
FELIX MENDELSSOHN BARTHOLDY FOUNDATION

INFORMATION



FELIX-MENDELSSOHN-BARTHOLDY-STIFTUNG
PRÄSIDENT KURT MASUR

July/August 2011

President Maestro Kurt Masur honoured

Award ceremony in Paris

The German Foreign Ministry and the French Ministry of Foreign & European Affairs have chosen Maestro Kurt Masur and Professor Pierre Boulez as winners of the Adenauer-de Gaulle Prize in 2011. On 20 June 2011 the Prize was formally bestowed at a ceremony in the Hôtel de Beauharnais, the Residence of the German Ambassador in Paris, by the two Ministers responsible for Franco-German co-operation, French Europe Minister Laurent Wauquiez and the Minister of State in the German Foreign Office Dr Werner Hoyer.

The Adenauer-de Gaulle Prize, which was established on 22 January 1988, is a distinction for those people who have made an especial contribution to Franco-German co-operation. It is named after the former German Federal Chancellor Konrad Adenauer and the former President of the French Republic Charles de Gaulle. Both politicians strove for post-war reconciliation between the two European nations, which had previously regarded one another as arch-enemies. This reconciliation was sealed by the Elysée Treaty.

“With the award of the Adenauer-de Gaulle Prize we are honouring not only two exceptional artists of our time, but also two great Europeans, who are decisive figures in contemporary European history and Franco-



German friendship. The artistic careers of Pierre Boulez and Kurt Masur – formed through many years of experience in Germany and France – are an example of the creativity and originality which the values of the European community have produced.” declared Minister of State Dr Hoyer. “In the French conductor and composer Pierre Boulez and the German conductor Kurt Masur, this year we are honouring two personalities who, through their professional as well as private commitment, have made an extraordinary contribution to Franco-German relations. Both have worked tirelessly for many years in the neighbouring country. Kurt Masur was in charge of the “Orchestre National de France” from 2002 to 2008. Pierre Boulez, who had already conducted in Germany in the 1950s and 1960s, has for many years worked together with the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra.”



pictures; top left: Ministers Laurent Wauquiez (left) and Dr Werner Hoyer (right) watching Maestro Kurt Masur lauding the musical opportunities and the wide-ranging musical education in France.

top right: Prof. Pierre Boulez thanking for being honoured with the Adenauer-de Gaulle Prize and speaking, amongst others, about the modern German orchestras and their tradition formed by Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy and which Boulez experiences working in Germany.

left: Both prize-winners in the Hôtel de Beauharnais, Paris.

On 11 February 2011 the Felix-Mendelssohn-Bartholdy-Foundation invited guests to a further Gala event in the Music Salon of the Mendelssohn-House. Alfred Brendel, who has only recently ended his worldwide career as a pianist, read from his recent publications (*Über Soloabende, Klaviergedichte, Ermahnung eines Mozart-Spielers an sich selbst, Der neue Stil und Hören*) some lively and serious stories and poems, observations about music and its performers.

He then introduced a young pianist, who in his view is the most talented of the next generation worldwide, and whom, accordingly, he is personally guiding – the 18-year-old Kit Armstrong, who played on an historic Tröndlin Hammerflügel a lively and sparkling programme with works by Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, Variations sérieuses in D minor, opus 54, BWV U 156, and Johann Sebastian Bach, Prelude and Fugue in F sharp major, BWV 858, Prelude and Fugue in F sharp minor, BWV 859 from the Book I of the Well-Tempered Clavier, followed by Prelude and Fugue in G major, BWV 860 and Prelude and Fugue in G minor, BWV 861 from Part II.

Afterwards Maestro Kurt Masur invited the guests, including the Prime Minister of Saxony Stanislaw Tillich, the Lord Mayor of Leipzig Burkhard Jung and the well-known artist Neo Rauch, to a festive dinner in the former coach-house of the Mendelssohn-House.

The proceeds for the evening enabled the above-mentioned Tröndlin Hammerklavier from Mendelssohn's time to be acquired by the Museum. It will now undergo thorough restoration.

Further proceeds of the evening will be used for the digitalisation of the Mendelssohn-House's collection of Mendelssohn's early editions, in order to make them available on the Internet to as many scholars and musicians as possible throughout the world.



pictures; top: Maestro Masur welcoming the guests to the gala and speaking about the importance of the Mendelssohn-House for the German music history.

left: Premier Tillich giving his welcoming speech in the historic music salon of the Mendelssohn-House. below: Alfred Brendel reading from his books and presenting the young pianist Kit Armstrong (bottom left)

bottom right: Mayor Burkhard Jung speaking to Maestro Masur's guests about the worldwide activity of the Felix-Mendelssohn-Bartholdy-Foundation and thanking for the support of the contributors.



