

classic-clip 2018

Video contest for college and university students



Manuel Rees: Still from his entry for classic-clip 2016

About the competition

The classic-clip 2018 competition seeks to encourage college and university students studying film and video art to engage with a piece of classical music.

Although video clips are widely used and highly influential in popular music, they have only sporadically been combined with classical music. The entries for the classic-clip contests since 2009 demonstrate the wide-ranging possibilities and the obvious potential of the creative stimulus that the confrontation of these two art forms provides. The experimental point of departure invites highly individual and creative solutions and thus opens up new visual and acoustic perspectives.

The music

This year's contest takes as its starting point a recording of the Handel Variations by Johannes Brahms played by the well-known pianist Ragna Schirmer.

The variations refer to the theme, but are also connected to each other in their development. Each track consists of two or three variations, allowing the variations to flow into, to confront or to contrast with each other. In their entries, participants are required to visualise one or more of the tracks listed below.

Johannes Brahms (1833–1897) Variations and Fugue on a theme by G. F. Handel Op. 24

- 1 – Theme, Variation 1
- 2 – Variations 7 und 8
- 3 – Variations 11 und 12
- 4 – Variations 19 und 20
- 5 – Variations 21 und 22
- 6 – Variations 23 - 25

Ragna Schirmer, piano. Recording courtesy of Berlin classics.

The audio files (.wav format) can be downloaded at www.classic-clip.de from October 25, 2017.

About the music

The variation was a musical form of particular interest to Johannes Brahms (1833–1897) – he composed no fewer than five sets of variations for solo piano and a further two sets for piano duet. His contemporaries considered him the major representative of a Romantic ideal of “pure” music, music that was not constrained by a programme or ideology. Brahms’s interest in renaissance and baroque music led him to become involved in publishing music from these times.

This was the starting point for the Variations on a Theme by G. F. Handel Op. 24. The theme is the Air from Handel’s B flat major harpsichord suite, a playful melody consisting of two sets of four bars with simple harmonic progressions. In the 25 variations that follow, Brahms uses the theme as a “framework on which to establish and explore a kaleidoscopic range of moods and characters” (Calum MacDonald, booklet notes for the Hyperion recording of this work) without losing sight of the basic four-bar two-part structure. Brahms juxtaposes virtually antithetical forms and effects: a canon, a musette, quasi-symphonic horn fanfares, virtuosic passagework, a siciliana, then back to dark chromatic chords. A fugue knits the variations together and brings them to a mighty close. Here, Brahms resolves the potentially conflicting demands of inspiration and structure in what is one of the most interesting piano works of the Romantic period.

Pianist Ragna Schirmer’s unique interpretations have won her plaudits, both in Germany and on the international stage. Her nuanced playing, her attention to detail, and her passion for rediscovering well known and lesser known compositions and linking them to modern life are some of her outstanding characteristics. Ragna Schirmer won the International Bach Competition Leipzig in 1992 and 1998 and made a remarkable album debut with Bach’s Goldberg Variations. In 2009, she obtained her second ECHO Klassik award for her recording of Georg Friedrich Handel’s piano suites, which was highly praised by the critics, and in 2012, she was honoured with the Handel Prize of the city of Halle. 15 first prizes and special awards at national and international competitions are visible proof of the pianist’s impressive career.

Eligibility

The contest is open to college and university students with experience in video art.

There is a separate video contest for schools organised by the QuArt@kindermusiktage association.

Entrants must use the recording that will be made available at www.classic-clip.de from October 25, 2017.

General Conditions

The entrant agrees to abide by the Interstate Treaty on the protection of minors (JMStV) Article 1 and the Protection of Young Persons Act Article 15 Section 2 Subsections 1-5.

By submitting an entry, the entrant grants Konzertverein Kassel the right to show the video as part of MUSIKFEST KASSEL 2018, to be held in the documenta-Halle, Kassel, from April 25 to April 29, 2018.

Furthermore, the entrant agrees to the use of the video clip in the compilation DVD "classic-clip" and on the website www.classic-clip.de. They also agree that it can be used by Konzertverein Kassel and by the Berlin classics label for publicity purposes.

