President Maestro Kurt Masur honoured

Award ceremony in Paris

The German Foreign Ministry and the French Ministry of Foreign & European Affairs have chosen Maestro Kurt Masur and Professor Pierre Boulez as winners of the Adenauer-de Gaulle Prize in 2011. On 20 June 2011 the Prize was formally bestowed at a ceremony in the Hôtel de Beauharnais, the Residence of the German Ambassador in Paris, by the two Ministers responsible for Franco-German co-operation, French Europe Minister Laurent Wauquiez and the Minister of State in the German Foreign Office Dr Werner Hoyer.

The Adenauer-de Gaulle Prize, which was established on 22 January 1988, is a distinction for those people who have made an especial contribution to Franco-German co-operation. It is named after the former German Federal Chancellor Konrad Adenauer and the former President of the French Republic Charles de Gaulle. Both politicians strove for post-war reconciliation between the two European nations, which had previously regarded one another as arch-enemies. This reconciliation was sealed by the Elysée Treaty.

"With the award of the Adenauer-de Gaulle Prize we are honouring not only two exceptional artists of our time, but also two great Europeans, who are decisive figures in contemporary European history and Franco-German friendship. The artistic careers of Pierre Boulez and Kurt Masur – formed through many years of experience in Germany and France – are an example of the creativity and originality which the values of the European community have produced." declared Minister of State Dr Hoyer. "In the French conductor and composer Pierre Boulez and the German conductor Kurt Masur, this year we are honouring two personalities who, through their professional as well as private commitment, have made an extraordinary contribution to Franco-German relations. Both have worked tirelessly for many years in the neighbouring country. Kurt Masur was in charge of the “Orchestre National de France” from 2002 to 2008. Pierre Boulez, who had already conducted in Germany in the 1950s and 1960s, has for many years worked together with the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra.”
On 11 February 2011 the Felix-Mendelssohn-Bartholdy-Foundation invited guests to a further Gala event in the Music Salon of the Mendelssohn-House. Alfred Brendel, who has only recently ended his worldwide career as a pianist, read from his recent publications (Über Soloabende, Klaviergedichte, Ermahnung eines Mozart-Spielers an sich selbst, Der neue Stil und Hören) some lively and serious stories and poems, observations about music and its performers.

He then introduced a young pianist, who in his view is the most talented of the next generation worldwide, and whom, accordingly, he is personally guiding – the 18-year-old Kit Armstrong, who played on an historic Tröndlin Hammerflügel a lively and sparkling programme with works by Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, Variations sérieuses in D minor, opus 54, MWV U 156, and Johann Sebastian Bach, Prelude and Fugue in F sharp major, BWV 858, Prelude and Fugue in F sharp minor, BWV 859 from the Book I of the Well-Tempered Clavier, followed by Prelude and Fugue in G major, BWV 860 and Prelude and Fugue in G minor, BWV 861 from Part II.

Afterwards Maestro Kurt Masur invited the guests, including the Prime Minister of Saxony Stanislav Tillich, the Lord Mayor of Leipzig Burkhard Jung and the well-known artist Neo Rauch, to a festive dinner in the former coach-house of the Mendelssohn-House.

The proceeds for the evening enabled the above-mentioned Tröndlin Hammerklavier from Mendelssohn’s time to be acquired by the Museum. It will now undergo thorough restoration.

Further proceeds of the evening will be used for the digitalisation of the Mendelssohn-House's collection of Mendelssohn's early editions, in order to make them available on the Internet to as many scholars and musicians as possible throughout the world.
On Saturday 21 May 2011 the UK Friends of the Felix-Mendelssohn-Bartholdy-Foundation organised a very successful fund-raising concert and lunch in the lovely country home, Swan House, of our UK Friends Trustees Michael and Patricia Langley, set amid the spectacular Cotswold Hills.

UK Friends Chairman Desmond Cecil introduced the invited audience to the work of the Foundation, and its charitable objectives to promote outstanding young musicians and a scholarship “in the spirit of Mendelssohn” – musician, painter, humanist, world citizen – as well as to the close links between the UK Friends and Leipzig.

The following year the violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter and the philosopher Peter Sloterdijk received the honour, and in the third year Helmut Schmidt, Riccardo Chailly and Armin Mueller-Stahl were the prize-winners. In 2010 the pianist Lang-Lang and the actress Iris Berben were honoured.

The concert proceeds benefited the Felix-Mendelssohn-Bartholdy-Foundation, which was thereby able to implement important projects – including paying off the mortgage of the Mendelssohn-House, the purchase of the world’s largest collection of Mendelssohn’s first published editions, and the acquisition of a historic pianoforte for the concerts in the music salon of the Mendelssohn-House.

