

Mauricio Kagel Composition Competition

“...when dealing with the touchy subject of postmodernism, one often encounters an unrealistic longing for a reversible history. One can sense the potential gratification if only we might finally achieve an idyllic pre-modern existence. This ideologically embellished confusion conveys, most candidly, the general sentiment when confronted with the modern period. Such sentiments should serve as our basis for moving forward, because the prevailing arguments for or against the postmodern period miss the point. Understanding the modern period as an important link in a logical, comprehensible process of development, the very essence of “contemporary,” has always been just as important as reflecting on the implications and variants of all forms of novelty...”

Mauricio Kagel

Considering the relative overabundance of piano literature, it would be seemingly foolhardy to stage a composition competition promoting the creation of new pieces for piano. Everything appears to exist already, even pieces for children and young adults. Still, far too frequently it is precisely this contemporary „educational literature“ which proves lacking in artistic qualities; accompanying a reduction in technical difficulty, with an objectionable reduction in the notion of what children and young adults are capable of understanding – both intellectually and emotionally.

We are looking for piano pieces written for children and young adults which, although limited in their technical difficulty, remain uncompromising in their artistic aim; pieces written with a contemporary compositional technique which offer the young student stimulus, insight and new experiences: experiences about oneself and the world in which we live.

With the creation of this competition, the Institute Ludwig van Beethoven would like to ensure that such quality pieces are more prevalent in the future and to this end we invite composers to accept the challenge by enrolling in the competition.

In the course of a week’s time an audience comprised of students, teachers, and performing artists will be given the chance to listen as the jury evaluates the different ways this challenge has been addressed by the composers. The jury will assess not only the artistic quality of the pieces, but also the question: what does a piano student learn from these pieces? And in addition the discussion will cover what makes a piece exciting and what is future-oriented; while at the same time never losing sight of the technical limits implied when composing for children and young adults.

The decision of the Jury to award the prizes within the course of the Mauricio Kagel composition competition is reached, therefore, in a very special way – not behind closed doors, but in open and public discussion. The winning pieces will be technically suitable for children/young adults but will not compromise their artistic aim in order to make a pedagogical impact. Instead, they will be convincing due to their compositional quality.

Conditions for Participation

- a) The competition is open to all composers born after September 1st, 1972. Winners of the 2010 edition of the Mauricio Kagel Composition Competition are no longer eligible to enter.
- b) The scores submitted must be unpublished and less than three years old.
- c) Each composer is permitted to submit one score; which may be comprised of several pieces.

Details of the composition

- The score should be for one piano, and may include all of its facets and possibilities (solo, four-hands, utilizing the interior of the piano, prepared piano, expansion of the instrument through tape...)
- The pieces should have a level of difficulty suitable to be played by children/young adults.
- Instructions for performance must be written in German or English.
- The piece or group of pieces is expected to have a total length of between 6 and 15 minutes.

Applications

a) The participants are to anonymously send an envelope which is to be marked on the outside with a freely chosen five-digit code which does not give any indication to the identity of the participant. The envelope should contain:

1. six copies of the piano score (all anonymous, the composer's name should not appear on the score), each annotated with the same five-digit code.
2. an additional sealed envelope marked with the same code and containing the composer's personal data, a short curriculum vitae and two recent photos.

b) All entries must be postmarked no later than September 1st, 2012 and should be addressed to:

Universität für Musik und darstellende Kunst Wien
Institut Ludwig van Beethoven
Rennweg 8
1030 Wien
Österreich

Jury

Julian Anderson
Michael Jarrell
Isabel Mundry
Robert HP Platz
Marco Stroppa

- From the entries received, each jury member will nominate several pieces to be included in the 21st Vienna Days of Contemporary Piano Music (February 11th-15th, 2013), openly discussed by the jurors and considered for a prize.
- The presentation of the prizes will take place on the 15th of February.
- The organizers of the Mauricio Kagel composition competition reserve the right to find replacement jury members as seen necessary.
- The jury is free in its decision making. All decisions of the jury are final and indisputable. There can be no appeal against the jury's judgement.

Prizes

1st Prize € 5.000.-
2nd Prize € 3.000.-
3rd Prize € 2.000.-

- The jury may decide to divide the prizes or not to award a prize.
- Winning scores will be published together by Universal Edition in a volume entitled K2013 and performed in February 2014 during the 22nd Vienna Days of Contemporary Piano Music.
- Additionally the jury may create a list of recommended pieces.
- The Institute Ludwig van Beethoven will produce a CD of the winning pieces and pieces selected from the jury's list of recommendations.

Legal Information

- Scores received cannot be returned.
- The organizers of the competition cannot be held responsible for post which arrives damaged, goes astray or is delivered late.
- Registration for the competition and the submission of scores implies the unconditional acceptance of all conditions set forth herein.
- The composers of the submitted scores retain their rights as copyright holders.
- The Institute Ludwig van Beethoven retains the right to document, record and reproduce all concerts, performances or presentations held during the course of the competition and the subsequent 22nd Vienna Days of Contemporary Piano Music both visually and acoustically for the purpose of advertising the competition. Furthermore, the participants agree to the cession, free of charge, of all video or audio recording, reproduction, broadcasting and distribution rights pertaining to these documents for use in all forms of media coverage in connection with these events. If however these recordings are used for commercial gain, the composers are entitled to an appropriate compensation.
- Litigation is excluded as a possibility for settling disputes arising in connection with the competition.

Contact:

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Österreich

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mail: info@mauricio-kagel-composition-competition.com

web: www.mauricio-kagel-composition-competition.com

Mauricio Kagel composition competition

composer's personal data

Title:

First Name:

Last Name:

Date of birth:

Citizenship:

Address:

Telephone Number:

Fax:

e-mail:

five-digit code:

I hereby declare that I have read and understood the competition's legal information.

Date

Signature