

COMPETITION WINNERS

13-year-old winner Gabriel Cabezas



JEFFREY SAUGER/TRIST PHOTOGRAPHIC

The standard of junior contestants at Detroit's **Sphinx Competition** for black and Latino US residents was so much higher than that of the seniors this year that the jury decided to double their prize money and feature them in the nationally broadcast final, instead of the senior competitors. The \$6,000 first prize was awarded to 13-year-old

cellist **Gabriel Cabezas**, a student of Hans Jensen, second prize went to violist **Milena Pajaro-van de Stadt**, 16, and violinist **Maia Cabeza**, 13, won third prize.

Sphinx president Aaron P. Dworkin said: 'This decision reflects the integrity of our adjudicative process and the remarkable young talent that represents the soloists, orchestras and chamber musicians of tomorrow.' In the senior division the winner of the \$3,500 first prize was 20-year-old violist **Juan-Miguel Hernandez**, who studies with Paul Coletti. Second prize went to violinist **Jessie Montgomery**, 23, and third prize to 25-year-old cellist **Marilyn de Oliveira**.



PRISKA KETTERER

First in Zurich: Mayuko Kamio

The **Rahn Music Prize** for stringed instruments, in Zurich, awarded two first prizes: Japanese **Mayuko Kamio**, 19, who studies with Zakhar Bron at Zurich's Music Hochschule, and

Ukrainian **Alexander Grytsayenko**, 24, who studies with Gyula Stuller at the Tibor Varga conservatory in Sion, each received CHF10,000. Third prize went to 21-year-old **Noémie Rufer**, from Switzerland. In the cello section, two first prizes of CHF10,000 were awarded to Swiss competitors **Benjamin Nyffenegger**, 21, a student of Thomas Grossenbacher at Zurich's Music Hochschule, and 18-year-old **Lionel Cottet**, who studies with François Gué at the Conservatoire de Musique in Geneva. No first prize was awarded in the viola or double bass sections. Violist **Veit Hertenstein** and double bassist **Samuel Alcantara** won respective second prizes of CHF3,500, while the third prize in the double bass section went to **Xu Luo**.

At the **International Rudolf Matz String Competition** in Croatia, Japanese cellist **Sara Minemoto**, 21, and British violinist **Dmitri Torchinsky**, 25, shared first prize. Minemoto, a student of Jens Peter Maintz, won €2,000 and a cello case, while Torchinsky, who studies with Dora Schwarzberg, won €2,000 and a concert engagement.

APPOINTMENTS >>

- > The **Vienna Piano Trio** has been appointed resident piano trio at the Konzerthaus in Vienna.
- > Double bassist **Jeff Bradetich** has been appointed to the faculty of Cleveland Institute of Music.
- > **David Soyer** is to hold the newly created Orlando Cole chair in cello studies at the Curtis Institute of Music.

HALF OF LINDSAYS TOGETHER AGAIN

Primrose Piano Quartet



RICHARD HUGHES

Two of the former Lindsays, who disbanded last year, have been reunited in the Primrose Piano Quartet, which makes its Wigmore Hall debut in its new formation in May. The quartet formed in 2001, and violist Robin Ireland has just replaced Susie Mészáros, joining former Lindsay cellist Bernard Gregor-Smith. Ireland described the difference between being in The Lindsays: 'You have a thundering piano right behind you, because the repertoire is more large-scale, so you can be more soloistic.'

AWARDS IN THE STRING WORLD

French cellist Anne Gastinel has been given the solo instrumentalist of the year prize at Les Victoires de la Musique Classique awards. Another cellist, Yo-Yo Ma, has won a \$1m Dan David award from Israel's Tel Aviv University, for his cultural achievement with the Silk Road Project.

At the Grammy awards, the Emerson Quartet won best chamber music performance for its complete Mendelssohn string quartets on Deutsche Grammophon, which also gathered the best-engineered classical album title, while the Ying and Turtle Island quartets won best crossover album for *4+Four*, on Telarc. Young French violist Antoine Tamestit has been awarded a £20,000 Borletti-Buitoni Trust prize.

FUTURE COMPETITIONS & AWARDS >>

Walter W. Naumburg Foundation Viola Competition

for violists aged 18–32 who live or study in North America.

First prize \$7,500 and recital opportunities. **Deadline** 1 Apr; competition 12–18 Oct 2006.

Contact Debra Kinzler, dkinzler@msmny.edu.

International 'Il Piccolo Violino Magico' Competition in Venice, Italy, for violinists aged 8–12.

First prize of a scholarship worth €5,000 and a masterclass.

Deadline 10 May; competition 26–31 Aug 2006. **Contact** isella.marzocchi@studiomusica.net, www.fmsantacecilia.it.

International Competition for Early Music Ensembles

in the Netherlands, for groups of up to eight musicians. First prize €4,500.

Deadline 15 May; competition 3–7 Oct 2006. **Contact**

info@vanwassenaerconours.nl, www.vanwassenaerconours.nl.

International Alberto Curci Competition in Italy for violinists aged under 32.

First prize €10,000. **Deadline** 31 May; competition 31 Oct–8 Nov 2006. **Contact**

curcicompetition@tele2.it, www.edizionicurci.it/classica/fondazione.asp.