

TEMPO

dublin
international
piano
competition



John O'Connor and
Veronica McSwiney
play a two-piano concert at
the NCH on 2nd November

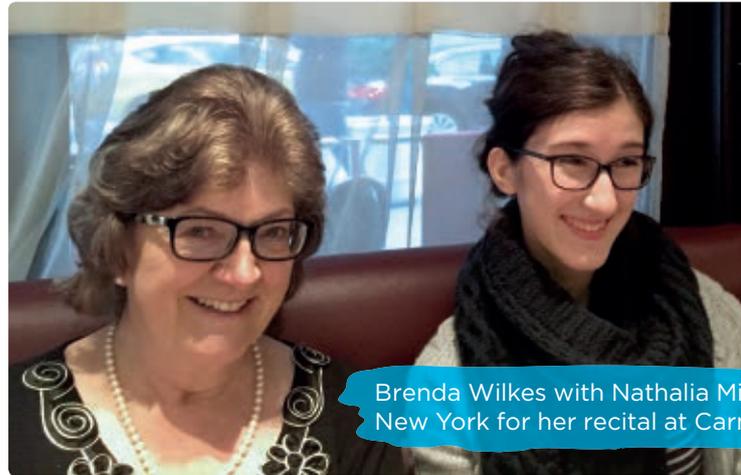
SUMMER 2016

CONTENTS

Welcome	2
Reflection from Margaret Downes	4
Tribute to Margaret Downes	5
Our Supporters	6
DIPC Schools Piano Project	8
DIPC Summer Evening Piano Recital	10
November Concert	12
The William Finlay Programme for Gifted Young Pianists	14

WELCOME

What a wonderful time it has been since starting my job as Administrator of the Dublin International Piano Competition this year.



Brenda Wilkes with Nathalia Milstein in New York for her recital at Carnegie Hall

Nathalia Milstein's Dublin debut in February was very successful and this was followed by her New York debut in Carnegie

Hall. That was a magical evening with a full hall and a tremendously appreciative audience.

The Schools' project was launched in May when Peter Regan gave a short lunchtime recital in the Pepper Canister church. This pilot scheme was launched early in 2016 and more details about this appear on page 3. We are very grateful to Avolon for their generous sponsorship of this project which is developing and will be rolled out to schools this September. My thanks to the very hardworking committee.

I welcome Leona Kavanagh who is our new Development Manager. Her first event was in the Westbury in July when John O'Connor and two of his pupils Kevin Jansson and Joe O'Grady played to a captivated audience. This event was a huge success and augurs well for the future of the Competition.

In October from the 11th–21st Nathalia will embark on her Music Network tour of Ireland with concerts in Castlebar, Waterford,

Cork, Skibbereen, Clifden, Letterkenny, Dun Laoghaire and Killorglin Full details on musicnetwork.ie

An exciting upcoming event is the recital by John O'Connor and Veronica McSwiney on November 2nd at the National Concert Hall. This will be an exceptional night of music and I hope to see **all** of you there as this will be a major fundraising event. It will probably sell out very quickly so the earlier you buy your tickets the better. You have been warned!

On December 12th we will hold the auditions for the Finlay Bursaries in the Kevin Barry Room of the National Concert Hall. This is a very special programme which the DIPC initiated 6 years ago. Every three years an audition panel selects up to four very talented young Irish Pianists aged 13 to 17 and gives them special support including

masterclasses, mentoring, etc. etc. We hope that this programme might produce an Irish 1st Prize winner in the International competition in the future, wouldn't that be wonderful!

I welcome John Hannon as our new Chairman and look forward very much to working with him. I must pay tribute to Margaret Downes, Chairman since 2001 who retired at the end of June and who has been a pleasure to work with in the short time I have known her.

The future of the Competition looks bright but we cannot do it without your help – please encourage your friends to support the important work of the organisation.

[Brenda Wilkes,](#)
[Administrator](#)

REFLECTION

It has been my privilege to be Chairman of the Dublin International Piano Competition for the past 15 years .

I would like to pay tribute to all associated with the Competition for their contribution to its success and especially my fellow Board Members who have given freely and willingly of their time and expertise resulting in responsible governance and high corporate standards.

