

## **GREGYNOG'S Talented Young Musicians!**

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On a bright sunny morning - **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March**, and in complete contrast to last year's snow covered competition day -16 young musicians from all over the principality and across the border were making their way to Gregynog Hall, near Newtown, Powys, for the 10<sup>th</sup> Gregynog Young Musician of the Year Competition.

The music-making this year was again of the highest calibre, each competitor having been selected by a panel of five judges in February for the semi-final round.

Throughout the day music reverberated around the historic hall as the competitors prepared for their auditions in the four practise rooms. Finally at 4.45pm the five eminent judges, Prof. Ian Jones, David Greed, Merick Alexander, Prof. Gary Ryan and Cai Isfryn, the winner of the first competition back in 2005, having listened and watched the young musicians perform on the famous Gregynog Music Room stage, announced their decisions as to who would play at the Concert Final that evening.

Once again the competition was divided into five instrumental categories; Strings, Piano, Woodwind, Brass and Harps & Guitar with £500 being awarded to the winner of each category, thanks to the generosity of sponsors, Mr Hywel Lloyd of Lloyds Animal Feeds, Sian Nelson-Jones, Mrs Monica Garbett-Edwards and Karen Armstrong of The Gregynog Cultural Fund.

The finalists were:

*Gregynog Young String Player of the Year – Sheku Kanneh-Mason from Nottingham*

*Young Pianist of the Year – Nurry Lee from Bath.*

*Young Woodwind Player of the Year – Epsie Thompson from Llanelli, Glam.*

*Young Brass Player of the Year – Grady Hassan from Borth, Ceredigion.*

*Young Harpist of the Year – Juliana Myslov from Hemel Hempstead, Herts.*

Tension mounted as the five finalists hid themselves away to furiously practise their performance pieces, whilst families and concert-goer's alike settled down to enjoy a pre-concert dinner, cooked for the occasion by Heiko Simmchen, Gregynog's head chef.

At 7:00 p.m. the Concert Final began with each finalist in turn taking the stage in front of an enthusiast audience whilst, Dr. Gareth Jenkins Chairman of the competition announced their repertoires.

The judges certainly had their work cut out; each young musician played music with huge talent and confidence, bringing at once both tender feeling and strident resonance as they played their hearts out on the stage. Brother and sister Sheku and Isata Kanneh-Mason performed beautifully together, Sheku playing the cello with Isata accompanying. Isata won the Young Accompanist's Award, "The Chairman's Trophy" and a prize of £400.

Grady Hassan, tuba, accompanied in the final by the competition's official accompanist Mr. Daniel King Smith, displayed powerful musical ability.

It was a second visit for Nurry Lee, piano, and Epsie Thompson, flute, as both had played in the semi-finals previously. However this year both musicians were finalists and gave stunning performances.

Juliana Myslov, harp, played with sensitivity and feeling, the memory of which will remain in the hearts and minds of many for a long time.

Then came the interval and the agonising wait - both for competitors and concert-goers alike, whilst the five judges deliberated in seclusion before announcing the results.

After the interval during which the audience voiced differing opinions as to the most likely result due to the high standard of musical ability, Chairman Gareth Jenkins rang the bell and everyone returned to their seats to hear the judge's decision.

Professor Ian Jones, chairman of the adjudicators, announced the Over-all Winner as seventeen year old harpist Juliana Myslov - claiming the Peter Garbett-Edwards trophy and prize money amounting to £3,000. Mr Hywel Lloyd presented a cheque to Juliana, and to mark the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> competition, Mrs Garbett-Edwards asked Mr Clyd Davies, the originator of the competition back in 2004, to present the Peter Garbett Edwards trophy.

All the competitors thoroughly enjoyed their time at Gregynog, and those whose age allows promised to enter the competition next year.

2015 (date to be announced) will see the eleventh Gregynog Young Musicians Competition and the tenth year since the competition's inception.

For further details contact Ruth Walsh on 01686 650105 or go to our website [www.gregynogmc.co.uk](http://www.gregynogmc.co.uk)