Those who would like to be present at this year’s awards can apply for Gala concert tickets at the Leipzig Gewandhaus (60/50/40/30/15 euros, including taxes, and with appropriate reductions, Telephone +49 341 1270 280).

The names of the 2011 prize-winners were announced at a press conference in Leipzig on Thursday, 7 July. In the “Music” category, which is always represented, the singer Professor Peter Schreier will receive the prize. For his outstanding “Social Commitment” the author Professor Marcel Reich-Ranicki will be honoured.
Scholarship Programme 2011

The scholarship programme of the Leipzig Foundation, in co-operation with the American Friends of the Felix-Mendelssohn-Bartholdy-Foundation and the Japanese Circle of Friends, is continuing in 2011. This year three conductors are expected in Leipzig for further tuition, two sent by the American Friends and one young conductor from Japan.

In addition to the tuition with orchestral musicians, in the archives and libraries, as well as visits to the museums and attendance at Gewandhaus concert rehearsals, the scholars will go on excursions to Berlin, Weimar and Bonn, where they will meet and discuss with experts in the classical music tradition.

An important part of the tuition in Leipzig will be an orchestral project with the Leipzig Symphony Orchestra directed by Frank-Michael Erben, in which the young conductors will direct their own rehearsals to achieve concert standard. The results of this workshop project will be presented in a concert with an all-Mendelssohn programme on 7 September in Böhlen near Leipzig.

Those interested in this orchestral concert can obtain more information and tickets from the Mendelssohn-House in Leipzig, Telephone +49 (341) 1270 294.

Donators and Supporters since December 2010

Many friends of the Felix-Mendelssohn-Bartholdy-Foundation in Leipzig and its international work have donated financial contributions in support. Warm thanks to all those who are helping the continuation of our work.

Members of the Kuratorium
Dr Wulff Aengevelt
Tomoko Masur and Prof. Kurt Masur
Hélène Mercier-Arnault
Prof Hermann Raue
Wolfgang Tiefensee
Emiko Tsuji
Kurt Viermetz

Supporters’ Circle
Dr Jürgen Friedel
Ulrike Krill de Capello
Karín Martin
Dr Claus Riedberg
Heide Schwarzweller
Dr Undine Nash

Herrn Kit Armstrong
Frau Anne-Kathrin Bauknecht
Verlag Breitkopf & Härtel
Frau Liselotte Sievers
Herrn Alfred Brendel
Daimler AG
Hotel Fürstenhof Leipzig
Herrn Dr. Georg Girardet
Guido Graf Henckel
Fürst von Donnersmarck
Herrn Dr. Peter Krüger
Frau Barbara Lambrecht-Schadeberg
Frau Rosa Loy
Maestro Kurt Masur
Frau Tomoko Masur
Herrn Prof. Fritz Melchers
Herrn Dr. Hans Moll
Frau Hiltrud Oberwelland
Frau Maren Otto
Herrn Prof. Neo Rauch
Stiftung Pressesclub Dresden
Frau Gisela von Schenck

Herrn Peter Schüring
Sparkasse Leipzig
Leipziger Stadtbau AG,
Herrn Dr. Albrecht Teichmann
Herrn Kurt Viermetz

Imprint

FELIX-MENDELSOHN-BARTHOLDY-STIFTUNG

President: Prof. Kurt Masur
Chairman Mayor of the Board: Burkhard Jung
Substitute: Michael Faber
Board: Dr. Peter Krüger
Tomoko Masur
Prof. Andreas Schulz
Member of the Board: Dr. Werner Martin
Director: Jürgen Ernst
Representative UK: Desmond Cecil (London)

Address:
Mendelssohn-Haus Leipzig
Goldschmidtstraße 12, 04103 Leipzig
Telephone: +49 (0) 341-1 27 02 94
Faksimile: +49 (0) 341-2 1 1 52 88
E-Mail: ims@mendelssohn-stiftung.de
Internet: www.mendelssohn-stiftung.de

Account:
Deutsche Bank Leipzig
banc code: 860 700 24
account: 455 56 78

More details
Editor and Designer:
Christiane Schmidt (responsible)
Texts: Christiane Schmidt, Desmond Cecil
English Translation: Desmond Cecil
Pictures/Illustrations: Archives Mendelssohn
House, Dirk Brzoska, UK Friends, Chr. Schmidt
Print: Fischer Druck, Großpösna