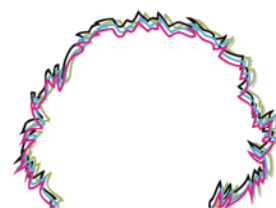




INTERNATIONALTELEKOM
BEETHOVEN
COMPETITIONBONN



Media information

Bonn, 17 June 2011

Prelude to the 4th International Telekom Beethoven Competition Bonn 2011

- 24 young pianists from 15 countries selected
- Hot competition phase from 2 to 10 December 2011
- Hinrich Alpers enchants audience at a soiree in the Beethovenhaus

24 of the 93 young pianists who submitted entries have been selected to take part in the competition. In a week-long selection process, the International Telekom Beethoven Competition Bonn's Selection Committee chose the musicians who will participate in the famous young pianist competition in Bonn. The 11 women and 13 men are from 15 different nations including China, Korea, the USA, Russia, Australia, Germany and, for the first time, Serbia and Luxembourg. Between 2 and 10 December 2011, they will be performing their interpretations of classical piano music in several competition rounds. The person who takes home the EUR 30,000 prize money this year will be decided at a grand finale on 10 December at Beethovenhalle in Bonn.

"We're delighted that the number of entries has increased again since last time. It just goes to prove that the International Telekom Beethoven Competition is now an internationally recognised and popular contest for pianists," said Timotheus Höttges, CFO of Deutsche Telekom and Chairman of the

Organisation Committee, emphasising the significance of this competition for young pianists. “I’m looking forward to an exciting competition.”

Once again, the entrants had to satisfy discerning selection criteria. They were required to prepare a fugue by Johann Sebastian Bach or Georg Friedrich Händel, plus one of the last three sonatas written by Ludwig van Beethoven, make a video recording of their performance and send it to the Selection Committee. The Selection Committee then decided which of these entrants would be allowed to participate in the competition. Its members include the Artistic Director of the competition and Chairman of the Jury, Professor Pavel Gililov as well as Professor Klaus Kaufmann, Piano Professor at the University of Music and Dramatic Arts Mozarteum Salzburg, and Professor Sergej Maltsev, Professor at the St. Petersburg State Conservatory.

“It was a difficult decision to make because most of the entries were of an extremely high quality,” said Professor Pavel Gililov. One of the key decision criteria, in addition to technical performance, was the young pianists’ emotional expression. “The differences in quality of interpretation often result from the pianist’s intensity of identification with the piece.”

Prize winner soiree with Hinrich Alpers

As a prelude to this year’s competition, the 2009 prize winner Hinrich Alpers performed at a festive soiree tonight. Playing with his wife, Sabine Frick, he interpreted four sonatas for the piano and violoncello by Ludwig van Beethoven, Claude Debussy and Gabriel Fauré. The duo enchanted the audience with a harmonious performance, an obvious devotion to the music and their outstanding artistic virtuosity. Playing to a full house in the Chamber Music Hall at Beethovenhaus in Bonn, they were rewarded with several minutes of applause.

“I was delighted to be able to play here this evening as a prelude to the International Telekom Beethoven Competition. I still remember exactly how

excited I felt when I was waiting for the Selection Committee's decision two years ago," recalled Alpers.

Hinrich Alpers completed a degree in music at the Hanover Conservatory. He has already performed at major concert halls such as the Berlin Philharmonie and Carnegie Hall in New York. Sabine Frick is a member of several chamber music groups in New York and Berlin. She plays with the Bamberg Symphony Orchestra and the NDR's Radio Philharmonic Orchestra in Hanover. These two exceptionally talented musicians met each other as students of the Juilliard School in New York. Since then, they have been performing regularly together in Germany and abroad.

Welcome concert and final

Anyone who missed the prize winner's soiree can see Hinrich Alpers playing live again on 1 December 2011 at the Deutsche Telekom headquarters in Bonn. He and the other 2009 prize winners, Jordi Bitlloch and Einav Yarden, will be performing a welcome concert for this year's competitors. Then the 24 candidates enter the hot phase of the competition. From 2 December onwards, they will be performing before an international jury of music experts. On 10 December, the grand final concert will be held in Bonn's Beethovenhalle with the Bonn Beethoven Orchestra, when Music Director General, Stefan Blunier, will present the prizes to the three winners of the International Telekom Beethoven Competition Bonn 2011.

"Music unites people – and brings them closer together. It is important, particularly in the classical music genre, to keep up the dialogue and bring fresh dynamism into the concert halls with every new generation," said Timotheus Höttges. "We want the International Telekom Beethoven Competition to provide young artists with a platform that will help them to get started as professional musicians."



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