

## **2019 Winner, Milly Forrest writes of her experience in the Patricia Routledge National English Song Competition**

Singing in the Patricia Routledge competition was pure joy for me. I truly enjoyed every minute of music making with my wonderful accompanist George Ireland. It was also a celebration as I have just completed my studies at Music College and I tried to pour all of what I had learnt into my performance in the semi-final and final round. It was freeing to be able to show so much of my character in my introductions and I chose poems that spoke to me in some way. It was so lovely to be in a competitive environment that encouraged such freedom and creativity. What I realised after being awarded first prize is that you don't have to make a perfect sound all the time in order to win. In fact, it seems to be honesty and a true love of the English language that the AESS celebrates. Thank you for such a wonderfully uplifting competition experience.