



dublin
international
piano
competition

TEMPO

WINTER 2017

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Cover Photo by Conor McCabe

WELCOME

We have had an exciting few months since the last edition of Tempo. The Westbury Hotel partnered with us again for the 30th Anniversary Gala Dinner in October. This was a dazzling night and it was wonderful to welcome all four of the Founder Members of the Competition John O'Connor, Ida Delamer, Laurie Cearr and Ann Fuller. Philippe Cassard, the first ever winner and Nathalia Milstein, our most recent winner, flew in specially to play. John O'Connor compered the evening in his own inimitable style and also treated us to a dreamy Field Nocturne.



By November, a record number - 199 applications - had reached us. This is the highest number of international hopefuls ever received. In addition, this year will see 15 Irish entrants participate in the Irish qualifying round in the Kevin Barry Room of the NCH on December 20th.

Our six young Finlay scholars Jane Brazil, Dida Condria, Méabh Fitzgerald, Rowel Friers, Antonia Huang, and

Tiffany Qiu gave a skilful display in their lunchtime concert in the John Field Room of the NCH in November, generously sponsored by Liam and Ruth Shanahan, marking the end of their year-long involvement in the Competition's mentoring programme. I am sure that we will hear a lot more from them in the future.

The highlight of the Autumn for me was that wonderful evening in the National Concert Hall when John O'Connor received his Lifetime Achievement Award. An array of stars turned up to pay tribute to him. Profits from the night have been very generously donated to the Competition.

In the New Year we look forward to welcoming the 2012 winner - Nikolay Khozyainov to the National Concert Hall, on Tuesday, February 13th. This will be a fundraiser for the Competition and I hope that many of

you will be able to attend. Booking has already opened, so if you are looking for a Christmas present just phone the booking office at (01) 417 0000!

On Monday 19th February as part of his prize Seán Morgan-Rooney, winner of the Brennan Prize and the McCullough and Sean O'Connor Bursaries as the top Irish pianist at the 2015 DIPC, will give a recital and launch his CD in the John Field Room of the NCH at 6.30pm.

On March 13th the first winner of the DIPC, Philippe Cassard, returns for a recital in the National Concert Hall's International Concert Series. Philippe is a great ambassador for the Competition and enjoys returning to Ireland where he is always given a tumultuous welcome.

The 2018 Competition begins on May 18th and on that night the current title holder Nathalia Milstein

will join the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra under conductor John Strögards for Mozart's dazzling Concerto No.23 in A, a piece that is redolent with operatic overtones. We can take great pride in the fact that no less than three past winners of the DIPC will appear at the National Concert Hall next year.

With best wishes for a music filled Christmas and the New Year,

Brenda Wilkes
Administrator



PRELIMINARY IRISH COMPETITION

The Preliminary Irish Competition, to select five Irish pianists to take part in the 2018 Dublin International Piano Competition, will take place in the **Kevin Barry Room** of the National Concert Hall on the 20th December, 2017. It will be adjudicated by Artistic Director John O’Conor and a panel of distinguished judges with Jane Carty as Chairman of the Jury.

This year we have the highest number of entries ever at 15 pianists, it will be a tough day for the jury to select only five. The winning five will then be given recitals around the country to give them performing experience before the main event in May.

This is an important event, which will shine the spotlight on some of Ireland’s most talented young pianists in advance of the International Competition.

A limited number of free tickets are available. Contact Sandra on (01) 272 1523 or info@dipc.ie



Jane Carty,
Chairwoman of jury



For the first time, the Preliminary Irish Competition will take place in the Kevin Barry Room, National Concert Hall

NIKOLAY KHOZYAINOV CONCERT IN SUPPORT OF DUBLIN INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION

IN ASSOCIATION WITH NCH

According to the New York Times, *'The Music World is taking note of Nikolay Khozyainov's stunning virtuosity and prodigious technique'*. Nikolay began playing piano at the age of 5 and made his debut two years later with the Haydn Piano Concerto at the Great Hall of the Moscow Conservatory.

He won the Dublin International Piano Competition in 2012, at the tender age of 19 and has since played in music venues throughout the world to critical acclaim with Fanfare recognizing his 'big sound, splendid technique, and a musicality far beyond his years'. He is currently pursuing his advanced degree at the

Hanover Hochschule for Music under the guidance of Professor Arie Vardi.

On 13th February 2018, in the National Concert Hall, Nikolay Khozyainov will be giving a recital to raise funds for the Dublin International Piano Competition. The evening promises to be

a wonderful musical treat with an exciting programme including Chopin, Beethoven, Getty and Schumann. Seat prices for this event are €20, €15 and €12 (choir balcony) and can be purchased from the National Concert Hall on (01) 417 0000 or www.nch.ie.



Nikolay Khozyainov

CD LAUNCH SEÁN MORGAN- ROONEY

On February 19th in the John Field Room of the National Concert Hall, Seán Morgan-Rooney will launch his CD. This promises to be a lovely evening starting at 6.30pm with a Reception and followed by a short Recital by Séan and then the Launch.



Seán Morgan-Rooney

The CD features:

Ligeti: Musica Ricercata op. 1

Bach: Partita no 1

Ligeti: Due Capricci

and Bartók: Out of doors Suite

Seán was the highest placed Irish competitor in the last Competition and his CD is sponsored by the McCullough

Bursary which is part of the prize. The prize also includes the Charles J Brennan prize and the Seán O'Connor Bursary. Tickets will be available from the NCH in the New Year. Phone Box office (01) 417 0000 or nch.ie.

