



Background information

Bonn, June 2011

4th International Telekom Beethoven Competition Bonn

- An opportunity to win prize money totaling EUR 64,000 and international concert engagements.
- The deadline for applications was May 31, 2011.

245 applicants from 44 nations, 86 participants, nine finalists and over 18,000 enthusiastic audience members at the public auditions and concerts – that is how the current balance sheet for the International Telekom Beethoven Competition Bonn stacks up. The piano competition that was inaugurated in 2005 and has taken place every two years since then is being held for the fourth time this year. From December 2 to 10, young pianists will once again compete in interpreting the music of Bonn's most famous son, Ludwig van Beethoven.

The following are eligible to participate: young artists from all nations whose year of birth is between 1979 and 1993. Talented young people could register online at www.telekom-beethoven-competition.de up to May 31, 2011. All other application documents, including any video material, had to be submitted by post. A distinguished selection commission chose 24 applicants to invite to Bonn. A challenging competition program awaits them there. The quality of the performances will be judged by a prominent international jury made up of

celebrated pianists, university professors and cultural managers. The participants are asked to interact with Beethoven's works individually and artistically.

The repertoire for the competition therefore includes compositions from all of Beethoven's creative periods. However, participants must also prove themselves in music by other composers from the Baroque, German Romantic and Classical Modern periods, as well as the 21st century, such as the music of Johann Sebastian Bach, George Frideric Handel or Dmitri Shostakovich.

Attractive prize money and concert engagements

The International Telekom Beethoven Competition has established itself as a key competition for young talent. Today previous winners are sought-after artists with concert engagements around the world. "With this competition, we are pursuing a dual objective," explains Professor Pavel Gililov, Artistic Director and Chairman of the Jury. "We wish to promote talented young artists and help them as they take the first steps in their careers. However, we also wish to emphasize the importance of Beethoven for the world of music and keep his outstanding body of work alive." The assistance provided to young pianists takes the form of handsome prize money and concert appearances. The winner will receive EUR 30,000 in prize money, for second place there is EUR 20,000 and for third place EUR 10,000. The audience also awards a prize to the competitor it considers the best finalist, who will additionally receive EUR 3,000. And there is a special prize for chamber music, which is worth EUR 1,000. All the prize money is donated by Deutsche Telekom. G. Henle-Verlag is also providing sheet-music prizes for the three finalists worth EUR 2,500. On the day after the final, the audience's favorite from the second judging round will be invited by the Beethoven House to give a concert in the Chamber Music Hall.

The concert appearances that are arranged for them are perhaps even more important for the young pianists' future careers than the financial support. The

competition has close links with major orchestras such as the Musica Viva Academic Chamber Orchestra in Moscow and the Slovak Philharmonic, as well as with famous events such as the Emilia Romagna Festival in Imola, Italy, the Ruhr Piano Festival and other festivals in Paris, Portugal, the Netherlands, Poland, Austria and Germany. These concert partners have also already offered interesting engagements for the future winners of the 2011 competition, including engagements in Germany's most prestigious concert halls such as the Herkulesaal in Munich, the Liederhalle in Stuttgart and the Konzerthaus in Berlin.

Challenging competition program for 2011

To mark the official opening of the competition and welcome the 24 participants who have traveled to compete, the three 2009 competition winners will play at a welcome concert at the Deutsche Telekom headquarters in Bonn on December 1, 2011. On the way to the final, the participants will have to get through three rounds, and half of the young pianists will be eliminated at the end of each of these. The semi-final on December 8, 2011 is traditionally accompanied by famous chamber musicians. This year they are the German-Romanian Mihaela Martin (violin) and the Swede Frans Helmerson (cello) – both professors at the Cologne Academy of Music. The final decision will be made in the Beethovenhalle in Bonn on December 10, 2011. At a gala concert with the Beethoven Orchestra Bonn under its Chief Conductor, Stefan Blunier, the winner of the fourth International Telekom Beethoven Competition Bonn will be chosen from the three remaining finalists.



A strong belief in sponsorship of the arts

“Culture unites people and that is why it is fitting that Deutsche Telekom supports music and art. As one of the leading companies for information and communication technology, we connect millions of people every day,” explains Timotheus Höttges, Chairman of the Organizational Committee and Chief Financial Officer at Deutsche Telekom. “Promotion of the arts and promotion of music in particular are a core element of our corporate social commitment.” In addition to the International Telekom Beethoven Competition, the company also sponsors the highly-regarded Beethoven festival in Bonn, the Ruhr Piano Festival and other projects, including some in the area of modern popular music.

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Further information can be found at: www.telekom-beethoven-competition.de
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