

Moment of glory for piano music

Eight talents from around the world inspired the audience from Saarlouis – all played by heart

Wolfram Schmitt Leonardy, pianist and piano professor, has launched a unique project to promote young, already global playing pianists. Eight out of 400 candidates of the Lang-Lang-Foundation received multiple classes by renowned pianists this year. The launch was made in Saarlouis. The public was surprised with two well-attended concerts of the master class.

This exceeds the wildest expectations: the audience including foreign guests reacted absolutely thrilled and speechless. Eight highly talented pianists were selected to benefit from master classes by renowned pianists in an international casting of more than 400 applicants with the support of Kreismusikschule and the Cultural Office represented by Wolfram Schmitt Leonardy, professor at the University of Music and Performing Arts Munich and coach in the Junior Music Camps of the Lang-Lang Foundation.

All eight pianists took the audience on an expedition full of glowing and most beautiful colors in known and unknown regions of the "Piano cosmos". Among them, Maxim Lando from New York, who has already performed 15 times at Carnegie Hall. The boy has to be seen! It is hard to describe how this 13-year-old boy subordinated the piano with the dedication and virtuosity.

He was as brilliant as his colleagues and chose the most difficult literature: the "Fairy Tale" by Nikolai Medtner and the fourth movement of Sergei Prokofiev's Sonata No. 2 and topped it with the "Carmen Fantasy" by Vladimir Horowitz as encore. Genius: All participants played by heart - highly emotional, yet controlled.

Virtuoso pieces

It is risky to highlight one over the other seven young pianists who bring world-class music given the potential of the other seven young pianists. Despite her young age all are winners of prestigious international competitions and already gave concerts in famous concert halls, act as ambassadors of the Lang-Lang-Foundation and are booked by renowned orchestras.

Also the 14-year-old George Harliono from Cambridge wowed the audience in amazement. As last of the artist, he enriched the concert with the dreaded Sonata "Islamey" by Balakirev and Liszt's "Les jeux d'eau à la Ville d'Este" technically perfect and musically highly intelligent.

Also Lissy Hermelink, 16, from Stuttgart, Coco Ma, 15, from Toronto, Axel Trolese, 18, from Rome, Knut Nassen, 23, from Bonn and Haiting Ning, 17 from China offered extremely virtuoso pieces with lyrical passages close to perfection. 14-year-old Pole Ziemowit Switalski had started the evening. He played the popular 'Rondo a Capriccio' from Beethoven's "Rage over a Lost Penny" and let the semiquaver dance on the piano.