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Mark Barden, Birke Bertelsmeier, and Christian Mason to be recognized with Composers' Prizes from the Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation in 2015.

The Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation will disburse a total of 3 million Euros in 2015.

The three Composers' Prizes of the Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation for 2015 will go to the American composer Mark Barden, who lives in Berlin; Birke Bertelsmeier from Germany; and the British composer Christian Mason. The award for promising young composers is combined with a prize of 35,000 Euros, as well as a portrait CD prepared and produced to the specifications of the artists themselves.

The Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation will once again disburse 3 million Euros in grants-in-aids in the year 2015. The lion's share will be devoted to projects in the realm of contemporary music. From Chicago to Chaykovsky, from Kópavogur to Cairo there will be support for new commissions, concerts, academies, publications, workshops, and programs for children and youth.

The international Ernst von Siemens Music Prize will, as was announced in January, be given to the German conductor Christoph Eschenbach. This award, intended to recognize a lifetime in the service of music, comes with a prize of 250,000 Euros.

Mark Barden, born 1980 and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, has for many years been living and working in Berlin. He studied with Lewis Nielsen, Rebecca Saunders, Mathias Spahlinger and Jörg Widmann, and is currently completing a PhD in composition at Goldsmiths College, University of London. The dissertation is concerned with the role of bodily awareness during the performance and while listening to music, a topic which also runs through his compositions. Especially the intersection of physical presence and perception – that which happens at the edge, is heard and transferred to the body – is a source of fascination for the composer.

Birke Bertelsmeier, born in 1981, is a native of the Neandertal, but now lives and works in Berlin. After sojourns in Cologne, where she studied piano with Pavel Gillilov, and in Karlsruhe, locus of her composition studies under Wolfgang Rihm, she had a stipend at the Villa Massimo in Rome in 2013. The works of Birke Bertelsmeier frequently contain a moment of disorientation, which often is also reflected in her titles. Her music is characterized by a unique momentum, which she – an outstanding pianist in her own right – is able to convey to her audience.

Christian Mason, born 1984, lives in London. He studied music in York and pursued composition under Sinan Savaskan, Nicola LeFanu, Thomas Simaku and Julian Anderson before obtaining a doctorate at King's College, London, in 2012 under George Benjamin. He is a composer-in-residence at the renowned Eton College and also works as composition assistant to Sir Harrison Birtwistle.

Mason's music has a unique refulgent quality, thanks to the way in which sound and resonance combine with one another. The sounds which he creates, and which appear in delicate sonic transformations, seem fresh and new, even when consisting of only a few notes; a listener is inexorably drawn in by their charm.

Portrait CD's

The Composers' Prizes include a prize of 35,000 Euros as well as a portrait CD produced in accordance with the specific wishes of the young artists, to appear on the Viennese *col legno* label. The three discs, which once again will be filled with interpretations by distinguished artists such as Carolin Widmann and Simon Lepper; great orchestras such as the Bamberg Symphony; and ensembles for contemporary music such as Klangforum Wien or the Ensemble Modern, will appear in October, 2015. Partners in cooperation will include Bavarian Radio (BR), Deutschlandradio, and Austrian Radio (ORF).

Prize Ceremony to Take Place on May 31, 2015 in Munich's Herkulessaal

The three Composers' Prizes of the Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation will be presented to the young artists by the chairman of the board of trustees, Thomas Angyan, (Director of the Society of Friends of Music, Vienna) during a special ceremony in Munich's Herkulessaal. The Bamberg Symphony will play excerpts from *5 Monoliths* by Mark Barden, a premiere for full orchestra by Birke Bertelsmeier, as well as *Clear Night*, by Christian Mason. In addition, the orchestra will present *Béla Bartók's* Concerto for Orchestra. The performances will be led by this year's winner of the Ernst von Siemens Music Prize, the conductor Christoph Eschenbach. The latter will receive this important distinction, which comes with a prize of 250,000 Euros, from the president of the Bavarian Academy of Fine Arts, Michael Krüger.

The Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation will disburse a total of 3 million Euros

The Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation will be disbursing a total of 3 million Euros this year. The lion's share of this amount – about 2.5 million Euros – is earmarked for contemporary music projects worldwide. Over 150 projects will be recognized in this way for their excellent way of including contemporary music. The primary beneficiaries are, as always, the commissions for new work, but other priorities of the foundation include festivals, concerts, and event series, in addition to scholarly publications and complete works editions. Competitions, academies and workshops that serve young musicians, composers, and conductors as a platform to showcase their talent and to learn from famous masters are just as worthy of support as pedagogically valuable projects that make it easier for children and youth to have access to contemporary music.

The next deadline for projects seeking support is March 1st, 2015. Details of all the supported projects as well as application procedures are available on our home page: www.evs-musikstiftung.ch

For further information and to obtain image files, please visit: www.evs-musikstiftung.ch
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