

2018 ADJUDICATORS

VERONICA MCSWINEY

Veronica McSwiney was born in Dublin, Ireland, where she commenced her studies with Dr J.J. O'Reilly at the Municipal School of music when she was seven years old. She gave her recital debut in Dublin at the age of sixteen, and came to the attention of Sir Robert and Lady Dorothy Mayer, great entrepreneurs from London, who assisted her further studies at the Mozarteum Academy in Salzburg under Bruno Seidlhofer, and in London with the eminent Hungarian teacher, Ilona Kabas. Over the course of her extensive career, the Dublin-born virtuoso has enchanted audiences with her sensitive and intelligent interpretations of the canonic greats. She was the first Irish pianist to be invited on a recital tour of the USSR in 1975, and was invited back for three subsequent tours, performing concertos with many of their finest orchestras. Veronica enjoyed 12 years as Music Director of the Irish National Opera Company, and had a thriving career as a pianist on board cruise ships such as P&O Cruises, Crystal, Celebrity and Radisson. Veronica's passion for chamber music has led to numerous successful collaborations, and she is a founding member of the Eblana Ensemble.

ROY HOLMES

As a pianist, chamber musician, accompanist, author, teacher, orchestral pianist, conductor, among other things, Roy Holmes has had a long career following on from study in Dublin (Rhona Marshall) Vienna (Dieter Weber), Indiana (Gyorgy Sebok), Philadelphia (Harvey Wedeen and Lambert Orkis). He has performed internationally in USA, UK, Thailand, Malaysia, and Australia, and has given master classes and lectures/workshops on piano technique at home and abroad. In recent years he has been creating a collection of study editions of many well-known piano pieces, together with pieces chosen by the Dublin Feis Ceoil for their junior competitions. These editions present novel solutions and fingering distinct from the received editions, which chiefly come to us from the mid 19th century. He gives annual workshops for teachers that focus on this repertoire for young pianists. This ever-expanding collection will go live on Roy's upcoming website, due for launch in the near future.

2017 Adjudicators: Dr. Orla McDonagh & Colma Brioscú
2016 Adjudicators: Una Hunt & Mairead Hurley
2015 Adjudicators: Anthony Byrne & Conor Linehan
2014 Adjudicators: Dr David Mooney & Dr Mary Lennon
2013 Adjudicators: Pádhraic Ó Cuinneagáin & Dr Mary Lennon
2012 Adjudicator: Pádhraic Ó Cuinneagáin
2011 Adjudicator: Professor Ray Keary
2010 Adjudicator: Lance Coburn

DIRECTORS:
Rhona Gouldson
Dr. Archie Chen

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9TH ANNUAL
NATIONAL FESTIVAL

SYLLABUS
2018

22ND TO 25TH FEBRUARY

DEADLINE: THURSDAY 1ST FEBRUARY

VENUE: RATHGAR METHODIST CHURCH, DUBLIN 6

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTORS

Dear Teachers, Parents & Piano Enthusiasts,

Now in our 12th year, the **Piano Academy of Ireland** has a proud passion for teaching piano. We are deeply dedicated, through music education, performance and appreciation, to inspiring and motivating students of all ages, levels and abilities.

Save the dates! This year's Festival takes place -
Thursday 22nd February – Sunday 25th February.
Closing date for all entries is **Thursday 1st February 2018.**
Venue: RATHGAR METHODIST CHURCH, Brighton Road.

Our motto for this year is "**Community Involvement and Inclusion**" - precisely the reason why we moved the Festival to the lovely **Rathgar Methodist Church, Dublin 6** - which also serves as headquarters for the Piano Academy of Ireland. Participant's ages range from 4 - 84 (there is no upper/lower age limit) and will travel from the four corners of Ireland. With round-the-clock blockchain piano performances, it is a real celebration of this incredible instrument and pianists are urged to develop and showcase their unique talents and perform with individuality, personality, originality and spontaneity! Beginners are most welcome too! Participants will be rewarded with certificates of commendation, feedback reports from esteemed pianists, an appreciative 'positive' vibe...as well as trophies & medals, €500 in cash prizes...and this year - **MATCHING BITCOIN PRIZES thanks to our sponsor Bitex.ie - Irelands Oldest Bitcoin Provider** (that's a **total of €1000 in cash prizes**) plus this year's **FREE GIFT** for all participants is sponsored by GSMsolutions.ie! Two warm-up pianos will help participants get in the zone!

