

# 5th International Piano Competition Freiburg



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The international piano competition for young people, organized by «Jeune Musique», took place for the fifth time on the first weekend in May 2010. This year, children and youths from five nations (Switzerland, Italy, China, France and England) took part in the contest. The 7 to 17-year-olds each played one piece to their liking and one piece by a Freiburg composer. Some of the performed works had been specifically written for the competition.

## Talking to composers from Freiburg

The young pianists had the opportunity to talk to the composers Caroline Charrière, Véronique Piller, Henri Baeriswyl, Laurent Mettraux and Michel Runtz about their musical pieces. Directly after their performances they were given suggestions on the interpretation of the works as well as explanations on the ideas of the composers. An international committee under the chairmanship of Irina Kataeva decided on the performances of the musicians.

According to the organizers, the event in Freiburg has gained a permanent place among the most important international piano competitions for young people. This estimation was also shared by teachers and parents. Thérèse Meyer-Kaelin, National Council and member of the honorary committee of «Jeune Musique» underlined the importance of the competition and mentioned that performing in front of an audience meant not only a personal challenge to the children but also acknowledgement of their efforts and endurance.

The committee's chairwoman Irina Kataeva herself together with the renowned cellist Boris Baraz gave the final concert with contemporary music containing pieces of Olivier Messiaen, Alexander Scriabin, Claude Debussy, Dimitri Schostakowitsch and Michel Runtz.

The following musicians were awarded: Level 1: Camille Delplanque, Mathilde Varidel, Flaminia Dahinden, Lucie Varidel. Level 2: Amir Salhi, Nina Marti, Margot Bianchi, Célia Callot. Level 3: Hurshni Shah, Maria-Luisa Kocher, Max Merazzi, Lucas Menoud, Hongyi Shi. Level 4: Tristan Lee, Karine Pfenniger. Level 5: Juliette De Montmollin. Four Hands Category A: Patricia-Laura Yerly and Jimi Ernst. Four Hands Category B: Caroline and Erin Chu.