

TEMPO

dublin
international
piano
competition



SUMMER 2018

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Cover Photo by Kate Bowe PR

FOREWORD

In this first edition of Tempo since the 11th Dublin International Piano Competition, I would like to thank everyone who helped to make it the success it was. We have a worthy winner in Sae Yoon Chon from Korea, and our Irish winner of the Brennan prize, Eoín Fleming will, I feel sure, do us proud.

In this, my first Competition, I was overwhelmed by the generosity of all the people involved in the Competition. I think sometimes the audience who arrive to hear the pianists do not realise what goes on behind the scenes. The 'well oiled' machine that is the Competition ran beautifully.

The heroes to my mind are the Host Families. Without these wonderful people the Competition would simply not happen. There is no way we could afford to place the competitors in paid accommodation. But having Host Families is not just a money saving venture, it is what makes the Dublin Competition so successful. The competitors really appreciate the fact that they are being 'minded' in

these homes and form friendships which can last a long time. It is also what attracts them to Dublin.

This time we had many new Host Families and I hope they found it a pleasant experience and will be back in 2021!

Having spoken to some of the hosts I discovered that - Yes it can be a big commitment; Yes,

there are meals to be prepared where possible; Yes there is a certain amount of 'mothering'; and Yes for the most part they all said it was worth it and for that I am so grateful. I am also aware that for some of the Hosts who were busy working it was not always possible to do more than provide a bed, and for that too I am grateful. It is almost the hardest part of the Competition finding enough hosts.

The live-streaming was so exciting this time and we had several thousand 'hits' on the Semi-final and Final nights.

Of course the Competition could not survive without the financial support of our major supporters FinRes and Carmel Naughton, and the generous donations from individuals like Chris Horn and Karlin Lillington, our Corporate Donors and our Friends. It is with their continuing support that we

can start planning for the next competition in 2021.

As always, costs are a big problem and they never go down! Please encourage your friends to support us and keep this world class Competition going for 2021 - for which, believe it or not, bookings and preparations are already in place!

With thanks to everyone who helped in any way (including Drivers, Piano Houses, Friends Room Volunteers, Box Office Volunteers,

Door Minders, The Library staff, The Announcers, Jury Room helpers, all the RDS Helpers) to the wonderful Competition staff, the Executive Committee, and to our indefatigable Artistic Director John O'Connor and hugely supportive Chairman John Hannon. To our partners Steinway & Sons, and to Ulrich Gerhartz for minding the Competition piano in both the RDS and the NCH, here's to 2021.

Brenda Wilkes
Administrator



Brenda Wilkes with President Michael D. Higgins and Mrs Sabina Higgins, representing the DIPC at the Patrons Presidential Concert Garden Party at Áras an Uachtaráin on 1st July

11TH DUBLIN INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION 1ST & 2ND ROUND

On Monday 14th May, the office of the Dublin International Piano Competition moved into the RDS in preparation for the 11th Competition which began four days later.

The Administration and Transport offices were set up, the Friends Room was put in place, the Library was packed with the music that every competitor was playing and Steinway pianos were in situ in warm-up rooms, practice rooms and of course the main hall.

After many months of hard work from Competition staff and management and volunteers alike, the 11th Dublin International Piano Competition was ready to begin. All we needed were the young pianists!

Throughout the week they arrived, 57 pianists from all corners of the globe including six pianists each from China, Russia and the United States, five from Japan, 10 from South Korea, two from Poland, United Kingdom and Germany, and many others besides. And of course our six wonderful Irish pianists prepared themselves to compete on the international stage.

The 1st round of the Competition took place from 18th – 21st May when attendees were treated to a musical



Irish Competitors Eoin Fleming and Cahal Masterson at the launch of the 11th Dublin International Piano Competition



feast of incredible performances. At the end of the first round, 57 were whittled down to 24 including two Irish pianists, Eóin Fleming (21, Dublin) and Cahal Masterson (26, Newry). This first round was very generously supported by Avolon who continue to be a great Friend to the Competition.

The second round took place on 23rd and 24th May and saw Ireland's Eóin Fleming join 11 other young pianists to go forward to the semi-finals. Eóin is the first Irish competitor to have reached this stage in 21 years.

