Basel, May 2nd 2025

PRESS RELEASE Art Song Challenge (ASC) 2025

Five artists nominated – now the audience decides

With over 130 submissions from 29 countries, the first edition of the Art Song Challenge (ASC) has been an overwhelming success. From 10 to 17 May 2025, art song lovers worldwide will vote to determine the winner of the Audience Award.

The response exceeded our boldest expectations. The fact that so many outstanding artists applied – each with a unique artistic voice – shows that the ASC resonates far beyond the classical music world.

Submissions ranged from traditional art song interpretations to bold programmatic concepts and rarely heard song traditions – from countries like Iran, Serbia, Ukraine or Bengal. The ASC is more than a competition – it's a powerful platform for cultural exchange and the global renewal of the genre.

Partner Festivals Nominate Their Favorites

The ASC partner festivals – LIEDBasel, Leeds Song, Schubertíada Barcelona, Liedstadt, and Heidelberger Frühling – have selected five acts for the Audience Award. Their shortlist reflects the artistic and geographical richness of today's song scene:

🇩🇪 Gerda Iguchi (Germany)
🇱🇻🇫🇷 Katrīna Paula Felsberga & Justine Eckhaut (Latvia / France)
🇦🇹 Lena Kuchling & Bernhard Höchtel (Austria)
🇷🇺🇧🇬 Mikhail Timoshenko & Elitsa Desseva (Russia / Bulgaria)
🇮🇳🇩🇪 Nishad Pandey & Arko Mukhaerjee (Germany / India)

Full artist profiles and videos: https://liedbasel.ch/asc-publikumspreis-2025/

Audience Voting: 10–17 May

It's up to the audience now: from 10 to 17 May, fans around the world can cast their vote – via the partner festivals' social media channels or directly here: https://liedbasel.ch/asc-publikumspreis-2025/

The Audience Award is endowed with €1,000, sponsored by the partner festivals.

About the Art Song Challenge (ASC)

In the Eurovision year 2025, international art song festivals are bringing fresh competitive energy to the classical music scene with the **Art Song Challenge (ASC)**. While the Eurovision Song Contest dominates the cultural spotlight in Basel, we are collecting video submissions from professional musicians around the world and awarding concert engagements – with the goal of spotlighting emerging talent, showcasing underrepresented song cultures, creating fairer access beyond traditional audition systems, and launching new stages and perspectives with international reach for a diverse, intergenerational audience – far beyond the Eurovision spring in Basel.

Press Material & Contact

Artist profiles, photos & videos:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1WHMq-xdpyLFOjf8hlP-lKQOHXvvxCc34?usp=drive_link

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