

Prizewinner Concours Géza Anda 2015

Aleksandr Shaikin, piano Russia

Aleksandr Shaikin was born in Russia in 1987. He entered the Gnessin Academy of Music in 2002, where he attended the class of Anna Arzamanova. In 2005 he continued his studies with Prof. Elisso Virsaladzé at the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory, graduating in 2011. He began postgraduate studies with Prof. Elisso Virsaladzé in Moscow in 2011 and then continued with Prof. Pavel Gililov at the Salzburg Mozarteum from 2013 to 2015.



Aleksandr Shaikin

Since 2006, Shaikin has won numerous national and international prizes, such as at the Gubaidulina Piano Competition in Kazan, the Almaty Competition in Kazakhstan, the Zuloaga Competition in Valladolid and the George Thymis Competition in Thessaloniki. In 2015 he was awarded the 2nd Prize at the prestigious Concours Géza Anda in Zurich.

Shaikin has proven his affinity to chamber music with the founding of a piano trio named after him, "Aleksandr", which has won prizes at chamber music competitions in Graz (2012), Kaluga (2011) and Moscow (2011).

Shaikin has given piano recitals in various renowned Russian concert halls and also abroad in Germany, Austria, Italy, Spain, Greece, Switzerland, Kazakhstan, Estonia, Ukraine and Azerbaijan. As a soloist he has



given concerts with the State Orchestra of Svetlanov, the Moscow Philharmonic, the symphony orchestras of Yaroslavl, Orel, Thessaloniki, Valladolid and Almaty and with the Musikkollegium Winterthur and the Zurich Tonhalle Orchestra.

Thanks to his Second Prize in Zurich, Shaikin is giving his debut at the Septembre Musical festival in Montreux in September 2015, performing Gershwin's Concerto in F in the Stravinsky Auditorium, accompanied by the European Philharmonic of Switzerland under the baton of John Fiore.

From the notes of a Jury member

This is a cultivated pianist whom we must take seriously. He lets the composer speak, and doesn't put himself in the foreground. His interpretations are characterised by a high degree of professionalism, integrity, musical intelligence and maturity. Beethoven's Sonata op. 110 especially impressed me on account of his honesty and visionary sense of poise.

(Andrea Bonatta)

The **13th Concours Géza Anda** took place in Zurich from 6 to 6 June 2015.

The competitors' four rounds comprised an audition, a recital, a Mozart piano concerto accompanied by the Musikkollegium Winterthur under the baton of Theodor Guschlbauer and then a final concert with the Zurich Tonhalle Orchestra under Karl-Heinz Steffens.

Swiss Radio SRF2 broadcast the final round of 16 June 2015 live; the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) broadcast it throughout Europe on Euroradio.

A live video stream has been produced. The recitals, the Mozart round and the final concert can be watched at www.geza-anda.ch and on Facebook.

Jury

Jesús López-Cobos, chairman
Andrea Bonatta
Filippo Gamba
Aleksander Madzar
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Live video streaming at www.geza-anda.ch

Press clippings

... The 28-year-old Russian Aleksandr Shaikin even managed to demonstrate his flair for light, airy sounds in Brahms's monumental First Piano Concerto. He doesn't thunder away charismatically at the keyboard, but is a subtle, superior interpreter.

Susanne Kübler – Basler Zeitung – 17 June 2015

... Shaikin played the First Piano Concerto by Brahms with exceptional virtuosity in the chordal passages.

Sibylle Ehrismann – ZSZ – 18 June 2015

(...) ... Musically more daring – though also at the cost of a few raw passages – was the second-placed Aleksandr Shaikin in Brahms's D-minor Concerto. Although this 28-year-old Russian still has little concert experience, right from the start he sought an intensive dialogue with the orchestra. He achieved the fatalistic mood of the opening movement extraordinarily well – the movement that was sketched under the shadow of Robert Schumann's suicide attempt. Shaikin plays powerfully in *fortes*, but without any heavy-handedness ... the big pedal-point section in the devout-sounding middle movement was particularly beautiful. Here, Shaikin demonstrated his inner freedom from the pressure of concertizing and of competitions – offering that expressive sense of letting-go that's necessary to turn the right notes into great music.

Christian Wildhagen – Neue Zürcher Zeitung – 18 June 2015

Repertoire

Recital programmes

Suggestion I

Mozart

Sonata No. 10 in C, K. 330

Beethoven

Sonata No. 31 in A-flat, Op. 110

Interval

Schumann

Humoreske, Op. 20

Debussy

Estampes

Suggestion II

Prokofiev

10 Pieces from Romeo & Juliet, Op. 75

Interval

Mussorgsky

Pictures at an exhibition

Piano Concerto

Bach

Concerto in F minor, BWV 1056

Concerto in D minor, BWV 1052

Beethoven

Concerto No. 2 in B-flat major, Op. 19

Concerto No. 4 in G major, Op. 58

Concerto No. 5 in E-flat major, Op. 73

Triple Concerto in C major, Op. 56

Brahms

Concerto No. 1 in D minor, Op. 15

Concerto No. 2 in B-flat major, Op. 83

Chopin

Concerto No. 1 in E minor, Op. 11

Gerschwin

Concerto in F major

Mozart

Concerto No. 9 in E-flat major, K. 27

Concerto No. 17 in G major, K. 453

Concerto No. 20 in D minor, K. 466

Concerto No. 21 in C major, K. 467

Prokofiev

Concerto No. 1 in D-flat major, Op. 10

Concerto No. 3 in C major, Op. 26

Rachmaninov

Concerto No. 2 in C minor, Op. 18

Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, Op. 43