

## **BRIN D'HERBE - International junior piano competition**

April 15th - 19th 2009, Salle de l'Institut and Theatre, Orleans, France

The "Brin d'herbe" competition is dedicated to the piano repertoire from 1900 up to now, and open to young and very young pianists, or pianists-composers.

For this 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, its doors are wide open: the requests received from foreign candidates and the subscription of one of them (First prize attributed to a young candidate from Switzerland in 2007) have helped us to develop this project and made us plan to send the 2009 booklet in France and abroad. The place given to Jazz and the fact that the candidates have to look after an original program are very important points. Indeed, the candidate is more active thanks to his curiosity, his enjoyment, his emotion and the relationship with his teacher is even better. More than a work between the teacher and the pupil, it is a passionate research from two people or more, since the last competition has received subscriptions from complete classes. The programs are diversified, the personalities are asserting themselves but the work, the determination and even the personality of the teacher can also be recognized.

Two levels have been created, with a first question to answer to: what minimum age to take part in the competition? We have chosen the age of 9 years old anyway, but with a first level from 9 to 14 years old, easier than the level from 14 to 18 years old.

The first level includes a short piece from György Kurtág's *Játékok*; the rest of the program is free (total duration: 10 minutes). Regarding the second level, a piece for piano and tape is especially ordered to the composer Pierre Jodlowski, supported by the Conseil Régional du Centre, and sent free of charge to the candidates.

We have liked the idea to ask to Pierre Jodlowski to use his talent and his complicity with the propositions of this competition, in order to highlight the special music of the XX<sup>th</sup> and XXI<sup>st</sup> centuries. This piece for piano and tape will last between 4 and 6 minutes and will be the compulsory piece of the next edition; consequently, it will be performed before an audience by 20 candidates, Salle de l'Institut in Orleans. It will be the first piece of a book which will gather works for piano and tape, quite easy to play; then, we will be able to propose it to the pupils of the Conservatories in the Région Centre, where we organize an educational tour every two years. We could give the title of "Brin d'herbe" to this piece.

The difference between both the levels will be easily done thanks to the proposition to include in the second level's program some precise composers (total duration: 20 minutes): Berio, Debussy, Kurtág, Dutilleux, Bartók.

Finally, Jazz and improvisation can be included in the program, or played apart from the recital. This test will not be compulsory.

In this competition 2009, there may be a special talent, who may become a real professional pianist, as in the last two competitions; and that would be encouraging. However, we would like this event to remain "convivial" and friendly, so as to help the teachers to judge their pupils, in particular their qualities and possibilities, whatever they become, "amateurs" or "professional" pianists.

Anyway, the "Brin d'herbe" competition may reveal the talent of some young musicians. Then, this precious quality should be supported and we could imagine one day the subscription of a "Brin d'herbe" prize winner to the International Orléans Piano Competition for professional pianists, and become one of the rare musicians who are still looked for in the competitions everywhere in the world.