Prize Award

On 24 September 2011 it will be prize-giving time again in the Leipzig Gewandhaus. The Leipzig International Mendelssohn Prize will be awarded for the fifth time. Since 2007 the Felix-Mendelssohn-Bartholdy-Foundation in Leipzig has awarded this distinguished prize in various categories, in memory of Felix Mendelssohn and his legacy. The first recipient of the Leipzig International Mendelssohn Prize was Kurt Masur, who received the honour on the occasion of his 80th birthday. Kofi Annan gave the laudation and Harald Schmidt moderated the Gala concert.

The following year the violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter and the philosopher Peter Sloterdijk received the honour, and in the third year Helmut Schmidt, Riccardo Chailly and Armin Mueller-Stahl were the prize-winners. In 2010 the pianist Lang-Lang and the actress Iris Berben were honoured.

The concert proceeds benefited the Felix-Mendelssohn-Bartholdy-Foundation, which was thereby able to implement important projects – including paying off the mortgage of the Mendelssohn-House, the purchase of the world's largest collection of Mendelssohn's first published editions, and the acquisition of a historic pianoforte for the concerts in the music salon of the Mendelssohn-House.

Those who would like to be present at this year's awards can apply for Gala concert tickets at the Leipzig Gewandhaus (60/50/40/30/15 euros, including taxes, and with appropriate reductions, Telephone +49 341 1270 280).

The names of the 2011 prize-winners were announced at a press conference in Leipzig on Thursday, 7 July. In the "Music" category, which is always represented, the singer Professor Peter Schreier will receive the prize. For his outstanding "Social Commitment" the author Professor Marcel Reich-Ranicki will be honoured.

News from the UK Friends 2011

On Saturday 21 May 2011 the UK Friends of the Felix-Mendelssohn-Bartholdy-Foundation organised a very successful fund-raising concert and lunch in the lovely country home, *Swan House*, of our UK Friends Trustees Michael and Patricia Langley, set amid the spectacular Cotswold Hills.

UK Friends Chairman Desmond Cecil introduced the invited audience to the work of the Foundation, and its charitable objectives to promote outstanding young musicians and a scholarship "in the spirit of Mendelssohn" – musician, painter, humanist, world citizen – as well as to the close links between the UK Friends and Leipzig.

The concert opened with a fascinating talk by music critic, teacher and Mendelssohn scholar Rick Jones, who described his recent trip around Scotland in the historic footsteps of Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, who visited the landscape there in 1829.

This was followed by fine performances from three talented young musicians, Lisa Obert (violin), Ella Rundle (viola) and Janneke Brits (piano). They began with transcriptions for piano trio of six of Mendelssohn's charming *Songs without Words*. They finished with Mendels-

sohn's magnificent Piano Trio No. 2 in C minor, opus 66 (MWV Q 33).

The audience showed their heartfelt appreciation of the outstanding performers through enthusiastic and prolonged applause. Afterwards audience and performers together enjoyed a relaxed lunch and conversation in the beautiful gardens of *Swan House*.

The generosity of the audience raised substantial and most welcome funds for the UK Friends of the Felix-Mendelssohn-Bartholdy-Foundation, to contribute towards its future charitable objectives "in the spirit of Mendelssohn".



pictures:
Mendelssohn Scholar Rick Jones in the garden of *Swan House* and *Young musicians* Lisa Obert (left), Janneke Brits (middle), Ella Rundle (right) enthusiastically applauded after their fine performance of Mendelssohn's *Second Piano Trio*.



Scholarship Programme 2011

The scholarship programme of the Leipzig Foundation, in co-operation with the American Friends of the Felix-Mendelssohn-Bartholdy-Foundation and the Japanese Circle of Friends, is continuing in 2011. This year three conductors are expected in Leipzig for further tuition, two sent by the American Friends and one young conductor from Japan.

In addition to the tuition with orchestral musicians, in the archives and

libraries, as well as visits to the museums and attendance at Gewandhaus concert rehearsals, the scholars will go on excursions to Berlin, Weimar and Bonn, where they will meet and discuss with experts in the classical music tradition.

An important part of the tuition in Leipzig will be an orchestral project with the Leipzig Symphony Orchestra directed by Frank-Michael Erben, in

which the young conductors will direct their own rehearsals to achieve concert standard. The results of this workshop project will be presented in a concert with an all-Mendelssohn programme on 7 September in Böhlen near Leipzig.

Those interested in this orchestral concert can obtain more information and tickets from the Mendelssohn-House in Leipzig,
Telephone +49 (341) 1270 294.

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