



RIAM

Royal Irish
Academy of Music

RIAM Live

Lucien and Maura Teissier Scholarship

Saturday 8 May, 7.00 pm

LUCIEN AND MAURA TEISSIER SCHOLARSHIP 2021

The prestigious **Lucien and Maura Teissier Scholarship**, sees four pianists; **Rachel O'Hara, Frasier Hickland, Dida Condria** and **Joe O'Grady** compete for one of Ireland's most substantial music awards before a distinguished jury chaired by the RIAM's Director, Deborah Kelleher. We are delighted to welcome audiences virtually to the magnificent setting of the RIAM's Organ Room to hear some exceptional pianists from the RIAM's Keyboard Faculty perform an array of works for this much-loved instrument.

Sponsored by Maura Teissier

PROGRAMME

Rachel O'Hara

Berg: Sonata Op 1
Brahms: Klavierstücke Op 118, No 6
Stravinsky: Etudes Op 7 No 3 and 4

Rachel O'Hara is a 21 year old pianist from Enniskerry, Co Wicklow. She is a student of Professor Thérèse Fahy and is in her third year of the Bachelor of Music Performance degree. Rachel is a consecutive first prize winner at the Feis Ceoil, winning the Esposito Cup (2018), Nordell Cup (2019) and Heneghan Cup (2021). Rachel has performed in numerous venues around Ireland including the National Concert Hall, the Cork School of Music, the Royal Irish Academy of Music, the First Presbyterian Church in Belfast, and the RDS Concert Hall. Most recently, she performed Messiaen's *Visions de l'Amen* with Laoise McMullin, as part of ChamberFest Dublin 2021.

Frasier Hickland

Debussy: *Et la lune descend sur le temple qui fut* from Images Book II
Chopin: Polonaise-fantaisie in A-flat Major Op 61

Frasier Hickland studies with Professor Anthony Byrne at the Royal Irish Academy of Music. He has been featured on both BBC Radio Ulster to commemorate the Jane Austen Bicentenary and on BBC Radio 3 'In Tune' with tenor, Andrew Irwin. He has also performed in some of the most prestigious venues in Ireland, including the National Concert Hall, Dublin, the Ulster Hall, Belfast, the National Gallery of Ireland, Dublin and with the Ulster Youth Orchestra for their 2019 summer season. He was selected to work in a residency with the distinguished British composer Sally Beamish OBE and gave the Irish premiere of her piece *Wild Swans*. Recently, he won the John Benson Memorial Cup for Bach playing in the Feis Ceoil.

Dida Condria

Ravel: Valses nobles et sentimentales
Chopin: Polonaise No 6 in A-flat Major, Op 53

Dida Condria is 18 years old and is a student of Professor Réamonn Keary at the Royal Irish Academy of Music. She has been on continuous scholarship since the age of six and alongside performances on RTÉ lyric fm and RTÉ Nationwide, Dida has performed in prestigious venues around the world such as Carnegie Hall, the American Irish Historical Society in New York, Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Sibiu Filarmonica in Romania, Christ Church Cathedral and the National Concert Hall of Ireland. A multiple first prize winner in the Feis Ceoil and other Irish competitions, Dida's international achievements include 1st Prize in the Scottish Youth International Piano Competition, 1st Prize in the Crescendo International Competition in New York, 1st Prize in the John Field International Competition, and 2nd Prize in the PianoTalents International Competition in Milan. She has been awarded the Ursula Uí Chuinneagáin Bursary for Young Pianists, the Dublin Philharmonic Society Award and the RIAM Junior Solo Award, and is also the three time winner of the Clive Gouldson Award in the Piano Academy of Ireland National Competition. Dida also enjoys playing chamber music and has performed in numerous festivals such as the West Cork Chamber Music Festival and the Festival of Russian Culture in Hugh Lane Gallery. She is a member of the Young Artist Programme at the RIAM, the Eversheds Sutherland Accelerator Academy under the direction of Finghin Collins, and is a past member of the Dublin International Piano Competition's William Finlay Programme under the direction of Dr John O'Connor.

Joe O'Grady

Prokofiev: *Allegro inquieto* from Sonata No 7 Op 83
Chopin: Etude in C sharp minor Op 10 No 4
Liszt: Hungarian Rhapsody No 6

Joe O'Grady has been studying at the Royal Irish Academy of Music since he was six and he is currently a student of Hugh Tinney in RIAM and John O'Connor. Joe has won numerous first prizes in Feis Ceoil including the Junior Concerto and Dorothy Stokes Cup this year and the Patricia Read Cup previously. Joe made his piano solo début in Carnegie Hall with New York Concerti Sinfonietta and in Trinity College Dublin with the Royal Irish Academy of Music Chamber Orchestra when he was nine. Aged 11, he performed Beethoven's Piano Concerto No1 with RIAM Symphony Orchestra in UCD Astra Hall. He also held his second solo recital concert in the same year. Aged 12, he was invited to play in RDS Rising Star series. He is a winner in the William Finlay Programme for Gifted Young Pianists. He also plays violin. Joe was the recent recipient of the Ursula Uí Chuinneagáin Bursary for Young Pianists at the RIAM.

RESULTS

Members of the Jury

Deborah Kelleher, RIAM Director and Chair of the Jury
Colma Brioscú, RIAM Head of Keyboard
Jane Carty, Member of the RIAM Board of Governors
Veronica McSwiney, Pianist

The Royal Irish Academy of Music gratefully acknowledges the significant sponsorship of the Lucien and Maura Teissier Scholarship by Maura Teissier FRIAM
The RIAM also wishes to thank Eithne and Eamonn Byrne, donors of the Fidelio Cup and Prize.