

2006

Lucas Blondeel (1st prize)



Lucas Blondeel was born on 29 July 1981 in Antwerp, Belgium. He studied under Jean-François Heisser in Paris, Levente Kende and Heidi Hendrickx in Antwerp and has been Klaus Hellwig's student at the *Hochschule der Künste* in Berlin since 2004. Lucas Blondeel took master courses by Dimitri Bashkirov, Lazar Berman and György Kurtag to name a few. Lucas Blondeel completed his studies of the modern concert piano by studying the forte piano (among others under Jos van Emmerseel) and song accompaniment (among others under Jozef de Beenhouwer, Rudolf Janssen and Hartmut Höll). Blondeel was awarded first prize during the *International Emanuel Durllet Contest* in Antwerp in 2002. With a broad repertoire at his disposal including works by Mozart, Beethoven, Bartók, Shostakovich, Ravel and Prokofiev, Lucas Blondeel regularly performs at recitals and concerts throughout Europe and Asia. Because of his convincing overall performance during the *Kurt Leimer Piano Contest 2005*, the jury awarded Lucas Blondeel a first prize scholarship worth 25,000 CHF. Blondeel's first-round-program consisted of Ludwig van Beethoven's Sonata in A Major op. 101, Heinz Holliger's *Elis* and Frédéric Chopin's Etude in A flat Major op. 10. For the second round, Blondeel chose Béla Bartók's *Dance Suite* and Frédéric Chopin's Ballade in F Minor op. 52. For the final round, Blondeel and Liesbeth Devos performed the *Liederkreis* op. 39 by Robert Schumann. At the award ceremony Lucas Blondeel performed the first three parts of Béla Bartók's *Dance Suite* and Frédéric Chopin's Etude in A flat Major op. 10.

Dmitri Demiaschkin (2nd prize)



Dmitri Demiashkin was born in 1982 in the Russian regional centre of Saransk. He commenced his musical studies at age seven in the ancient city of Kazan. The call of the capital first came two years later when Demiashkin's piano teacher moved to Moscow to take up a post at the Moscow State Conservatory. Demiashkin followed with his family members – who had correctly recognised his gifts and were firmly committed to fostering them. After an initial award at a prestigious Russian competition in 1992, Demiashkin's string of wins became pan-European the following year with accolades in the Czech Republic after scarcely having turned 11. This was the start of a veritable tour de force continuing up to the present which would see Demiashkin receiving prizes and performing in innumerable concerts in more than fifteen countries throughout the Northern Hemisphere. In 1999 Dmitri Demiashkin moved to Switzerland with the aid of a full scholarship from the Lyra foundation of the Vontobel Bank, to study at the Winterthur Conservatory and the Zurich University of the Arts under Prof. Konstantin Scherbakov and Prof. Homero Francesch. Demiashkin's studies in Zurich not only brought him a concert diploma with distinction (2005) and the soloist diploma (2007), but also the honour of a teaching position at the University of the Arts, which Demiashkin commenced in 2008.

Yulianna Avdeeva (3rd prize)



She began learning piano in 1990 at the Gnesinykh School of Music in Moscow under Elena Ivanova. She is currently a student of Professor Vladimir Tropp at the Gnesinykh Russian Academy of Music. At the same time she is furthering her training at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater in Zurich, where since October 2006 she has been assistant to Professor Konstantin Scherbakov. Yulianna Avdeeva the winner of the Geneva International Music Competition (2006) and prizewinner of many piano competitions: First Prize in the Carl Czerny Young Pianists Competition in Prague (1997), Grand Prix in the First All-Russia Open Competition in Moscow (2000), First Prize in the Fifth 'Arthur Rubinstein in Memoriam' Young Pianists Competition in Bydgoszcz (2002), First Prize in the Twelfth A. M. A. Calabria International Piano Competition in Italy (2002), First Prize in the I. J. Paderewski International Piano Competition in Bydgoszcz (2007), Second Prize in the Bremen Piano Competition in Germany (2003), Second Prize in the Fourth Spanish Composers International Piano Competition in Madrid (2003), Second Prize in the Fifteenth 'Citta di Cantù' International Competition for Piano and Orchestra in Italy (2005) and Third Prize in the Kurt Leimer Piano Competition in Zurich (2005). She has appeared in prestigious concert halls in

Moscow and also performed in many other cities in Russia and over twenty other countries, including Austria, UK, USA, France, Germany, Israel, Belgium, Japan, Greece, Italy and RSA, in such famous halls as the Bösendorfer-Saal in Vienna and the Barbican Centre in London. Performances by Yulianna Avdeeva have been recorded onto CD and are often played on Russian television and radio.

2008

Irina Georgieva (1st prize)



Born in 1978 in Sofia, Bulgaria, Irina Georgieva commenced her musical career at the tender age of 6 years old. She was soon captivating audiences with her technical skill, artistic talent and mature interpretation, winning her first national competition at the age of 10. She has subsequently studied under some of Europe's leading maestros, graduating from the Sofia Conservatoire in 2001 and winning a scholarship to the Basel Music Academy, under Prof. Rudolf Buchbinder, from where she graduated with honours in 2004. Irina has regularly attracted audience acclaim and has won numerous awards throughout her career. She has performed concerts in Germany, Bulgaria, Switzerland and Lithuania, earning positive reviews for her virtuoso technique, sweeping lyricism and mastery of some particularly physically demanding pieces. She has also been engaged for radio recordings and television appearances.

Bayan Kozhakhmetova (1st prize)



Geboren 1980 in eine Berufsmusikerfamilie in Kasachstan, Vater Akkordeonlehrer, Mutter Lehrerin für Volksinstrumente (Kobiz). Ihre zwei Schwestern studieren Violine und Klavier, der Bruder unterrichtet Geschichte an der Universität Almaty. Schon mit 5 Jahren übt sie Klavier, mit 7 Jahren besucht sie die Musikschule Almaty, welche sie 1998 mit Auszeichnung abschliesst. 1998-2002 Klavierbegleiterin am Tschaikowskii Musik-College, 2002 Konservatoriums-Abschluss mit Auszeichnung. 2002-2005 Konzert-Diplom-Studium bei Tomasz Herbut. 2006-2008 Solisten-Diplom-Studium und Abschluss mit Auszeichnung. Gewinnerin diverser Preise, Stipendiatin der Kiefer-Hablitzel-Stiftung.

Hui-Hui Weng (3rd prize)



Klavierstudium in China, Eisenstadt und Wien. Diverse Meisterkurse bei Lang Lang, Martin Hughes, Avedis Kouyoumdjian, Krasimira Jordan. Diverse Preise, zuletzt bei der Kurt Leimer Stiftung (3. Preis). Rege Konzerttätigkeit in China und Europa. In mehreren Sommerkursen und öffentlichen Meisterkursen Unterrichtstätigkeit in der Provinz Kanton (Volksrepublik China) in Musikerziehungszentren für junge Pianisten.