

Press release

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INTERNATIONAL PIANO AWARDS 2009

International Piano magazine announces the winners of its annual IP Awards for 2009

International Piano magazine, the British bi-monthly journal for the piano world, announces the winners of its annual International Piano Awards for 2009, published in the November/December 2009 issue. The Fourth Awards celebrates the best piano recordings, sheet music, books and DVDs from the past twelve months.

We invited our team of reviewers to submit their nominations on items in any category, released between October 2008 and November 2009. In addition to the recording, book and DVD awards, there is also Services to Music Award – voted by our editorial team, and a Readers' Choice Award – voted by our IP readers.

The full list of winners is as follows:

SERVICES TO MUSIC AWARD: MARIA CURCIO

This award recognises lifetime achievement, and the awardee should be someone who has made an immeasurable contribution in the fields of piano recording, piano playing, piano repertoire, piano education and other areas of piano playing. Maria Curcio was a piano teacher whose influence spread far and wide. Until her death earlier this year at the age of 89, few people outside the piano world had heard of this tiny Italian woman who gave advice to an endless stream of pianists – among them many of today's foremost international concert artists – from her basement flat in north London. But within the piano world her reputation was massive. Martha Argerich, Radu Lupu, Mitsuko Uchida, Alfred Brendel, Alfredo Perl, Leon Fleisher, Anthony Goldstone, Pierre-Laurent Aimard and Barry Douglas are just some of the pianists who benefited from her tutelage. Curcio's extraordinary career began under the tutorship of Artur Schnabel, and his approach to piano playing continued through her work as a pedagogue after events during the second world war put paid to a promising performing career. Her lifelong friend, Leon Fleisher, recalls: 'Her general approach to piano playing was similar to Schnabel's, but she had a sunny quality – she was terribly Italian. There was a sense of optimism, of joy – a quality we all inherited from Schnabel – but she also brought to her playing eloquence and a quality of Italianness. Her music making was what I like to call "angel babble". It was a language unto itself.'

BEST INTERPRETATION OF STANDARD REPERTOIRE

WINNER:

JEAN-EFFLAM BAVOUZET Debussy Complete Piano Works vol.4 – Images, series I & II. Etudes, books I & II. *Chandos CHAN10497*

RUNNERS-UP:

STEVEN OSBORNE Rachmaninoff Complete Preludes. *Hyperion CDA67700*

ALEXANDRE THARAUD Satie Avant-dernières pensées. *Harmonia Mundi HMC902017*

BEST REISSUE/VINTAGE RECORDING

WINNER:

SHURA CHERKASSKY – THE COMPLETE HMV STEREO RECORDINGS. First Hand Records FHR04

RUNNERS-UP:

PERCY GRAINGER Grieg Piano Concerto. Rex Lawson (pianola), Oyvind Bjora(vn); Kristiansand SO/Rolf Gupta. *2L 060 SABD*

VLADIMIR SOFRONITZKY EDITION – LIVE RECORDINGS MADE BETWEEN 1946 AND 1960. *Brilliant Classics 8975 9*

BEST RECORDING OF NEW PIANO MUSIC

WINNER:

BEAT FURRER Piano Concerto. Nicolas Hodges (pf). *Kairos 0012842KAI*

RUNNER-UP:

SIMON HOLT A Book of Colours. Rolf Hind (pf). NMC CD D128

DVD OF THE YEAR

EDUCATION CATEGORY WINNER:

ANDRAS SCHIFF *Masterclass Media Foundation MMF001, 002, 003.*

PERFORMANCE CATEGORY WINNER:

ALRFRED BRENDEL Plays and introduces Schubert, vols.1–5. *Medici Arts*

BOOK OF THE YEAR

WNNER:

THE ART OF FRENCH PIANO MUSIC by Roy Howat. Yale University Press

RUNNER-UP:

MENAHEM PRESSLER: ARTISTRY IN PIANO TEACHING by William Brown. Indiana University Press.

BEST DEBUT CD

WINNER:

YUJA WANG Sonatas & Etudes. *Deutsche Grammophon 477 8140*

RUNNER-UP:

ILONA TIMCHENKO Brahms Paganini Variations op.35. Schumann Kreisleriana. Clara Schumann 3 Preludes and Fugues op.16. *Landor Records LAN 286*

BEST SHEET MUSIC

NEW WORK CATEGORY WINNER:

ALBAN BERG; MARVIN WOLFFHAL Lulu Fantasy for piano. Universal Edition UE 33970

EDITION CATEGORY WINNERS:

MOZART Sonata in A K310. Wiener Urtext Edition (with facsimile). Schott/Universal Edition

CHOPIN Four Ballades. Ed. Jim Samson. Edition Peters

READERS' CHOICE AWARD FOR BEST RECORDING

WINNER:

PIOTR ANDERSZEWSKI AT CARNEGIE HALL. *Virgin Classics 6 94688 2*

RUNNER-UP:

GARRICK OHLSSON Scriabin Complete Etudes. *Bridge 9287*

The IP Awards 2009 logos are attached. Please feel free to make this announcement and use the logos on your website and other marketing materials.

For further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Many thanks, Chloe

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