TEAM HARMONY

'Team Harmony' is a dynamic group of people who work in unison to look after the needs of all Competitors through all the rounds of the Competition next May. If you would like to become involved, there are many ways of joining Team Harmony including:

- > Host a Competitor in your home
- > Host a practice piano in your home
- > Volunteer in the RDS (Help with competitor escort, Front of house, Manning the doors, Friends Room)
- > Drive a Competitor to practice and performance
- > Become a Friend of the Competition

To join Team Harmony, contact Sandra on (01) 272 1523 or info@dipc.ie

Over the years, volunteers have reaped many rewards from their involvement in the Competition, with many forming lasting friendships with young Competitors.

30TH ANNIVERSARY GALA DINNER

On Monday 23rd October, we celebrated 30 years since the Dublin International Piano Competition was established with a wonderful recital and Gala Dinner at The Westbury. John O'Connor compered the evening and also delighted guests with his performance of a John Field Nocturne.

The evening was made extra special with a recital from the first ever and most recent winners of the Dublin International Piano Competition, French pianists Philippe Cassard and Nathalia Milstein.

Philippe has established an international reputation as a concerto soloist, recitalist and award-winning chamber musician. He credits his win at the first Dublin International Piano Competition in 1988 as essential to his career. When Nathalia won

the Competition in 2015, she was the first ever female to have been awarded the prize. She has since gone on to make solo debuts, to critical acclaim, in London and New York.

The Gala Dinner took place in the beautiful surrounds of The Westbury. Guests enjoyed the very special performances by celebrated pianists and then dined on a delicious meal. DIPC was delighted to partner with The Westbury once again for this event.



We were delighted also that so many of our Friends and volunteers, who have been instrumental in the success of the Competition, could join us on the night. In addition, we very much appreciated the corporate support received from Avolon, KPMG, Davy and Thula Capital, all of whom hosted tables.

- 1 Vincent O’Gorman, John O’Conor, Sophie Governey and Philippe Cassard
- 2 Laurie Cearr, John O’Conor, Ida Delamer and Ann Fuller
- 3 John O’Conor, Nathalia Milstein and Philippe Cassard
- 4 Killian and Carole Croke
- 5 Devin and Lara O’Shea Farren
- 6 Brendan Sinnott and Becca Reilly
- 7 Bairbre Power and Adrienne Carolan
- 8 Fiona Naughton
- 9 Patsey Murphy and Dominique Geary
- 10 Hilary and Gerard Collins



2018 DUBLIN INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION

The 11th Dublin International Piano Competition, in association with Steinway, will take place from 18th – 29th May 2018. The preliminary rounds will take place in the Royal Dublin Society from the 18th to 24th May. Following this, the Competition will move to the National Concert Hall where the semi- finals will take place on Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th May, The final night is on Tuesday May 29th with the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra and conductor Andrew Mogrelia.

The 11th International Competition promises to be one of the best yet. A record number of pianists have applied to compete and as always, the Competition will be adjudicated by a jury of accomplished and internationally acclaimed pianists. We are delighted this year to welcome onto the Jury, Antti Siirala, who

won the 2003 Dublin International Piano Competition.

It is to the credit of the Competition that many of this year's entries are students of previous winners, reflecting the high esteem in which they hold the Dublin International Piano Competition.

A feature of this particular Competition is that young pianists also enjoy an intimate experience of Irish culture and hospitality as they practice and are hosted by Dublin families.



Andrew Mogrelia

A MEMORABLE NIGHT

Warmth, goodwill, affection and anticipation – all ingredients for a great evening – and they were all there in abundance on the night that John O’ Connor received the National Concert Hall’s Lifetime Achievement Award. This was a proud night, not only for John himself but also for his family, and for the wider clan of music lovers, none more than the supporters of the Dublin International Piano Competition.

It was a glittering affair as they gathered to honour one of Ireland’s foremost musical ambassadors, John O’ Connor, who, in addition to his active and successful solo career, has consistently talked up Ireland’s classical musical heritage as one of the founders of the DIPC and as Director of the Royal Irish Academy of Music.

There was a great sense of camaraderie on stage too – old friends Ronnie Dunne, Veronica McSwiney, Suzanne Murphy, Philippe Cassard and Finghin

Collins swapped anecdotes and warm memories while the assured mistress of ceremonies, Olivia O’Leary, did what she does best and moved things along at a lively pace. Philippe recalled his arrival in Dublin in 1988 which was something of a surprise to us all. Philippe has gone on to be a great champion of our Competition and absolute and devoted fan of all things Irish.

There was also a stirring performance from the young prodigy Joe O’Grady, while Dearbhla Brosnan, Réamonn Keary, Fionnuala Moynihan and

Orla McDonagh joined forces for the entertaining, eight-handed Lavignac Galop Marche. A personal highlight for me was the stunning collaboration between John, Tara Erraught and John Finucane for Schubert’s emotional Shepherd on the Rock.



John O’Connor



Simon Taylor, CEO, NCH, John O'Connor and Maura McGrath, Chairwoman, NCH
Photo by Conor McCabe

The icing on the cake for the Competition was that all the artists performed for free and Simon Taylor, CEO of the National Concert Hall generously confirmed that all of the proceeds of this memorable night would go to the Dublin International Piano Competition.



The night was made all the more special by the presence of President Michael D. Higgins, whom John lauded as "the best Minister for the Arts we ever had". The President

presented the award by sculptor John Behan in the National Concert Hall in recognition of the achievements of one of Ireland's foremost musicians and performers.



Laurie Cearr,
Co-founder DIPC

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.

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.