

Press release – Saturday 22/05/2021 – Brussels

## 2021 Piano Competition : the final round

From Monday 24 to Saturday 29 May, at 8.20pm (Brussels Centre for Fine Arts)

In the presence of H.M. Queen Mathilde, Honorary president of the Queen Elisabeth Competition

### Programme of the six finalists :

Monday 24/05	<b>Vitaly Starikov</b> [ Pyotr Tchaikovsky, Concerto n. 1 in B flat minor op. 23 ]
Tuesday 25/05	<b>Tomoki Sakata</b> [ Johannes Brahms, Concerto n. 2 in B flat major op. 83 ]
Wednesday 26/05	<b>Keigo Mukawa</b> [ Sergey Prokofiev, Concerto n. 2 in G minor op. 16 ]
Thursday 27/05	<b>Sergei Redkin</b> [ Sergey Rachmaninov, Concerto n. 3 in D minor op. 30 ]
Friday 28/05	<b>Dmitry Sin</b> [ Sergey Rachmaninov, Concerto n. 3 in D minor op. 30 ]
Saturday 29/05	<b>Jonathan Fournel</b> [ Johannes Brahms, Concerto n. 2 in B flat major op. 83 ]

The biographies and photos of the finalists are available on our [press page](#).

### Imposed work

The finalists will perform the concerto of their own choice and the **unpublished work, specially written for this year's competition by Bruno Mantovani : *D'un jardin féérique***. The candidates receive this work, commissioned by the Competition, once they arrive at the Music Chapel. They only have one week to study it, without outside help. The work will be première on Monday 24 May at 8.20pm. The composer will not follow the twelve performances in person, but via the live streaming. For interviews by Zoom or by e-mail, please contact Marie Vander Elst (contacts below).

**The composer about his work :** 'Among the five little jewels that make up Maurice Ravel's *Ma Mère l'Oye* suite, I have always had a particular fondness for "Le Jardin féérique". That majestic slow movement is, for me, the definition of the notion of purity in music. This almost diatonic work of astounding simplicity juxtaposes the most affecting harmonies. At the centre of the piece, an ascending movement leads to a ninth chord that seems to suspend time. I found myself being particularly moved by that chord when I was conducting the work in April 2017 in São Paulo and I conceived the idea of using it in a short piano concerto to be played in the final of the Queen Elisabeth Competition in 2020. So it is introduced in the first bar of my work, with the piano acting as an ornament to the principal harmony. Driven by a melodic interplay of timbres, it underlies a voluble, virtuosic solo discourse. But the piano part develops into more melodic, then ornamental, and then mechanical playing.

Commissioned by the Queen Elisabeth International Competition, *D'un jardin féérique* is dedicated to my daughter Giulia.'

[www.brunomantovani.com](http://www.brunomantovani.com) / [Read the score on Issuu](#)

## Orchestra and conductor

For their final performance, the six finalists will be accompanied by the **Belgian National Orchestra**, under the baton of its music director Hugh Wolff.

**Hugh Wolff** : “Of course, every member of the orchestra is listening just like the jury and we will all have our opinions. We will certainly not all agree! My job is to make sure that every finalist has the best and most comfortable experience possible under these very stressful circumstances. We want only for each of them to be able to show their very best playing.”

[www.nationalorchestra.be](http://www.nationalorchestra.be)

## Broadcasts

The usual broadcasts :

- Thanks to the RTBF, the VRT and Proximus the performances are broadcast live and on demand on [www.queenelisabethcompetition.be](http://www.queenelisabethcompetition.be). The finalists' performances will be live streamed **from 8.20pm**, because they are preceded by interviews on the radio and TV. The lack of ticket sales for the second year in a row means a serious loss for our non-profit organisation. Therefore, we suggest that our viewers make a free contribution during the live broadcast on our website, in order to help us support the young talented pianists taking part in this exceptional year.
- The live broadcasts on Belgian public radio and television start at 8.10pm.

Two new initiatives will bring the final performances closer to our audience:

- The VRT will provide a unique extra **live stream of the pianist's hands**. This stream cannot be synchronised with the TV broadcast, but the VRT will combine in one screen the hand angle with the images of the TV broadcast. Available on [vrt.nu](http://vrt.nu) and on [www.queenelisabethcompetition.be](http://www.queenelisabethcompetition.be).
- The RTBF is launching the Queen Elisabeth Competition on the **live streaming platform Twitch**. Host Timothy Chooi, laureate of Violin 2019, will guide you through the performances with his international guests. You can chat with them and the other followers of our [Twitch channel](#).

[Overview of the broadcasts](#) / [More information about the broadcast on Twitch](#)

---

### Press contact

Marie Vander Elst: [mvanderelst@queenelisabethcompetition.be](mailto:mvanderelst@queenelisabethcompetition.be) / +32 2 213 40 50 / +32 475 20 86 84

Free access (no login) to **visuals** in the [press page on www.queenelisabethcompetition.be](#)