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Lions European Music Competition Thomas Kuti 2023

Trombone talents in Klagenfurt

On October 26th and 27th the Lions European Music Competition Thomas Kuti took place at the Gustav Mahler Private University for Music in Klagenfurt. Both rounds were held in the recently renovated Mozartsaal. This year's competition was dedicated to the trombone. In the preliminary round on October 26th each of the 16 trombonists began by performing the first two movements of the highly demanding compulsory piece "Arrows of Time" by American composer Richard Peaslee. Then, each participant continued with the first of his/her two pieces chosen from the repertoire list. After the completion of the preliminary round the jury selected the six best candidates for the final. The jury consisted of Uwe Füssel (Germany), Josef Kürner (Austria) and Hansjörg Profanter (Italy). Although the three jurors had a long-lasting experience as trombone professors, members of world-renowned orchestras and jurors at international competitions, the decision whom to nominate for the final was extremely difficult due to the outstanding achievements of the young trombonists.

The 6 best trombonists

Finally, the jurors selected **Sophie Rebecca Bright** (Switzerland– Liechtenstein), **José Adolfo Ferrer Trujillo** (Spain), **Jonas Gassner** (Austria), **Amadeu Duarte Gomes Félix** (Portugal), **Francesco Maffei** (Italy) und **Clément-Théophile Radix** (France) for the final which took place on October 27th. Each finalist performed the obligatory piece of the young Austrian composer Tina Geroldinger, followed by the second of his/her two pieces chosen from the repertoire list. The final was particularly entertaining for the audience, because they were able to listen to the first two movements of trombone concertos by Henri Tomasi and Nino Rota, the trombone concerto by Georg



Christoph Wagenseil and the ballad by Swiss composer Frank Martin. All 16 trombonists were accompanied by **Yu-Tung Pan** and **Elena Ten**, two highly experienced pianists.

The 3rd prize was awarded to Italian trombonist **Francesco Maffei**. Additionally, he was delighted with winning the audience prize. The 2nd prize was assigned to Austrian trombonist **Jonas Gassner**. The winner of the Lions European Music Competition Thomas Kuti in 2023 was **Sophie Rebecca Bright**, who was nominated by the Lions Club Switzerland and Liechtenstein.

At the Closing Ceremony the 6 finalists played two pieces together.

Innovations at the LEMC 2023 in Klagenfurt

The Lions European music competition Klagenfurt, which was organised by Johann Neubauer, contained several new ideas. For the first time in the history of the 31-year-old competition, the entire competition was broadcast via livestream. Thus, relatives and friends of the competitors and classical music enthusiasts who were not able to travel to Klagenfurt could follow the competition. In total, 1700 people from 27 countries took advantage of this opportunity. The livestream was tremendously popular in Austria, Portugal and France.

Moreover, Johann Neubauer invented a composition competition in order to foster the career of young composers. In total, 8 students from the Anton Bruckner Private University wrote compositions for trombone and piano. Johann Neubauer selected the composition by **Tina Geroldinger** for the competition in Klagenfurt.

Furthermore, a brochure with detailed information about the Lions European Music Competition 2023 was published in German and English. This brochure was given to all Lions members registered at the Europa Forum in Klagenfurt. The brochure consisted of information about the chairperson of the Lions European Music Competition, Ingo Brookmann, the person responsible for the competition's organization in Klagenfurt, Johann Neubauer, the competition procedure, the 16 participants, the three jurors and the composer Tina Geroldinger.

Unanimous praise for the Lions European Music Competition 2023

Ingo Brookmann warmly thanked Johann Neubauer for the excellent organisation of the competition and the innovations in this year's competition. The country representatives of Switzerland, Belgium, France and Spain were deeply impressed by the perfect organisation of the competition and congratulated Johann Neubauer most sincerely on his efforts. The juror Hansjörg Profanter, who was a juror in the world-renowned ARD International Music Competition Munich last year, thoroughly enjoyed the carefully organised competition and the highly impressive musical achievements by the young trombonists.

Photographs:

DSC_1576: 6 finalists from left to right: Sophie Rebecca Bright, Clément-Théophile Radix, José Adolfo Ferrer Trujillo, Amadeu Duarte Gomes Félix, Francesco Maffei, Jonas Gassner

DSC_5137: composer Tina Geroldinger

DSC_1608: 3 prize winners from left to right: Francesco Maffei (3rd prize & Audience prize), Sophie Rebecca Bright (1st prize), Jonas Gassner (2nd prize)

DSC_1610: Jonas Gassner, Johann Neubauer

DSC_5211: jury from left to right: Hansjörg Profanter, Uwe Füssel, Josef Kürner

Photographer: Shirley Suarez