It is through the arts and particularly through the channel of music that we can be inspired and we pride ourselves in providing a nurturing & positive platform for budding pianists to perform and excel in a Festival of their own! It is indeed a great honour to present this year's Festival on the **9-ft Kawai Concert Grand of the late Bob Smyth**, who generously bequeathed this magnificent instrument to our Piano Academy. Bob lived in Rathgar and who many of you will know and remember for his gentle manner & welcoming soirees and this year's **NEW Concerto Category** is in his honour. Our magician Piano technician friend, Martin Walsh, is currently working on preparing the piano in time for the Festival!

And so we welcome you all to our next 2018 Festival & may you avail of what promises to be an enriching experience for all. **Please share this information booklet with all lovers of Piano.** Please note that the **closing date for all entries is Thursday 1st February 2018.**

We look forward to seeing you all there for a fun weekend!

Best wishes,

Archie Chen Rhona Gouldson

Dr. Archie Chen Rhona Gouldson

Directors:
Piano Academy of Ireland




PRIZES

- 1st prize: Cup & Gold medal
- 2nd prize: Silver medal
- 3rd prize: Bronze medal

As well as an array of trophies and medals, we have two special awards to present in honour of the late **Clive Gouldson**: A cash prize of **€100** will be presented to the most promising **Junior Pianist**. A cash prize of **€200** will be presented to the most promising **Senior Pianist**.

In addition, there will be three special prizes: **The Emerald Award** and a cash prize of **€50** will be presented to the best performance of a piece by an Irish Composer from any category; **The Virtuoso Cup** and a cash prize of **€50** will be presented to the winner of the Solo Etude Open category & **€100** cash prize will be awarded to the winner of the **NEW Concerto category**. **ALL CASH PRIZES WILL ALSO BE MATCHED WITH THE SAME Bitcoin VALUE - the modern day version of the PRIZE BOND!**

CATEGORIES

 **bitcoin**

1. Solo Under 6 years
2. Solo Under 8 years
3. Solo Under 10 years
4. Duet Under 10 years
5. Solo Under 12 years
6. Sonatina Under 12 years*
7. Solo Repertoire Under 12 years**
8. Solo Under 14 years
9. Solo Under 16 years
10. Duet Under 16 years
11. Solo Under 18 years
12. Solo Etude Open (no age limit)***
13. **New!!! Piano Concerto**** (age 12 to under 17)**
14. Solo Adult Bronze Jubilee Pre-Grade 5 (over 18)
15. Solo Adult Silver Jubilee Post-Grade 5 (over 18)

*To perform the first OR last movement from any Sonatina.

**To present 5 - 7 minutes of contrasting repertoire, minimum of 2 pieces representing different styles/moods. Please note performers presenting a programme under the time limit will not be considered for a prize.

***To present one Piano Etude by one of the following composers: Hummel, Moscheles, Herz, Mendelssohn, Schumann, Chopin, Liszt, Alkan, Henselt, Smetana, Gottschalk, Saint-Saens, Moszkowski, Lyadov, MacDowell, Debussy, Busoni, Godowsky, Scriabin, Rachmaninov, Bartok, Stravinsky, Szymanowski, Prokofiev, Lutoslawski, Ligeti, Glass, or Bolcom.

****To present one movement from a piano concerto of own choice. Accompanist to be provided by the competitor. A second piano will be provided.

RULES & REGULATIONS

1. Performers to present one piece of their own choice (except Under 12 Repertoires).
2. All application forms must be fully completed or it will not be processed.
3. Closing date for entries is **Thursday 1st February 2018**. Late entries will be accepted up to **Thursday 8th February 2018** on payment of an additional fee of €5 per entry.
4. Entry fee of €25 must accompany the application form and will not be refunded unless Category is cancelled by the Piano Academy of Ireland.
5. Ages shall be reckoned from **1st January 2018**.
6. Previous 1st Prizewinners may not enter the same category again.
7. Receipt of application will be made by email.
8. Notification of performance time will be made by email once the schedule is completed approx two weeks prior.
9. The Piano Academy of Ireland reserves the right to change the time, venue or order of performances where necessary.
10. If a large number of entries is received for a category, it may be divided into two groups.
11. The Piano Academy of Ireland reserves the right to refuse entry to any performers.
12. Performers are asked to provide a clean copy of their music to the adjudicator.
13. Performers must score at least 86% to merit 1st prize and 81% to merit 2nd prize.
14. Participants in more than one category may not perform the same piece.
15. Performer's piece may be heard in entirety or in part at the discretion of the adjudicator.
16. The Adjudicator's decision is final.
17. Prizewinners Concert will take place on **Sunday 25th February 2018**.