The Jury of the 2018 Competition:
Back row Finghin Collins and Hyoung-Joon Chang; 4th row Robert Weirich and Mary Lennon; 3rd row Jan Jiracek von Arnim, Fumiko Eguchi, Christopher Elton and Antti Siirala; 2nd row Dan Zhao Yi and Zelma Bodzin and in front John O'Connor, Chairman of the Jury.

SEMI-FINALS

Following the preliminary rounds, the offices of the Piano Competition moved to the National Concert Hall for two days of semi-finals which were generously supported by FinRes. The remaining twelve competitors were outstanding during the semi-finals. They provided two wonderful days of music which were live-streamed by both RTÉ and its European partner ARTÉ and were viewed around the

world. Eoin Fleming represented Ireland wonderfully.

Ultimately the four pianists selected to compete in the finals were:

- Evren Ozel - USA,
 - Aristo Sham - Hong Kong, China
 - Alexey Sychev- Russia,
 - Sae Yoon Chon - South Korea,
- and both the jury and the pianists retired for a day to prepare for the finals.



So Hyang In from South Korea



Ulrich Gerhartz of Steinway prepares the piano for the Dublin International Piano Competition



Sarah Ryder and the team from RTÉ live stream the semi-finals to RTÉ and ARTÉ

DUBLIN INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION - THE FINAL

On the 29th May, the day of the finals of the Dublin International Piano Competition, the city basked in sunshine and it set the scene for a truly special occasion. The four competing finalists, supported by their host families, completed their final practice and prepared for one of the most significant events in their young lives. From 6pm onwards, the foyer of the National Concert Hall began to buzz and we were delighted to welcome old and new Friends of the Competition, corporate sponsors including those from the aviation sector, volunteers and hosts, Steinway representatives and of course the guests of honour, our President Michael D. Higgins and his wife Sabina.

The RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra took their places on stage, world renowned conductor Andrew Mogrelia awaited and the event was opened with Evren Ozel playing Chopin's Concerto for Piano and Orchestra No. 1 in e minor. This was followed by Aristo Sham's performance of Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 3 in C, Alexey Sychev then played Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 in b flat minor, and the evening concluded with Sae Yoon Chon performing

Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 2 in g minor.

The jury then retired and the hall was filled with anticipation as the audience waited for news of a final decision. After twenty minutes we were recalled and the announcement was made, 22 year old Sae Yoon Chon from South Korea, the final competitor to perform, had won the 11th Dublin International Piano Competition.



President Micheal D. Higgins presents first prize to Sae Yoon Chon, winner of the 11th Dublin International Piano Competition

A worthy winner, this was a monumental occasion for Sae Yoon and will be followed by many more such occasions. As part of his prize he will make a New York, London and Dublin solo debut and play many other significant recitals, representing the Dublin International Piano Competition, over the next three years. Sae Yoon also received the Mai Hannon Prize for best performance of a Liszt piece in any round of the Competition.

Evren Ozel received second prize and also received the Bridget Doolan Prize for the best performance of a Mozart piece in any round of the Competition and the Chopin Prize in memory of Joseph McCullough for the best performance of a Chopin piece in any round of the Competition.

Alexey Sychev was awarded 3rd prize and Aristo Sham received 4th prize and also won the National

Symphony Orchestra Concerto Prize.

The Charles J. Brennan Prize, for the highest placed Irish Competitor was won by Eoin Fleming , who also receives the McCullough Bursary, the National Concert Hall Prize, the RTÉ Prize and the Key Capital Prize for the best performance of the Irish Commissioned Piece.

Alim Beisembayev (Kazakhstan) won the Ita Stephens Prize for the best performance of a piece by Beethoven in the Competition.

The 11th Dublin International Piano Competition was a truly spectacular event and we are already looking forward to the 12th Competition in 2021.



Sabina Higgins, Amelia Casey , President Michael D. Higgins, Sae Yoon Chon, and his mother Choi Sung Eun who arrived from Korea to witness his success, and other members of the Host family Tony, Martha and Michael. This was their first time hosting for the Competition and they were delighted to have the winner!



