



Louisville Bach Society

4607 Hanford Lane
Louisville, Kentucky 40207
Melvin Dickinson, Artistic Director

Although the Louisville Bach Society has just finished its 44th year, the LBS is always looking for new things to offer. And here is a brand new venture for the Bach Society! On May 17, 2008, a FIRST for the Bach Society will be presented in the form of the Gerhard Herz Young Artist Competition in Vocal Performance. The competition is named for the late Dr. Herz, a noted Bach authority who taught for decades at the University of Louisville and was particularly interested in the work of the Louisville Bach Society.

Building upon the suggestion of Julianne Baird (Professor of Singing at Rutgers University and a world famous soprano who has performed often with the LBS and is an experienced judge at such events), a committee of the LBS Board of Directors designed and distributed a brochure nationwide describing the competition and inviting singers ages 18-32 to compete.

The competition offers a first prize of \$3,500, a second prize of \$1,500, and a third prize of \$1,000. Opportunity to perform with the LBS in the future is also indicated. The response and interest generated were phenomenal, with 28 final responses. Judges for the competition are headed by Julianne Baird, and include Professors Daniel Weeks and Melvin Dickinson of the University of Louisville, along with Louisville musicians Antoinette Hardin, Bryan Hoover, and Will Simpson. The original list was narrowed to seven finalists in April, and they will be brought to Louisville to compete from 10:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. on May 17 in the Dickinson Bach Haus. The finalists are from many parts of the USA: Michigan, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Illinois, Washington DC, Massachusetts, and Indiana.

At the conclusion of the Bach Haus competition, three will be chosen to receive the prizes, and those three will be featured in a public performance of their competition pieces. This recital will take place at 7:00 p.m. on May 17 in Byrd Recital Hall at the University of Louisville School of Music. As stated, the public is cordially invited to attend this free event. After (and only after!) all three contestants have performed with pianist Deborah Dierks will the first, second, and third place winners be announced.

The Bach Society is pleased and proud to host this Gerhard Herz Young Artist Competition, in order to encourage and promote the musicianship of our younger generation and to showcase their artistic capabilities. We hope you will also be pleased to announce this series of events to your readership, and we cordially invite you to join us on May 17.

