

Gaudeamus Music Week 2011

Some words from the jury

Thank you very much, Henk Heuvelmans, for the honour and pleasure of taking part in the jury of the Gaudeamus Music Week 2011. In February we were given the task of nominating 10-15 scores out of almost 400 entries. It took us three full days to work our way through them. In the end, we only chose works on which we unanimously agreed. Every time we encountered a score we really liked, it was an uplifting experience: we felt happy and inspired.

Intentionally, the nominated pieces are very diverse, aesthetically and in their compositional approaches. Amongst the thirteen pieces, you will find the polished, the rough, the theatrical, the spatial, the sound-based, the pitch-based, the microtonal, etc.

The live performances of the nominated pieces this week were never disappointing, but did sometimes change our opinions slightly, sometimes surprising us through an unexpected interpretation by the performer(s) that shed a new light on the work.

We believe in the creative talents of all nominated composers and wish them perseverance –because composition, after all, is also hard work- to develop their creative minds and reap the fruits of their potential. We shall be looking forward to hearing your music in the future. Do stay in touch, if you like.

We would like to take the opportunity now to mention one of our youngest nominees, Anna Korsun, as a special young talent with a high sense of musical abstraction. We have great expectations for her future and hope that she will apply again to the Gaudeamus Music Weeks during the years to come.

The diversity of the nominated pieces is reflected in the three pieces that will receive the *Gaudeamus Prize 2011* and the *Honourable mentions*. The Prize consists of a paid commission for a new work, to be performed during the Gaudeamus Music Week 2012. The composers who receive the Honourable mentions are also given the opportunity to present a new work or an older piece, at their own choice.

The first Honourable mention goes to Andrew McIntosh. He is an American experimental composer, employing just intonation in his work *Voice and Echo I* for two violas. The jury was struck by the wonderful performance last Wednesday and

the resonant quality of the work. McIntosh's approach encompasses the main compositional parameters pitch, harmony, and rhythm, in our opinion in a very mature manner, leading to a strong overall form and simply a stunning piece of music. We hope to hear a new piece of work by Andrew next year that opens our ears and minds.

The second Honourable mention goes to Wei-Chieh Lin from Taiwan. With *Tracing the shadows of broken time*, he has delivered a highly polished piece of work with an orchestrational technique and a grasp of musical materials that we admire. Wei-Chieh, like Andrew, is a true musician. We would like to encourage him, as a composer, to take a step more towards the edge, become a little less polite, and investigate the darker sides of his compositional personality. We consider his wish to step into the spectral microtonal realm as meaningful. It could open up his musical outlook and prove crucial in the development of his own musical language.

The Gaudeamus Prize 2011 goes to Yoshiaki Onishi from Japan. His composition *Départ dans...* is written from a strong creative impulse. Yoshiaki chose a fruitful combination of instruments and makes full use of their possibilities in order to create an aural world of his own, with its own rules, sounds and a highly musical interaction between the players. The composer persists in the investigation of his musical materials, letting the musical form evolve from this starting point in a surprising yet seemingly inevitable way. We look forward to Yoshiaki's new piece for the Gaudeamus Music Week 2012 and hope that he will further his definition of a highly personal sound world through pitch and harmony, while maintaining the rigorous approach to form he showed in this piece.

Jury, Gaudeamus Music Week 2011:

Miguel Azguime. Rozalie Hirs (chairman). Tadeusz Wielecki

Utrecht, The Netherlands

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