

Courtney Kenny writes about his thoughts on how entrants should approach the Courtney Kenny Award

“I am delighted to fund this competition, but would like to offer a few words to prospective participants. It is not good enough just to sing the songs, and speak the prose. I have found many times in the past that teachers are only interested in producing a beautiful line of sound. This is really only a very small part of the process of singing. The MOST important things are: a) putting the text across – which means really good diction; b) eye contact with your audience; c) making sense of the texts – both spoken and sung.

Often we feel cheated by the length of the spoken texts; choose something fairly substantial, rather than just a few lines of a speech. But above all, SELL the songs to us – we really want to hear just how much you can do with the text, as well as the actual vocal side. Good luck with your choices!
Courtney Kenny.”