassbaritone

Prizes were given away a total of 12.000 €. The winners also receive valuable sculptures made by Ukri Merikanto, son of Aarre Merikanto.

Competition jury 2009: Tv/radio producer Aarno Cronvall, chairman of the jury Rector of Sibelius Academy Gustav

Djupsjöbacka Opera singer Cynthia Makris Opera singer Gabriel Suovanen

Opera singer Jaakko Kortekangas

Överst till vänster: Cronvall, Makris, Suovanen, Djupsjöbacka och

Kortekangas{gallery}merikanto/Tuomarit{/gallery} COMPETITIONS 2001 AND 2005

The first Merikanto singing competition was organised in 2001. The winners of the competition were baritone Tommi Hakala (1st place), soprano Mari Palo (2nd place) and soprano Helena Juntunen (3rd place). The jury of the competition was comprised of opera singers Heljä Angervo, Taru Valjakka and Esa Ruuttunen, pianist Gustav Djupsjöbacka as well as TV producer Aarno Cronvall.

{gallery}merikanto/Voittajat01{/gallery} Picture: Mari Palo, Tommi Hakala and Helena Juntunen. In the second national Merikanto singing competition on 3rd of July 2005, first place went to mezzosoprano Essi Luttinen. Baritone Jussi Ziegler took second place and soprano Ilona Jokinen third place. The jury was comprised of opera singers Monica Groop and Jorma Hynninen as well as rector of Sibelius Academy Gustav Djupsjöbacka and, as a chairman of the jury, TV producer Aarno Cronvall.

Pictures: Essi Luttinen, Ilona Jokinen and Jussi Ziegler{gallery}merikanto/Voittajat05{/gallery}

{gallery}merikanto/Barcarole{/gallery} Ukri Merikanto: sculpture 'Barcarole' More information about the Merikanto singing competition from Art Centre Salmela's office: +358 (0)5 387 370 or info@taidekeskussalmela.fi

Application form and competition rules 2009 in Finnish and Swedish:

Kilpailusäännöt ja ilmoittautumislomake (pdf) Tävlingsregler och anmälningsblankett (pdf)

Brochure in Finnish: Kilpailuesite (pdf)

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