Speech by Lord Mayor Jürgen Roters at the reception on the occasion of the finals of the Eurovision Young Musicians Contest on 31 May 2014, 10.30 p.m., Historical City Hall

Es gilt das gesprochene Wort!

Dear Minister,
dear Ms. Brinkmann,
distinguished Consuls and Representatives from politics and administration,
dear Culture and music enthusiasts,
my dear contest participants,
dear organisers of the contest,

I would like to welcome you here in the Historical City Hall of Cologne! We have just experienced an impressive final concert of the European Young Musicians Contest on the Roncalli square. At the same time the jury has revealed its voting and announced its decision. Great award winners have been found and they can rightly be proud of themselves!

The Europe-wide broadcasting of the final concert in front of the impressive backdrop of Cologne cathedral has been an outstanding event in the music life of our city. This would not have been possible without strong partners. First of all, the European Broadcasting Union and Westdeutscher Rundfunk as the hosting broadcaster have to be mentioned. Thanks to their initiative and commitment millions of music fans in Europe have tuned into Cologne tonight. But also the State Chancellery of North Rhine-Westphalia, the Arts Foundation of North Rhine-Westphalia, the Landesmusikrat and the Rheinische Musikschule have contributed to tonight’s success. My sincere thanks go to all of you.

But this event is about the young musicians and it is these that I would like to thank in particular. You have superbly demonstrated your talent and your skills. And you have given a lot of pleasure to many listeners in the square and around Europe. Unfortunately not all of you could win an award – although you would have deserved it!
I wish you a pleasant ending of a certainly exciting week here in the Cologne City Hall.