

PRESS RELEASE

Frankfurt am Main, September 10, 2006

Shi-Yeon Sung wins 3rd International Conductors' Competition Sir Georg Solti

The Jury of the 3rd International Conductors' Competition Sir Georg Solti has decided: Winner of the 1st prize is 31-years-old Korean **Shi-Yeon Sung**. 2nd prize goes to the US citizen **Shizuo Kuwahara** (30); the Australian **Matthew Coorey** (32) has been awarded 3rd prize. For the very first time, the competition was won by a woman.

The first prize in the competition is endowed with € 15,000, the second prize with € 10,000 and the third prize with € 5,000. The winners of the first and second prizes will also be invited to conduct the Frankfurter Museumsorchester and the Frankfurt Radio Symphony as well as other German and international orchestras.

The following works had to be conducted with the **Frankfurter Museumsorchester** in the public final concert on Sunday, September 10: *The Miraculous Mandarin* by Béla Bartók (Matthew Coorey), *Death and Transfiguration* by Richard Strauss (Shizuo Kuwahara) and Peter Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet* (Shi-Yeon Sung). The concert ended with Ludwig van Beethoven's Overture *Egmont*, conducted by 1st prize winner Shi-Yeon Sung.

The jury for the final rounds was chaired by Dr. Rolf-E. Breuer and comprised the following members:

Lady Valerie Solti (Patroness of the competition and widow of the legendary conductor), Paolo Carignani (Music Director of the Frankfurt Opera), Peter Ruzicka (Director of the Salzburg Festival, Artistic Director of the Munich Biennale, composer and conductor), Ulrich Edelmann (Concertmaster of the Frankfurt Radio Symphony) and Wolfgang Sandner (music critic with the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung and Professor at Frankfurt College of Music and Performing Arts).

For the third time, the **Deutsche Bank Foundation**, through its generous financial commitment, has made the competition possible. The Foundation is continuing its support and partnership as the principal sponsor. Furthermore, it will again be providing the prize money.

More than 500 young conductors from 72 countries around the world applied for the 3rd International Conductors' Competition Sir Georg Solti. 24 candidates were invited to the preliminary rounds September 4-7 with the **Frankfurt Radio Symphony** in the Great Broadcasting Hall of Hessischer Rundfunk. Only three of them were chosen for the final decision rounds from September 8-10 in the Alte Oper Frankfurt.



Contact:

International Conductors' Competition
Sir Georg Solti
Alte Oper Frankfurt, Press and PR
Postfach 170151
60075 Frankfurt am Main
Phone +49 (0)69 / 1340-321 / -385
Fax +49 (0)69 / 1340-208
presse@alteoper.de

The prize winners:

1st prize: Shi-Yeon Sung

31-years-old Korean Shi-Yeon Sung started her musical career at the age of 4 with piano lessons and gave her first recital 9 years later. In 1991, she began to study conducting at Hanns Eisler School of Music in Berlin, where she premiered Mozart's *Magic Flute* only one year later. As an assistant, she worked at the opera houses of Görlitz and Potsdam, both in Germany. In January, 2004, Shi-Yeon Sung became fellow of the conducting programme of the German Council for Music and won the 3rd Solingen Conducting Competition for women in the same year. The Berlin-based young conductor worked with several German orchestras, including the Berliner Sinfonie-Orchester, the Berliner and the Nürnberger Symphoniker.

2nd prize: Shizuo Kuwahara

Young American conductor Shizuo Kuwahara was born in Tokyo in 1976. He studied at Yale University and at the Eastman School of Music, where he was awarded with several prizes, and finished his studies with famous conductors like David Zinman and Leonard Slatkin. At present, Shizuo Kuwahara is assistant to Christoph Eschenbach with the Philadelphia Orchestra as a fellow of the American Symphony Orchestra League. Moreover, he was named Assistant Conductor of the Pacific Music Festival in Sapporo and Music Director of the IPPO Philharmonic.

3rd prize: Matthew Coorey

Matthew Coorey, born 1974 in Sydney, presently is Conductor in Residence with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra. In 1999, after only 6 months of studying, he became fellow in Tanglewood with Maestro Seiji Ozawa. He also worked with renowned conductors like André Previn, Jorma Panula, Edo de Waart, Peter Eötvös, Ton Koopman and Lorin Maazel. Matthew Coorey, currently living in England, worked with many well-known Symphony Orchestras like the ones from Sydney, Melbourne and Moscow. Recently, he gave his debut with the London Mozart Players, the Hallé Orchestra and the Seattle Symphony Orchestra.

*Additional information is available at:
www.dirigentenwettbewerb-solti.de*

We please request publication.
Best regards,
Press Department
ALTE OPER FRANKFURT

The International Conductors' Competition Sir Georg Solti is a joint project of the Alte Oper Frankfurt, the Frankfurter Museums-Gesellschaft e. V., the Hessischer Rundfunk, the Frankfurt Opera and the Deutsche Bank Foundation. Lady Valerie Solti is Patroness of the Competition.