



Richmond upon Thames Performing Arts Virtual Festival 2021

A very successful virtual Festival for the Piano, Vocal and Instrumental Sections was held in May 2021.

A high quality entry from across the UK, the Republic of Ireland and France presented adjudicators, Paul Harris (wind), Fiona McLean Buechel (Strings), Ben Costello (Singing) and Susan Clark (Piano) with some tough decisions. We are grateful to them for spending time with the Festival and assessing and writing reports on over 330 video performances.

Only the Major Awards were presented in 2021 and videos of the winning performances and full results can be viewed on www.richmondfestival.org.uk/awards

Young Singer of the Year:

Hannah Wiseman (15) (Twickenham)

Runner up:

Octavia Grassby (13) (West London)

Kirkland Award (Songs from the Shows)

Nonny Jones (18) (Teddington)

Young Pianist of the Year and Edith Steinitz Memorial Prize 2021:

Eliza Ruffle (14) (*Richmond*)

Runner up:

Leo Little (16) (*Bedford*)



Hannah



Eliza

Young Instrumentalist of the Year Prize

This is usually awarded to the outstanding String or Wind/Brass Player from across the Instrumental Section. In 2021 the standard over all instruments was so high that the adjudicators requested that major awards should be made for both Strings and Wind/Brass.

Young Wind/Brass Player of the Year

Lola Frisby Williams (16) (Devon) Clarinet

Highly Commended:

Katy Baker (15) (Solihull) Clarinet

Young String Player of the Year

Alix Vaillot-Szwarc (18) (Menuhin School, Cobham) Violin

Highly Commended:

Harry Scott-Burt (16) (Rugby) 'Cello

Xenia Edwards (17) (Barnes, Richmond) Violin



Lola



Alix

More Young Musician Prize winners:



All Mayor Awards were sponsored by St. Luke's Music Society, Mr & Mrs. M. Warden, Ms. Sue Thornton and anonymous Patrons.

Judy, Pam and Sue are most grateful to new volunteers *Heidi Pegler* and *Manuella Jessop* who encouraged a step into the unknown (for us) world of Virtual Festivals and for their massive help in the management of this successful project. We used a programme named *Play and Perform* for this year's festival and thank Neil Palmer for the provision of this very useful and user-friendly software. It is equally adaptable to live Festivals and we hope to make use of it in future Festivals and recommend it to others!

Now for 2022!

The committee very much hopes that we will be able to organize live Festivals, subject to Government Guidelines. Kew Community Centre has been booked for March 2022 for some of the Music sections.

Debbie Souter, the Dance Secretary has already booked *Jennifer Haley* to adjudicate the Festival in February 2022. The All England Festival postponed its qualifiers in 2021 and so in 2022 Richmond is once again a qualifying Festival.

Dates for the Dance Festival will be February 14th to 19th 2022 at the Theatre at Jubilee School, School Lane, Addlestone, KT15 1TE . It has not been possible to arrange a suitable venue in the borough of Richmond upon Thames due to Covid uncertainty. Addlestone is very accessible from the M25 and we hope this will not present too much of a problem for our dancers who in past years have come from all over the south of England.

More images from the 2021 Festival

