

## Radio 2 Kiri Prize – semi-finalists announced

**Date:** 12.05.2010

**Category:** Radio 2; Proms & Orchestras

Fifteen talented singers have been selected to go through to the semi-finals of the **BBC Radio 2 Kiri Prize**, a nationwide hunt with **Dame Kiri Te Kanawa** to find an opera star of the future.

The initiative, which further demonstrates Radio 2's commitment to supporting talent across a wide range of genres, launched in January 2010. Following regional auditions, 40 singers were invited to attend masterclasses in London with Dame Kiri, mezzo-soprano **Anne Howells** and renowned conductor **Robin Stapleton**. Fifteen performers have now been selected to go through to the semi final stages.

**Anthony Cherry**, Executive Producer, Radio 2 Kiri Prize, says: "We were extremely impressed by the high standard of the 630 entrants to the Radio 2 Kiri Prize. These 15 singers have impressed the judges with their talent and dedication and now have the chance to perform with the BBC Concert Orchestra at the semi finals stage. It's about to get even tougher for the contestants and the judges, as they look for five finalists from these 15. Radio 2 is proud to give one lucky person the unique opportunity to perform on stage with Dame Kiri and, we hope, go on to become an opera star of the future."

The semi-finalists are invited to perform in one of five special **Friday Night Is Music Night** programmes accompanied by the **BBC Concert Orchestra**. Their performances will be judged by Dame Kiri, Anne Howells, Robin Stapleton and director **John Cox**. These programmes can be heard on Radio 2 on Fridays at 8pm from 30 July to 27 August.

Five singers will then go through to the final which is broadcast on Radio 2 on Friday 3 September. **Penny Smith** joins Radio 2 for the first time as presenter of the semi-finals and the final.

The winner will perform with Dame Kiri at **BBC Proms In The Park** in London's Hyde Park on Saturday 11 September and be given the opportunity to attend a three-week residential course at the Solti Te Kanawa Accademia in Italy.

### **Hannah Bradbury – Soprano**

Hannah began her voice training at the Junior Royal Northern College of Music. She is a postgraduate on the Royal Academy of Music's Preparatory Opera Course and her concert work includes Handel's Messiah and Carmina Burana. Hannah is from Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire.