

Siegburg, 30th May 2021

TRIO EGMONT and ALTERNA TRIO win the 1st International Chamber Music Competition BEETHOVEN IN HIS TIME

On Sunday evening, the winners of the main and special prizes of the “Beethoven in his time” competition for historical performance practice in Siegburg were announced during an online event.

The **first prize** of 15,000 euros and a CD recording at NAXOS went to the **TRIO EGMONT** (with Luiza Labouriau, violin, Martin Knörzer, violoncello and Gilad Katznelson, fortepiano).

The jury: *“They meet the most difficult challenges with breathtaking ease. Regular categories such as technical ability, understanding of style, phrasing or expression - everything at the highest level. But above all, it was their virtuoso creativity that thrilled the jury. Their exuberant love for experimentation, the exploratory in their performances develops a seductive vortex and even seduces the music itself into dreaming. Should you be forced to limit yourself to just one point, it is their ability to make every single bar exciting, thrilling and unexpected for the listener.”*

The **ALTERNA TRIO** (Anna Dmitrieva, violin, Amarilis Dueñas Castán, violoncello and Takahiko Sakamaki, fortepiano) won second prize, also endowed with 15,000 euros. The jury was particularly impressed *“by the astounding musicality in all of their performances. They showed extraordinary expressiveness in a variety of very different pieces. They increased from round to round and surprised with very different but always fantastic highlights. Their interpretation of the second movement in Beethoven’s Geistertrio is certainly one of the most wonderful music that has been heard in the entire competition.”*

A third prize was not awarded, but the jury and the Musikwerkstatt Siegburg decided to award an extraordinary Prize to the cellist Giulio Padoin from the Duo Ricerche Parallele for his performance in the final round.

Also a number of special prizes has been rewarded: The TRIO ALTERNA received the prize for the best interpretation of a work by Ludwig van Beethoven, the TRIO EGMONT the prize for the best interpretation of a work by Ferdinand Ries and the DUO REI (Kaori Kobayashi, violin and Katja Poljakova, Fortepiano) the prize for the best interpretation of a work by Joseph Woelfl. The cellist Amarilis Dueñas Castán from the Alterna Trio received the special prize for the best individual musical performance in the competition.

The international jurors were David Breitman (USA), Jacqueline Ross (UK), Marco Testori (Italy), Olga Pashchenko (Russia), Viola de Hoog (The Netherlands), Petra Müllejans and Richard Lorber (both Germany).

The first chamber music competition “Beethoven in his time” was a project by the Musikwerkstatt Siegburg as part of the Beethoven year celebrating his 250th birthday. The main sponsors were the BTHVN-Jubiläumsgesellschaft Bonn and the VR-Bank Rhein-Sieg.

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