



THE "CASAGRANDE" COMPETITION IN TERNI DISCOVERS NEW PIANO TALENTS

The 31st edition of the historic international award, that in the past has graduated young talents who are top concert pianists today, such as Ivo Pogorelich, Alexander Lonquich and Boris Petrushansky, is about to start. The artistic director Carlo Guaitoli announces a new selection format, a prize money of 35,000 euros and a tour of concerts for the winners.

Elena and Michele Benucci, at the helm of the Foundation, underline the desire to keep alive the memory and commitment of Adriana Morelli Casagrande and Maria Tedesco Casagrande. The pre-selections will take place in November 2018, the final tests from 19 to 25 May 2019.

The 31st edition of the "Alessandro Casagrande" International Piano Competition is about to start. Dedicated to the memory of the pianist and composer from Terni, born in 1922 and prematurely passed away at the age of 42, the historic competition in the past has graduated young talents who are top concert pianists today, such as Ivo Pogorelich, Alexander Lonquich, Boris Petrushansky, Roberto Prosseda, Giuseppe Andalaro, Herbert Schuch , and many other international music icons.

The competition will have a new format: for the first time there will be a **pre-selection based on videos and curricula that the candidates will have to send by October 2018**. In this first phase, which will take place in November 2018, the jury will be made up of three accomplished pianists, professors at the "Giulio Briccialdi" Institute of Musical Studies in Terni, together with **Mr Guaitoli, Mr Angelo Pepicelli and Mrs Mariangela Vacatello**. **A number of at most 28 candidates, , will have access to the final live stages that will take place from 19 to 25 May 2019 at the Teatro Sergio Secci in Terni, Umbria, Italy.** The verdict will be issued by an **international jury after three rounds on piano solo and a final with the Orchestra Sinfonica Abruzzese** (Symphony Orchestra of Abruzzo). The competition notice is on our official website, which has been completely renewed: www.concorsocasagrande.org.

WWW.CONCORSOCASAGRANDE.ORG

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The prize money is of great importance: 35, 000 euros. The winner's prize will be of 20, 000 euros, the second place prize will be of 7,000 euro, the third place prize will be of 4,000 euro and several special prizes will also be awarded. Proving to be a formidable springboard for new piano talents, **the competition also guarantees the winners a tour of concerts.**

The artistic director Carlo Guaitoli, born in Carpi, Emilia, acclaimed pianist and among the winners of the 1994 edition, is working on the composition of the international jury and already has gained the availability of some excellent names: the official communication will be in the fall.

President and vice president of the Casagrande Foundation, Elena and Michele Benucci, recall the success of the previous edition in 2014 - which attracted 121 competitors from all over the world and crowned the young Chinese virtuoso Julian Zhao Jia - and the sad departure of Professor **Maria Tedesco Casagrande** in 2017, for more than ten years president of the Foundation and soul of the Competition. The 31st edition will be the best way to keep her memory alive, together with that of **Adriana Morelli Casagrande**, the composer's widow, and to give new life to their generous commitment to young musicians.

It is also necessary to mention **the special link between the competition and the city of Terni**, along with the help given by many local families, that since the first editions have made their private pianos available to the competition pianists with enthusiasm and generosity, to let them practice during the several rounds.

From 1966 until today, the "Alessandro Casagrande" Competition has reinforced its prestige and visibility on the international music scene. It is part of international circuits of great importance, such as the **Fédération mondiale des concours internationaux de musique** and the **Alink-Argerich Foundation**.