



Gregynog Young Musician Competition 2017

Glorious Spring weather and the magnificent gardens at Gregynog Hall formed the backdrop for the 2017 Gregynog Young Musician Competition. Throughout the day, rich sonorous music filled the Hall as the competitors performed their repertoires in the semi-final round of the competition. Six of these amazing young musicians were chosen by the esteemed panel of adjudicators to appear in the Final Concert later that evening.

The concert opened with George Striven, a pupil at the Manchester Grammar School performing on the French horn. In his recital, the audience were treated to a lively and accurate performance of *Morceau de Concert* by Saint-Saens. The following competitor playing the 'Cello was Willard Carter, a pupil at the Purcell School. Willard gave a mellifluous rendition of Tchaikovsky's *Pezzo Capriccioso*, a performance which demonstrated his amazing technical agility and control in the higher range. The first half of the evening concluded with a performance from Chinese pianist, Zhou Tian Lang. His programme included a beautiful performance of a Beethoven sonata and a thrilling rendition of *Scherzo No 3* by Chopin. The latter amazed the audience with the technical ability needed to accurately play and quickly execute the running octave passages.

The second half of this final concert opened with Hannah Brooks-Hughes, who presented a technically demanding programme on the violin. Her cool and authoritative interpretation of Bach's *Allemande* from *Partita No.3* demonstrated preciseness of pitch, particularly in the multiple stoppings. Eugene Bozza's *Image for Solo Flute* was included in Chloe Ellen Jones's diverse programme. She gave a stylish performance in which she was able to show the extended range of the instrument together with flutter-tongue notes and long chromatic passages. A Gregynog blackbird was also obviously impressed, joining in with great gusto!

The overall winner of this years' competition was Nikita Burzanitza on piano. Originally from the Ukraine and now studying at Wells Cathedral School in their specialist music programme, his recital included a dazzling rendition of the *Spanish Rhapsody* by Franz Liszt. This is a highly demanding piece, which is full of technical challenges, insisting on great virtuosity. There followed the *Vers la Flamme* by Scriabin in which Nikita amazed the audience by his complete mastery of the complex rhythms and extended tremolos. His programme ended the evening with Rimsky Korsakov's *Flight of the Bumblebee* played at break neck speed!

The day displayed an amazing wealth of ability and virtuosity. The Davies sisters would have indeed been delighted to hear these dazzling performances, from some of the most talented and musically dedicated youth of this country.