

KENNETH PAGE FOUNDATION

(Registered Charity No. 1078138)

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Plans are well ahead for a competition and winners' recitals for 2011, but first, a report on our last competition.

First Cello Competition Sunday 25 April 2010

Once again we were able to hold our string competition in the delightful lakeside setting of the Music Department at Wycombe Abbey School. Under the experienced adjudicator Lionel Handy, at present professor of cello at both the Royal Academy of Music and Birmingham Conservatoire, we attracted eleven cellists. They performed to a very high standard; the quality goes up every year!

The outright winner was a student of Louise Hopkins at Guildhall School of Music & Drama, Matthijs Broersma. He gave outstanding performances of the first movement of Beethoven's final sonata (Op.102, No. 2), Dvořák's 'Silent Woods', and the second movement of Franck's A major Sonata (transcribed for cello). Lionel Handy described Matthijs's performance of the Dvořák as faultless.

Second prize went to Tom Bayman, a student of Emma Ferrand at the Royal Northern College of Music,

Manchester. His programme included Ysaÿe's Sonata for Solo Cello (first movement), Simon Holt's 2003 work 'Feet of Clay' for which Tom also won the prize for a performance of a work written since 1980, and the first movement of Debussy's Sonata.

The complete Debussy Sonata was the main work in the programme of third-prize winner Liubov Ulybysheva, a student of Felix Schmidt at the Royal Academy of Music. Her deeply committed programme also included Tchaikovsky's 'Pezzo Capriccioso'.

Our thanks go to Wycombe Abbey School for hosting the event, to Nick Hadwen, Head of Strings, and his assistants for its smooth running, and to David Alexander for his excellent support – at very short notice - as accompanist for some of the contestants.

First-Prize Winner's Recitals in 2011

It is a measure of our success in attracting exciting performers that two organisations have offered full or part recitals to our first-prize winner, Matthijs Broersma.



Tom Bayman, Lionel Handy, Matthijs Broersma

On 25 May 2011 Matthijs will give the evening recital as part of Repton School's Chamber Music Series, while on Saturday 19 November, Birmingham Chamber Music Society has offered a shared programme in the Adrian Boult Hall. Coincidentally, he is sharing the recital with the Boult String Quartet whose cellist is the son of Lionel Handy, our most recent adjudicator!

Fourth Violin Competition Sunday 8 May 2011

Our fourth Violin Competition will be held, once again, at Wycombe Abbey School. Our adjudicator will be the distinguished leader of the Coull String Quartet, Roger Coull.

Competitors should be 25 or under on 31 March, the final day for registering. Please use the email address at the end of this newsletter. Further details will be circulated in December.

Former Competition Winners

We should like to keep you up to date with the careers and concert dates of previous competition winners.

Camille Farrar is now a violinist with the RTÉ National Symphony

Orchestra, Dublin, while Amy Littlewood has opportunities to play with the CBSO, The Orchestra of the Swan and Orchestra da Camera, as well as appearing as soloist with several Midlands' orchestras. First-Prize Winner of our Second Viola Competition, Diana Mathews, will be appearing in the forthcoming series of Concerts in the West (www.concertsinthewest.org) in early March next year.

Information about the careers of other prize-winners, for inclusion in forthcoming newsletters, would be most welcome.

Trustees and the Foundation

While, for the foreseeable future, we still have capital to cover costs of competitions for young people and, occasionally, the commissioning of new compositions, we are still reliant on your generosity. We look forward, even in these difficult times, to hearing from you.

We should like to register our thanks to recent donors – your contributions make all the difference.

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