

Kultur

2nd Josephine Lang Lied Duo Competition

Tübingen, Germany, 11 to 14 March 2026



www.tuebingen.de/liedwettbewerb

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The Josephine Lang Lied Duo Competition aims to make female composers and their Lieder better known to musicians and audiences. It is dedicated to the composer Josephine Caroline Lang (1815-1880), who lived in Tübingen from 1842 until her death. She composed more than 300 Lieder and found important supporters in Felix Mendelssohn, Ferdinand Hiller and Clara Schumann.

Singer and pianist duos are invited to compete for the best Lied interpretation by performing pieces by Josephine Lang and other female composers from the Romantic period to the present day. The competition welcomes up-and-coming musicians as well as experienced professional musicians. There are no age or gender restrictions.

The 1st Josephine Lang Competition in 2023 inspired Lied duos from over 30 nations to take part.

At the 2nd Josephine Lang Competition in 2026 there will be a special focus on Luise Greger (1861-1944) and Margarete Schweikert (1887-1957). These two composers, who have received little attention to date, created impressive musical works in times of great political and cultural upheaval and under difficult social and personal conditions. Their oeuvre includes numerous Lieder.





Margarete Schweikert

Luise Greger

Prizes

An expert jury under the guidance of singer Sibylla Rubens will award the prizes, which amount in total to EUR 25,000:

1st main prize, kindly provided by the Wüstenrot Foundation: EUR 10,000 2nd main prize: EUR 6,000 3rd main prize: EUR 4,000

Special prize from the Tübingen concert audience, kindly provided by the Eberhard Karls University Tübingen: An invitation to perform a Lied soirée featuring female composers in the cultural association Zehntscheuer e. V. in Rottenburg am Neckar on 11 October 2026: Fee EUR 2,000.

Special prize from musica femina münchen e. V. for the best interpretation of a contemporary composition: Performance at a concert organised by musica femina münchen e. V.: Fee EUR 1,000.

Young Talent Award, kindly provided by Ritter Sport: EUR 2,000.

The prize money will be shared equally between the duo partners. The jury reserves the right to divide or not to award prizes. The prize money for the Young Talent Award can be granted in full to individuals.



Jury, repertoire, registration and conditions of participation

Jury

Sibylla Rubens, singer (chair) Anke Vondung, singer Christian Elsner, singer Barbara Baun, Lied pianist Karola Theill, Lied pianist Thomas Johannes Mandl, conductor Jeannette La-Deur, pianist (guest juror 2026)

Other jurors

Philipp Amelung, conductor (pre-selection) Daniela Debus, cultural manager (pre-selection) Matthias Ehm, cultural manager (pre-selection) Ute Ziemer, singer, and other members of the board of musica femina münchen e. V. (special prize for the best interpretation of a contemporary Lied)

Competition repertoire

9 Lieder by Josephine Lang

6 Lieder by Luise Greger and/or Margarete Schweikert

3 Lieder by contemporary female composers

Registration

Wednesday, 1 October 2025, to Friday, 31 October 2025, including a list of the competition repertoire, as well as three video recordings of repertoire performance. Registration fee per Lied duo: EUR 50.

Conditions of participation

Full conditions of participation, repertoire recommendations and further information on the competition can be found here: www.tuebingen.de/liedwettbewerb

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We thank the Kreissparkasse Tübingen, the Wüstenrot-Foundation, the Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen, the Hochschule für Kirchenmusik Tübingen, musica femina münchen e. V., Alfred Ritter GmbH & Co. KG, all cooperation partners as well as Dr. Elke Roßkamp (née Knapp) and Dr. Ulrich Köstlin for their kind and generous support of the 2nd Josephine Lang competition.

Our special thanks also goes to Sharon Krebs and Prof. emeritus Dr. Harald Krebs for their tireless efforts in the field of Josephine Lang research and their sound advice about Josephine Lang projects in Tübingen.



"[...] Lang's songs, which I like so much that I play them and play them again and cannot tear myself away from them [...] the whole day I have sung especially that one alto song and told everyone about it [...]. The pieces are so thoroughly musical in their innermost soul, the modulations often so meaningful and unique that I take great pleasure in them. If I had gotten to know her in Munich as you did, I would certainly write to her to tell her so."

Fanny Hensel to Felix Mendelssohn, 1841

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Double portrait Josephine Lang 1842/1870: Swen Marcel Images: Luise Greger and Margarete Schweikert © public domain

Layout and printing: Reprostelle Hausdruckerei