President Micheal D. Higgins presents the Brennan Prize, the McCullough Bursary and his other prizes to Eoin Fleming, the highest placed Irish competitor. Also pictured is our wonderful Assistant Administrator Sandra Price



Her Excellency Finnish Ambassador Jaana Teckenberg generously hosted a Jury supper and is pictured here with Jury member Jan Jiracek von Arnim, Adrienne Carolan (DIPC Company Secretary) and Jury driver Andrew McElroy



A packed audience in the National Concert Hall awaits the announcement of the winner of the Dublin International Piano Competition



Jury members Finghin Collins and Hyoung-Joon Chang with Brenda Wilkes at the Finnish Ambassador's Residence

THANK YOU TEAM HARMONY

Team Harmony was the collective name, introduced for the 11th Dublin International Piano Competition, which referred to all of the hosts and volunteers who were fundamental to the success of the Competition. A big part of what makes the Dublin International Piano Competition truly special and unique is the way in which global competitors experience Irish culture and hospitality by living and practising in Irish homes, being embraced by the family.

The work done by hosts and volunteers throughout the Competition is priceless and we are deeply grateful to all of those who came back to support the Competition once again in 2018 as

well as the new hosts and volunteers who were involved for the first time. Whether you baked for or helped in the Friends Room, navigated the Dublin traffic as part of the driving team, hosted a Competitor or invited them to practise in your home, sat at a door in the RDS enjoying the music but also ensuring that the young pianists were not disturbed during their performances or indeed hosted the jury for supper, whatever your role, it made a huge contribution to a very successful event and we are most grateful.

We sincerely hope you will be part of the Dublin International Piano Competition once again in 2021.



James from the RDS helps Catherine Meagher and Deirdre Soffe set up the Friends room



Zoe Slater and Winifred Massey, two very hardworking volunteers at the RDS

INTIMATE DINNER WITH THE WINNER OF THE DUBLIN INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION

THE WESTBURY
DOYLE COLLECTION - DUBLIN

On 16th October, the new winner of the Dublin International Piano Competition, Sae Yoon Chon, will make his debut solo performance in Dublin, at an intimate evening at the Westbury Hotel.

Sae Yoon began playing piano at the age of six and has since won prizes in numerous piano Competitions in Korea and internationally. He has also presented concerts in Korea and the United States and has played

with many orchestras including the Cleveland Orchestra, the Astana Orchestra, the Hanoi Philharmonic Orchestra and now of course the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra. Sae Yoon is continuing his studies currently at the Glenn Gould School of the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto.

In the luxurious surroundings of the Grafton Suit in the Westbury, guests will enjoy performances by Sae Yoon



Chon along with his teacher and Artistic Director of the Competition John O'Connor.

The evening will begin with welcome drinks at 7pm, followed by the performances and then a sumptuous three course meal with wine. Tickets for this very special event are €150 and can be purchased from the Dublin International Piano Competition by calling (01) 272 1523 or emailing info@dipc.ie.

BECOME A FRIEND OF THE DUBLIN INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION

Our Friends have been a huge part of the success of the Dublin International Piano Competition and we are most grateful for your continued support.

Established over 30 years ago, the Dublin International Piano Competition is now one of the most important piano competitions in the world, and has helped to establish Ireland as an important destination for music events.

The Competition also nurtures and supports young Irish pianists to develop their talent so that they can compete and perform at the highest level and that we might one day have an Irish winner of the Dublin International Piano Competition.

As a registered charity, the work of the Dublin International Piano Competition is only possible because of the generous donations received from Friends and benefactors.

The Competition receives no Government funding, relying solely on individual sponsors and donors.

As we plan for the 2021 Dublin International Piano Competition, we hope that you will support us once again. By doing so you are ensuring the continuation of this world class piano event and also supporting the development of young pianists in Ireland and internationally.

In return for your generous support you will receive priority access to purchase tickets for piano concerts and events, invitations to exclusive receptions and a seasonal newsletter. Your name will also be published in the official programme of the Competition. To become a Friend of the DIPC please complete and return the enclosed Friends form.

