Strings Departments and Viola Professors!!!! Call for Applicants aged 21 and under for the Cecil Aronowitz International Viola Competition.

18-24 November 2017, Birmingham Conservatoire, UK.

Julian Lloyd Webber (Principal) and Louise Lansdown (Head of Strings) from Birmingham Conservatoire are delighted to announce the second Cecil Aronowitz International Viola Competition and Festival held at the newly opened Conservatoire from 18-24 November 2017!

Incredible monetary and other prizes available to be decided by an international jury. A full programme of events to be published soon - including recitals, workshops, teaching sessions, viola ensemble and much more. The who’s who of the viola world will be in Birmingham for this event!

CECIL ARONOWITZ INTERNATIONAL VIOLA COMPETITION

18-24 November 2017

Birmingham Conservatoire, Birmingham City University and the British Viola Society are delighted to announce the second CECIL ARONOWITZ VIOLA COMPETITION, which will be held from 18-24 November. We invite applications from violists from anywhere in the world who will be age 21 or under at the time of the competition.

PRIZES

Winner will be awarded the Cecil Aronowitz Prize of £5000 and several high profile recitals as part of Birmingham Conservatoire’s Concert Series.

1st Prize – Birmingham City University, Birmingham Conservatoire - £5000; Champs Hill Records Prize Recording contract; CBSO Prize Recital in Symphony Hall.

2nd Prize – Lionel Tertis Prize - £3000

3rd Prize - Gwyn Williams Trust Fund Prize - £1000

Other prizes include:

Paul Ayres Prize – For the most promising competitor under the age of 15: A viola bow
Bishop Instruments and Bows Ltd Prize – For the most outstanding performance of a sonata in Round 3: A viola bow
Fuller Music Prize – For the best performance of Kreisler pieces in Round 2: £250
Noel Burke and Neil Ertz Memorial Prize – For the Best Performance of Bach in Round 2: £400

RULES

1. All competitors must be age 21 or under at the time of the competition
2. All competitors must be members of the British Viola Society. Link to join here: http://www.britishviolasociety.co.uk/support/join/
3. Competitors of all nationalities are encouraged to apply.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants must submit:
1. Application form and audiovisual recording must be submitted and uploaded online by 31 March 2017.

2. Application by post will be accepted. Please send to Dr Louise Lansdown, Head of Strings, Birmingham Conservatoire, Paradise Place, Fletchers Walk, Birmingham, B3 3HG

3. Uploaded or posted with the application must be the following: a) Proof of date of birth b) Proof of Membership of the British Viola Society

4. A non-refundable application fee of £60. Please note that applications will not be processed without payment.

5. Applicants will be informed whether or not they have advanced to Round 2 no later than 1 May 2017. All applicants are invited to attend the competition, free of charge regardless of the outcome of audition. Rounds 2, 3 and four will be held on 18 – 24 November 2017 at Birmingham Conservatoire

6. Website for applying to the competition is:

http://bcu.ac.uk/conservatoire/events-calendar/cecil-aronowitz-viola-competition/competition-guidelines

PROCEDURES FOR COMPETITION

1. The repertory information for Round 2 and 3 for participants that successfully advance beyond the DVD round must be submitted to Eileen Smith (eileensmith.viola@gmail.com) by 1 September 2017.

All competitors that advance from the DVD round will play in both Rounds 2 and 3.

2. The order of appearance by the participants will be decided upon arrival. This order will remain unaltered throughout Round 2 and 3 of the Competition. Subject to repertoire choices this order might change in Round 4 (Final Round).

3. The Competition held in Birmingham will consist of three Rounds that will take place live in Birmingham, of which all will be open to the public. Round 4 is the Final Round.

JURY INFORMATION

1. There will be six jury members.

2. Any juror having a teaching or professional relationship with a participant must declare such relationship and will abstain from voting on the participant’s performances. No juror shall have a family relationship with a participant.

3. The jury will award all prizes

4. The decisions of the jury are final.

REPERTOIRE

ROUND 1 (DVD)

1. One movement of solo Bach from one of the Cello Suites, Violin Partitas or Sonatas 2. Two movements from any major sonata, with piano composed after 1850 (with the exception of Schubert’s ‘Arpeggione’ Sonata). 3. Any contrasting work of your own choice. All works must be recorded with no audio or visual editing. Each required piece should be on a single track and the order and length must be included. The recording must have been produced within 12 months prior to submission. Where appropriate, works must be presented with piano. DVD should be between 15-20 minutes in length.
ROUND 2

1. Two movements of solo Bach from one of the Cello Suites, Violin Partitas or Sonatas. One of these movements may be the same as Round 1, and both movements must come from the same work. 2. First movement of Mozart Sinfonia Concertante with Cadenza. Barenreiter Edition. 3. Kreisler Liebesleid or Rondino arranged by Cecil Aronowitz. Music will be made available to those that progress to Round 2.

ROUND 3

1. A complete major sonata with piano, piano composed after 1850 (with the exception of Schubert’s ‘Arpeggione’ Sonata).
2. Britten Lachrymae with piano

ROUND 4

Complete concertos of Bartok, Walton or Hindemith “Der Schwanendreher”.
The competition will be held at Birmingham Conservatoire from mid-afternoon of 18 November and will be finished on the evening of 24 November. The competition will also feature a weekend of Recitals, Master Classes and Workshops open to the public. Programme and details to be confirmed in early 2017.

JURY

Florian Leonhard (Germany/UK)
Robin Ireland (UK)
Ettore Causa (Italy/USA)
Nicola Aronowitz (UK)
Thomas Riebl (Austria)
Bruno Giuranna (Italy)

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