



Bonn, February 28, 2007

Beethoven Competition Bonn: Closing date for Applications

Pianists aged between 20 and 32 from all over the world have until May 31, 2007 to apply to take part in the 2nd International Beethoven Competition for Piano in Bonn. The competition, hosted by Deutsche Telekom, will again enjoy the patronage of the German Federal President Horst Köhler.

When the competition was inaugurated in 2005, the organizers were still quite unsure whether there would be enough applicants; but this year, there are already early indications of huge worldwide interest. In December 2006 alone, the competition website registered almost 9,200 visitors, and close to 4,500 copies of the entry brochure had been downloaded by January 2007.

The main reason for this interest is not just generous cash prizes totaling over EUR 70,000. The enthusiastic response in the world of music to the first running of the competition over a year ago made young musicians sit up and listen, and the composition of the Honorary Committee and the Jury reads like a “Who’s who?” of the classical music scene. The prize winners will also have the opportunity to perform at concerts in Germany and abroad; last year, for example, the prize winners shone in Japan.

Henri Sigfridsson “proved himself a real virtuoso, and the sounds that he coaxed from the piano had an almost orchestral timbre – magnificent”, wrote the Japanese music magazine “Ongaku no Tomo” of the 2005 winner. Norie Takahashi, second in the competition and winner of the prize for contemporary music, also performed in Japan, demonstrating “piano skills impressing with her plain and very poetic playing”. With her “objective but always appropriate interpretation of Ligeti”, she drew torrents of applause from the audience,

continued the magazine. Referring to the youngest winner, the magazine describes the 21-year-old third prize winner, David Kadouch as a pianist with extraordinary finger skills and impressive expression “freely changing between the different moods.“

In June, a selection committee headed by Pavel Gililov will select 32 participants who will be invited to Bonn between December 3-13, 2007 where they will be able to demonstrate their technical perfection and, above all, their artistic maturity. The repertoire places Beethoven’s piano works in their historical context, from the Baroque to the present day.

Dimitri Bashkirov, Homero Francesch, Karl-Heinz Kämmerling, Andrea Lucchesini, Dominique Merlet, Melvyn Tan, Arie Vardi and Oxana Yablonskaya have agreed to serve as members of the jury chaired by Pavel Gililov.

Information and registration forms available from **www.beethoven-competition-bonn.de**

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