There have been many special moments for me over the years. I was particularly happy to Chair the most recent Competition when 21 year old Nathalia Milstein won. As the first female winner of the Competition, Nathalia has been a wonderful ambassador and delighted audiences at her

debut solo performance at the National Concert Hall earlier this year and at her New York debut at Carnegie Hall in March.

A superb part of the Competition, unique to Ireland I think, is the fact that a huge network of volunteers open their homes and offer their time and hospitality to support the young competitors. This is an incredibly important aspect of the Dublin International Piano Competition which has been in place from the start and hopefully will continue in the future. Thank you and well done to all those who have participated.



The Competition is now in a period of transition and I am confident it will grow from strength to strength under the guidance of the new Administrator, Brenda Wilkes, and new Chairman, John Hannon. Together with our committed Friends, Volunteers and Supporters they will successfully steer the organisation to the 2018 Competition and beyond.

The Board and staff of the Competition are currently involved in

arranging, in addition to the triennial International Competition, top class piano events throughout the year for Irish audiences. The most recent of these was the successful event in the Westbury Hotel, Dublin in July which many of you attended. The next will be the John O'Conor/Veronica McSwiney concert in the National Concert Hall in November.

The Dublin International Piano Competition is established as a music event of world-class significance and this is only possible because of the support and donations received. I sincerely hope that you will continue to be involved in this important competition in the future.

I wish the new Chairman, John Hannon, every success and I look forward to meeting you at future piano events.

With every good wish, Margaret

TRIBUTE TO MARGARET

It's difficult to adequately pay tribute to Margaret Downes who stepped down as Chairman of the Board of the Dublin International Piano Competition on June 30th last.

She joined the Board of the Competition in 1989 and has been Chairman since 2001 when she took over from the legendary Bill Finlay who was Chairman from the foundation of the Competition. In the past 15 years Margaret has steered us through halcyon days and difficult times financially with optimism, pragmatism and a wealth of good advice, so that as she leaves the Competition is looking forward to the 2018 event with excitement and confidence.

No-one can underestimate the profound influence Margaret Downes has had on Irish life in the last fifty years. She came to the fore in the business world at a time when women were tolerated at best but rarely respected as they deserved. Margaret changed much of that. Her knowledge, experience, business acumen and basic common sense lifted her to the very heights of business in Ireland so that everyone treated her as a major figure in any business venture in which she was involved.

With her beloved husband Desmond she was an immensely popular figure in the Dublin social scene, known for her wit and infectious laughter, and also a passionate interest in the Arts.

In the Dublin International Piano Competition we were incredibly fortunate to be honoured with her accepting the position of Chairman of the Board and she has proven to be a wonderful and loyal friend over the years. She has attended every competition dutifully, made memorable speeches at the Finals, charmed each President as they presented the prizes and also travelled to concerts in London, New York and many other venues at her own expense to support the careers of our worthy winners.

I cannot thank Margaret enough for her extraordinary support and friendship and I know that I speak on behalf of everyone in our organisation when I say that her legacy will be treasured for as long as the Competition thrives.

John O'Connor

OUR SUPPORTERS

Established over 30 years ago, the Dublin International Piano Competition is now recognised as 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 is also nurturing and supporting 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. Over the years, Friends of the Competition have contributed over

€1,000,000, money which has been used to ensure that the DIPC can support the work of young pianists in Ireland and internationally. In addition, many of you have kindly opened your homes to competitors, providing accommodation and hospitality or somewhere quiet to practise piano.

Here, one of our Friends explain why they have chosen to support the Piano Competition:

Dominique Geary, along with her late husband John, have opened their home to DIPC competitors for many years. John was very passionate about music and regularly enjoyed playing piano. He was a huge supporter of the DIPC, attending most of the rounds as well as the semi-finals and finals. As a legacy to John, Dominique continued to support the Competition in 2015 and

hosted a young Japanese pianist called Kei Takumi. Speaking about the experience, Dominique explained how she was in awe of his talent and dedication to playing. She observed his independence at a young age – travelling to Ireland to compete in this world-class event, but also his fragility as an artist. She describes her participation in the DIPC as a hugely positive experience and thinks it's extraordinary that the Competition is enabled by so many wonderful volunteers who participate because of their love of piano music and for this wonderful event.

