



The Association of English Singers & Speakers

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The ‘Themed’ Recital

In response to concerns raised by past judges of the ‘Catherine Lambert Junior Recital Prize’, here are a few points that you and your teacher might like to consider with regard to the content and presentation of your chosen programme.

- 1) The ‘theme’ should not be so wide that it becomes meaningless, for example ‘Love songs’. Try something different and unusual to catch the attention of the judges.
- 2) The songs, poetry and/or prose should reflect the ‘theme’, an obvious point but not always followed.
- 3) The audience will have a programme. We do not need to know that you are ‘John Smith’ and 17 years old and that your first song will be..... and you would now like to recite..... etc. etc.
- 4) The most interesting performances link the theme of the programme to each individual item. With careful planning the items might only need a few words of introduction, before running seamlessly from beginning to end in a self-explanatory way. Or it might be entertaining for the audience to hear and understand why you made the choices you did.
- 5) Although singing a setting of and reciting the same poem might prove interesting, it is more difficult to bring off than choosing different pieces.
- 6) As long as you sing Art Song in English and include a piece of poetry and or prose as stated in the prospectus, you have a completely free rein to create something unique. Use your imagination and live dangerously!