

Foundation Montreux Jazz



MONTREUX JAZZ SOLO PIANO COMPETITION 2010

Since 1967, the world's greatest jazz pianists have graced the stages of the Montreux Jazz Festival. Their biographies tell tumultuous tales of hard work and artistic endeavour, but also of solidarity with fellow musicians and magical opportunities.

In 1999, the desire to provide one such opportunity led Claude Nobs, founder and director of the Festival, to create the world's first international solo competition for professional jazz pianists. His aim was not only to lend a helping hand to young musicians struggling for recognition, but also to enable them to meet pianists of the same age and level from other countries.

The solo piano competition is open to musicians under the age of 30. During the fall, details of the event are sent to professional jazz schools and clubs around the world.

The organisers receive entries from over fifty different countries. In the spring, around fifteen pianists are selected to take part in the semi-finals and final at the Montreux Jazz Festival, in front of a jury of professionals and a discerning international audience. Musicians, record company representatives and producers seeking new talent take their seats among the general public. During the Festival, the competing pianists are encouraged to exchange their experiences and forge friendships and are given plenty of opportunities to attend concerts and workshops together in Montreux.

Only four prizes are awarded each year. But the organisers believe that all the participants leave Montreux with the conviction that they have taken their career one step further through this culturally enriching musical experience.

STAGES OF THE COMPETITION

First Selection

On May 1st 2010, Jury members will examine entries that include a CD with candidate's performance (total of 10 minutes). Candidates who have been selected for the semi-finals will be notified by May 15, 2010, and will be invited to perform in Montreux in July 2010 (the exact dates of the competition are still to be determined). These candidates have to confirm their participation in writing to the Montreux Jazz Competition.

Semi-finals (maximum 15 competitors)

The candidates qualified for the semi-finals will be invited to perform in Montreux in July 2010 (dates of competition are yet to be determined). The candidates will have to perform the requested pieces (length of the performance 15 min.) in front of a jury.

Final (3 competitors)

The final will be held shortly after the semi-finals. The finalists will have to perform (length of the performance 20 minutes) in front of the jury.

Foundation Montreux Jazz



PRIZES

The **first prize** winner of the Montreux Jazz Festival Solo Piano Competition receives CHF 10 000.– Swiss francs and a week's recording time at Balik Farm Studio, located in the breathtaking scenery of Switzerland's Toggenburg region. He or she is invited to be part of the "Montreux Jazz on the Road", a group composed of the winners of the piano, guitar and voice competition, to which we add a bass player and drummer. In the winter, the band will spend a week recording a CD together at Balik Studio, before touring Europe's famous summer jazz festivals, including, of course, Montreux.

The **second prize** winner receives CHF 3 000.– Swiss francs.

The **third prize** winner receives CHF 2 000.– Swiss francs.

The Montreux Jazz Festival Solo Piano Competition attracts an audience of connoisseurs who award their own prize. The winner of the **Public Prize** receives a CD boxed set of the works of a famous pianist and a certificate.

SOLO PIANO COMPETITION WINNERS

2009	Isfar Sarabsky (Ex Æquo)	(Azerbaijan)	http://www.youtube.com/user/IsfarSarabski
	Beka Gochiashvili (Ex Æquo)	(Georgia)	
2008	Gaël Rakotondrabe	(France)	http://www.myspace.com/gaelrakotondrabe
2007	Rolando Luna Carrillo	(Cuba)	http://www.mp3.com/artist/rolando-luna-carrillo/
2006	Dan Tepfer	(USA / France)	http://www.dantepfer.com/
2005	Harold Lopez-Nussa Torres	(Cuba)	http://www.myspace.com/haroldlopeznussa
2004	Robert Botos	(Hungary)	http://www.myspace.com/robibotosmusic
2003	Tigran Hamasyan	(Armenia)	http://www.tigranhamasyan.com/
2002	Marius Vernescu	(Rumania)	http://www.softrecords.ro/
2001	Robert Lakatos	(Hungary)	http://www.myspace.com/robertlakatos
2000	Daniel Szabo	(Hungary)	http://www.szabodaniel.com/
1999	Leo Tardin	(Switzerland)	http://www.leotardin.com/

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

The Montreux Jazz Festival Solo Piano Competition is open to pianists of all nationalities born after January 1st, 1980. Previous winners of the competition are not eligible to compete. Finalists and semifinalists of Montreux's previous competitions may not compete more than three times.

The demo, semi finale and finale has to be played solo piano exclusively.

The following criteria are among those that will be taken into consideration: Originality, imagination, style, musicality (harmony, rythm), dynamic (color, nuances), touch, mastering of the instrument and technique.

MONTREUX JAZZ SOLO PIANO COMPETITION 2010 ENTRY FORM

To be returned by April 15, 2010, with the requested items. The competition is open to pianists of all nationalities born after January 1st, 1980 (under the age of 30).

Items to be sent with the entry

1. a demo CD
The recording must include three pieces of music. The total length of the recording should not exceed 10 minutes and must include:
 - a personal composition
 - one piece of blues (12 bars)
 - either «Country» by Keith Jarrett or «Blackbird» by The Beatles.
 Entrants should perform their own interpretation of the original piece, improving and developing it.
2. Two photos with the name of the entrant written on the back.
3. A photocopy of the entrant's ID card.
4. A curriculum vitae with other relevant documents.

The award ceremony will take place after the final.

Recordings

The Montreux Jazz Festival Solo Piano Competition reserves the right to make audio and video recordings, as well as the pictures of the competitors' performances and remains the sole owner of this material. Entrants grant the Montreux Jazz Festival Foundation all rights.

Jury

The competition is placed under the patronage of Quincy Jones, extraordinary ambassador to the Montreux Jazz Festival, with the collaboration of pianists and musicians from the international jazz scene. The jury has been presided by:

2009	Chucho Valdés
2007 & 2008	Fazil Say
2005 & 2006	Joe Sample
2004	Michel Camilo
2003	James Williams
2002	Joe Sample
2001	Randy Weston
2000	John Lewis
1999	George Duke

Travel and accommodation

Travel and accommodation expenses are covered entirely by the entrants. However, the Montreux Jazz Festival competitions office can help by providing addresses of hotels and youth hostels in the area and by sending semi-finalists an invitation that can be used to seek funding from cultural institutions in their native countries.

Pianos

Entrants are guaranteed regular access to a piano for practice during the competition period.

Legal notice

The jury's assessment will take place in private in accordance with the assessment criteria presented (see above). The participant accepts that the jury's decisions are final and that no appeal is possible. The Foundation will not be held responsible if, in case of necessity, the present competition is modified, postponed or cancelled. Any dispute relating to the interpretation, execution or non-execution of the present regulations will be subject to Swiss law.

Information and contact at the Montreux Jazz Festival

MJF Solo Piano Competition
Sentier de Collonge 3
P.O. Box 126
CH-1820 Montreux / Switzerland
solopianocompetition@fondation2.ch



Foundation Montreux Jazz



MONTREUX JAZZ SOLO PIANO COMPETITION 2010 ENTRY FORM

Surname

First name

Street / Number

ZIP / Town

Country

E-mail

Citizenship

Telephone

Fax

Nationality

Date of birth (day/month/year)

How have you heard about that competition
(name of school, club, etc)?

The organisers reserve the right to refuse incomplete applications.

MJF Solo Piano Competition
Sentier de Collonge 3
P.O. Box 126
CH-1820 Montreux
Switzerland