By making a donation or becoming a Friend of the Competition you can help to ensure the continued support of young pianists as well as the delivery of world class piano events including the triennial Dublin International Piano Competition. 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 Friends form enclosed.

DIPC SCHOOLS PIANO PROJECT

In early 2016, the Dublin International Piano Competition launched a pilot project, in conjunction with the Church of Ireland College of Education (CICE), to support and equip student teachers to teach children about piano music.

The training module provides an understanding of some of the milestones in the development of piano as an instrument and was developed by Dr. Orla McDonagh, Head, Conservatory of Music and Drama, D.I.T., and a member of the DIPC Board of Directors, and Ian Packham, Music Lecturer at CICE and Principal at Kildare Place School. The music project was made available as an elective subject to student teachers, who used new resources including multimedia to teach primary school pupils about music earlier this year.

Where possible a professional musician visited schools to give a piano recital.

By supporting the music syllabus in primary schools, the aim of the DIPC is to broaden and develop



a child's understanding and knowledge of music. Music has the potential to enhance the artistic and aesthetic development of a child and is particularly important in the development

“ Feedback on this project has been very positive from principals and students. It gives student teachers a confidence that they have had an immersion in piano music and can go out and teach it to the next generation. ”

Geraldine O'Connor, Church of Ireland College of Education.

of a young child's speaking and listening skills.

To mark the completion of this pilot project, the DIPC held a lunchtime concert for schools and Friends of the Competition in May 2016. A wonderful performance by Peter Regan brought the training to life for pupils and their teachers alike and many of our Friends and supporters enjoyed the concert also.

Peter was an Irish competitor in the most recent Dublin International



“ One of the greatest things about this project is that it introduces students to someone who plays music at an extraordinarily high level. It is an opportunity for students to ask questions and for pianists to share their love of piano music with new audiences. ”

Orla McDonagh, Head, Conservatory of Music and Drama, D.I.T

Piano Competition and is currently studying under John O'Connor at the Royal Conservatory of Toronto's Glenn Gould School. He is also a winner of the Feis Ceoil 2016 Morris-Grant Cup and Bursary and has performed a number of recitals including in Carnegie Hall last October.

This Schools Piano Project is kindly sponsored by Avolon who have partnered with DIPC to ensure further development of the project in the future and enable us to offer

it to more schools. Avolon's CARE project is a staff-led initiative, allowing members of the team to suggest philanthropic projects to support. Through CARE, Avolon currently supports 6 charitable projects, contributing a total of €350,000.

Following a successful pilot, the Schools Piano Project will be offered to additional schools from September 2016. For more information contact info@dipc.ie

DIPC SUMMER EVENING PIANO RECITAL

In partnership with The Westbury

At the heart of the Dublin International Piano Competition is a focus on presenting world-class piano music to Irish audiences and nurturing young Irish pianists to perform and compete amongst the best in the world.

Both of these aspects of our work were evident at our recent summer event in The Westbury and we were delighted that so many Friends and supporters joined us to enjoy the night.

On 26th July, in the beautiful surrounds of the Grafton Suite in The Westbury, John O'Connor played alongside two of his incredibly talented young students, 15 year old Kevin

Jansson and 10 year old Joe O'Grady. The audience was enthralled by performances from all three pianists and a particularly enjoyable aspect

At the Westbury's Summer Soirée:

1. John O'Connor, Vincent O'Gorman and Kevin Jansson.
2. Gay Byrne and Emer O'Kelly.
3. The French Ambassador to Ireland HE Mr Jean-Pierre Thébault, the Chinese Ambassador to Ireland HE Dr Yue Xiaoyong and Vincent O'Gorman GM of the Westbury.
4. John Hannon and Judith Woodworth.
5. Joe O'Grady with his parents Brian and Rachel.

of the night was watching John play duets with these rising stars.

The Westbury is renowned for its commitment to supporting the arts, culture and design, making it the perfect location to hold this event which marked the start of our fundraising drive for 2018 and beyond. Here, guests were able to



relax and enjoy the stunning pieces performed by three of Ireland's most talented pianists. The programme included music by Field, Chopin, Grieg and Ravel.