By entering a submission, the entrant warrants that they own all rights to their submission and that they have obtained permission from each person whose name, image, likeness or voice is included in the submission, and that such persons have granted the entrant all necessary rights to use the person's likeness as described in these rules and conditions.

The use of the video with the soundtrack anywhere but in the competition is only possible with an explicit acknowledgement of the composer, the artist and the copyright holder, for example: "*Johannes Brahms, Variations on a Theme by Handel Op. 24. Artist: Ragna Schirmer, piano. Label: Berlin classics, Edel Germany GmbH, Neumuehlen 17, 22763 Hamburg*".

Technical requirements

Changes to the sound track must be agreed in advance. To facilitate the presentation of the videos, the video soundtrack must be exactly the same length as the CD track it is based on.

Main technical requirements

No opening or closing credits. The length of the video must be exactly the same as the length of the piece of music in the audio file.

No captions.

The DVD should contain only the film data – please burn without a menu.

The film must be submitted in either AVI or MOV file format. WMV files can be converted to AVI using the following website:

<http://www.softonic.de/s/wmv-zu-avi>

Submission

The deadline for the submission of entries is April 10, 2018. To qualify for the contest, entrants must send seven copies of the video (including the sound track) on DVD and one copy of the data on DVD (.avi or .mov file only) to the following address:

Konzertverein Kassel, Walter Lehmann, Gutshof 9, 34270 Schauenburg.

To allow the jury to assess the entries anonymously, each DVD must be given a seven-character code consisting of a combination of letters and numbers chosen by the entrant.

Alternatively, entrants may send a link to a file-sharing site such as dropbox from which the video can be downloaded. The link must be active from April 10 2018 to at least April 20 2018 and should be sent by email by April 10 at the latest to info@konzertverein-kassel.de und lehmann@konzertverein-kassel.de. Please attach the registration form and a short biography (see below) to the email. To allow the jury to assess the entries anonymously, the video file should be named with a seven-character code consisting of a combination of letters and numbers chosen by the entrant.

Please enclose a short biography with the submission. This should include the participant's year of birth, university, degree course and, if applicable, any previous works or competitions entered. Please describe briefly how the video clip originated.

Konzertverein Kassel will not be responsible for videos that are lost or damaged.

Selection of winners and prizes

Entries will be judged according to their overall artistic qualities, with particular emphasis on the extent to which the participant's personal involvement with the music has been visualised.

There are no restrictions on content or structure other than those mentioned above.

The first prize is €1500, the second prize €750 and the third prize €500.

The award-winning entries and a selection of the other entries will be shown in public at **MUSIKFEST KASSEL 2018** (April 25 – April 29, 2018). The awards ceremony will also take place during the Musikfest Kassel on a date to be announced.

The Jury

The jury is expected to consist of the following seven members:

- the pianist Ragna Schirmer
- a faculty member of the School of Art and Design, Kassel University
- an official from Kassel's Department of Cultural Affairs
- a non-participating student
- a music critic
- a free-lance artist
- a member of Konzertverein Kassel e.V.

Entries will be judged anonymously. The jury has sole discretion over how the prizes are awarded. The jury's decision is final.

Kassel, October 6, 2017.

Konzertverein Kassel e.V., Walter Lehmann, Am Gutshof 9,
34270 Schauenburg, e-mail: info@konzertverein-kassel.de

The application form is on the next page

Application for the competition

classic-clip 2018

The Code (7 characters consisting of a number/letter combination)

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Address:

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.....

Tel./ Fax/ E-mail:

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Class/ College/ University

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I agree to the aforementioned conditions for participation in this competition

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Place, Date, Signature

Please return this application form, together with the seven DVDs to be distributed to the members of the jury, by 10 April 2018 at the latest. In addition, please send one copy of the film only as a film file (MOV or AVI) on a DVD, CD-ROM or USB stick. Please use the highest possible resolution (for example 1280x720 or higher). This will simplify any editing that may be necessary to make the film ready for the presentation.

Address:

Konzertverein Kassel
Am Gutshof 9
D-34270 Schauenburg