Speaking at the event, John Hannon, the newly appointed Chairman of DIPC said 'The Dublin International Piano Competition is making a huge contribution to Arts and Culture in Ireland and this is only possible because of our donors, Friends and

supporters. Tonight The Westbury has shown what can happen when practical support is given to the Arts. As we begin preparations for the 2018 Competition I invite you all to join us in ensuring the ongoing success of the Competition'.

Joe O'Grady, who studies piano with John O'Connor and Réamonn Keary at the Royal Irish Academy of Music (RIAM), won his first piano competition aged five. Since then he has gone on to make his piano solo début in Carnegie Hall and in Trinity College Dublin with RIAM Chamber Orchestra. Even at such a young age, Joe has achieved international acclaim winning numerous prizes.

A member of the DIPC Finlay Programme which nurtures and supports young pianists to develop their talent so that they can perform and compete among the best pianists in the world, Kevin Jansson is a student of Mary

Beattie at the CIT Cork School of Music and also studies with John. Kevin recently returned from Switzerland where he participated at the Sommets Musicaux de Gstaad Festival. Kevin was both the youngest performer and ultimate joint winner of the main competition, the Thierry Scherz Prize at the festival. This award gives Kevin the opportunity to make a debut solo CD in autumn 2016.

The event was very kindly sponsored by The Westbury and commenting on the recital, General Manager of The Westbury, Vincent O'Gorman said: "The Doyle Collection has a history of supporting the arts and culture and we were delighted to welcome these hugely talented Irish pianists to The Westbury. To have a celebrated performer such as John O'Connor together with rising stars Kevin Jansson and Joe O'Grady, truly marks a unique event'



NOVEMBER CONCERT

Two Piano Recital – NCH Friends’ Gala in aid of
Dublin International Piano Competition

What has 176 keys, six pedals,
twenty fingers and two minds?

The answer, of course, is a two
piano recital. Dublin music lovers
will have a rare opportunity to
enjoy such a special concert,
featuring two of Ireland’s most
respected and distinguished
performers, Veronica McSwiney
and John O’Conor, who will come
together to provide a sumptuous
feast of music at the National
Concert Hall on November 2nd
next.

Both Veronica and John are
Dubliners. Veronica started piano
lessons at the age of seven in
the Municipal School of Music

and was something of a prodigy,
subsequently studying in Salzburg.
At 16 she made her Dublin debut,
and by the time she was 19 she
had played six concertos with the
then Radio Eireann Symphony
Orchestra and made her London
debut at the Wigmore Hall. Highly
regarded as an interpreter of John
Field’s celebrated Nocturnes,
she was invited to tour Russia
extensively in the 1970s.

John, too, studied piano in Dublin
before moving to Vienna as a
pupil of Dieter Weber. Winning
1st Prize at the International
Beethoven Piano Competition in
Vienna in 1973 opened the door to
a sterling career that has brought





him all around the world, and he is regarded as one of the world's best interpreters of Beethoven's piano concertos. Considered to be one of the most important piano teachers in the world today, John holds senior teaching posts in America, Canada, Ireland and Japan. He is a co-founder and Artistic Director of the Dublin International Piano Competition, on whose International Jury Veronica has sat twice.

Although Veronica McSwiney and John O'Connor cut their musical teeth together in Dublin, and were both pupils of Dr. J. J. O'Reilly at the College of Music, this is the first time in their professional lives that these two internationally celebrated pianists and long-time friends have joined together in a meeting of musical minds to perform a challenging and inspiring programme of some of the most popular works written for two pianos.

This unique two-piano experience is set to deliver an exciting feast of music, including Mozart's exhilarating Sonata in D for two pianos K448, Rachmaninov's melodious Suite No. 2 Op. 17, Tchaikovsky's achingly beautiful Nutcracker Suite, and completing the programme is Darius Milhaud's showstopper Scaramouche Suite.

Presented in association with the Friends of the National Concert Hall, this engaging evening will take place in the National Concert Hall on November 2nd, 2016, and is a fundraising event for the Dublin International Piano Competition. This event is supported by RTÉ lyric fm.

Tickets €35, €30, €25 and €15 are available from the National Concert Hall Box Office on www.nch.ie or 01-417 0000

THE WILLIAM FINLAY PROGRAMME FOR GIFTED YOUNG PIANISTS

This programme, which commenced in 2010, targets young pianists between the ages of 13 to 17 and takes place every three years.

The pianists are given intensive coaching in a variety of areas related to the piano, including education in the wider arts, performance psychology, mentoring, marketing and presentation skills. The pianists are chosen by audition.

The Programme also includes invitations to all events organised by the Dublin International Piano Competition and attendance at orchestral and chamber music rehearsals.

The next auditions will take place in the newly refurbished Kevin

Barry Room in the National Concert Hall in December 2016. The new programme will commence in January 2017. For further information email info@dipc.ie or check our website www.dipc.ie

The Four recipients from 2013 are busy developing their skills.

Emily Crowley was chosen last November to play as part of a duo in the Rising Stars in Cork School of Music concert in Ballymaloe. She is also be taking part in the New Ross Piano

Festival in September. She has had masterclasses with Veronique Bonnecase, Olga Solovieva, Eva Poblocka, Nadene Fiorentini, Liang-Lu Wang and John O’Conor. As a viola player with the Cork School of Music Quartet and the National Youth Orchestra she was one of two players chosen to represent the National Youth Orchestra playing with the Wiener Jeunesse during Easter 2016.

Ella Nagy was the Jury Secretary for the 2015 Dublin International Piano Competition. She is a prizewinner in a large number of competitions in Feis Ceoil, Piano Fest in the Royal Irish Academy of Music, EPTA, Kilcoole Music Festival, Kilkenny Music Festival and Waterford Music Festival.



She has had masterclasses with international artists such as John O'Connor, Pavel Nersessian, Hilary Coates, Finghin Collins, and Joseph Moog. Ella studies with Márta Erdei in the Royal Irish Academy of Music where she has obtained a scholarship after every annual assessment. She took part in John O'Connor's Beethoven

Bootcamp this year for the second time under a scholarship programme, and participated in the Dublin International Piano Festival and Summer Academy.

Kevin Jansson is a student of Mary Beattie at the Cork School of Music and has won several major prizes in the Feis Ceoil . Last February he was joint winner of the Prix Thierry Scherz at the Sommets Musicaux de Gstaad Festival. The prize includes the opportunity to record a debut solo piano CD to be produced by the Swiss record label Claves. He has attended masterclasses in Austria, Germany, Romania and Ireland. He is also a very talented violin player and currently is a joint holder of the National Concert Hall Young Musician's award for Strings. On 26th July he performed with John O'Connor and Joe O'Grady in the Westbury Hotel in an evening of Piano Music.

Eóin Fleming is about to set off to Shenandoah University to further his piano studies. On the 21st July in the Royal Irish Academy of Music he gave a fundraising concert with John O'Connor. He made his debut solo concert in the Kevin Barry Room, NCH on June 13th 2015. He was one of 23 in the world to be selected to compete in the inaugural Van Cliburn Junior International Piano Competition in Texas in June 2015. In the past year he was awarded 1st prize in the Fr. Frank Maher Classical Music Award (for all instruments) the Lucien and Maura Tessier Scholarship for Pianists in the R.I.A.M., 1st prize in the Bank of Ireland Catherine Judge Memorial Award (for all instruments) as well as major Feis Ceoil wins.

We wish all our Finlays the best of good luck and fortune in their futures. We applaud their dedication and hard work. They have certainly done us proud up to now.

INCLUDE A GIFT IN YOUR WILL TO THE DUBLIN INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION

At the Dublin International Piano Competition, we believe that young pianists should be nurtured and supported to develop their talent and that music lovers in Ireland should have access to world class piano repertoire.

We support this belief with our work in music education, our programmes to develop young pianists and through a series of unique events bringing world-class piano music to the stage in Ireland and overseas.

In addition to this, by hosting the Dublin International Piano Competition, one of the most

important piano competitions in the world, we provide some of the best young pianists with an opportunity to showcase their talent and enable the pursuit of a successful professional performing career.

The work of DIPC is only possible because of the generous donations of Friends and benefactors who



have supported us for almost 30 years.

If you share our belief, please consider leaving a gift in your Will to the Dublin International Piano Competition. You can be assured that a gift of any value will contribute greatly to this important work.

If you would like to know more about including the DIPC in your Will, please call us on 01-272 1523 or email info@dipc.ie.