

Milton Keynes Festival of the Arts
for Dance, Music and Drama

Milton Keynes Young Musician

MILTON KEYNES YOUNG MUSICIAN
OF THE YEAR 2023



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Established in 1968, the Milton Keynes Festival of the Arts is an educational charity run on a self-funding basis by a small committee of unpaid volunteers, with the objective of providing a safe and constructive performance platform for amateur performers of all ages and levels of experience.

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for Dance, Music and Drama

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Milton Keynes Young Musician of the Year 2023

Seven piano and instrumental soloists from last weekend's music festival have been invited back to further showcase their performances. All performers will receive a special trophy and certificate and a small amount of prize money and one performer will be awarded the title Milton Keynes Young Musician of the Year. Each performer is asked to prepare up to 12 minutes of repertoire of their own choice.

Our Judges

Mrs Gillian Johnston



Gillian studied the bassoon with Archie Camden at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and, after a period of freelance playing, concentrated on a teaching career, before moving to Harpenden where she established her own Music School, 'Harpenden Musicale'. As well as running the Music School, Gill arranges Musicale Holidays, Competitions and a Summer Music Festival. She is the founder and Musical Director of the National Children's Wind Orchestra and associated groups.

Gill is an adjudicator for The British and International Federation of Festivals and very much enjoys contact with young musicians, inspiring and enthusing their interest in music.

Mr Martin Wakley



Growing up in Milton Keynes, Martin started playing the trombone at the age of seven. Having spent many years playing in orchestras, bands and musicals, he decided to become a music teacher. He developed and lead a nationally recognised music department at Stantonbury Campus and has developed a reputation as a respected music educationalist including examining at A level and GCSE. He trains trainee teachers in music for the Chiltern Training Group and leads the development of

primary music across the Chiltern Learning Trust.

He has supported numerous music departments across Milton Keynes and beyond and has now returned to teaching in Luton where he is enjoying the challenge of building a thriving music department at Putteridge High School.

Martin enjoys a challenge and established and ran Buskers, a popular music and food business from 2008 to 2017. He also chaired MK4U, a large youth music festival which ran for 5 years, working with the ubiquitous Pat Haig.

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Our Young Musician of the Year Performers

Your announcer: Mr Adrian Boynton

Vice President of the Milton Keynes Festival of the Arts for Dance, Music and Drama

Waika Chu - Piano

Rachmaninoff - Prelude in G Minor

Poulenc - Novelettes 1 and 2

Hagan has been playing the piano since he was 5, showing an interest in the instrument as he grew up. He is currently in Year 8. He was under the guidance of Yano Siu, piano teacher in Hong Kong for 6 years until September 2020, where he moved to England. Now, he is preparing for his diploma exam with Miss Iris Chan, his current piano teacher. He has completed various piano competitions in Hong Kong and the UK. They include 1st Runner Up in the Hong Kong International Music Arts Festival 2022 Global Final, the Bangkok International Music Competition, which he was awarded second place.

Tom Wood – Euphonium

Graham - Whirlwind

Rachmaninoff - Vocalise

Tom started playing baritone aged 8 in Year 4 in his primary school. The local music service in Leicestershire provided instrument hire and a weekly group lesson for all primary school children. Tom's music teacher saw potential in him and suggested he joined a group that he ran, then he started private lessons. In Year 5 he commenced the euphonium so he has now been playing this instrument for 6 years. Tom moved to Olney in 2017 and in 2018 he joined Ousedale School. As well as playing in several school bands, and Youth Wind Band with the Milton Keynes Music Service, he is also Principal Euphonium in Olney Brass band, and he has gained a place in the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain. He played in the National Children's Brass Band of GB in 2019 prior to the pandemic. Last month he won Ousedale School Musician of the Year 2023. Two years ago he took up trombone and is planning to take grade 8 later this year. He plays trombone in Milton Keynes Music Service Big Band and Youth Orchestra. He can also play piano, and saxophone. He enjoys composing and the school have used one of his fanfares in a performance. Tom's intention following GCSEs and A-Levels is to go to music college.

Isaac Bazlov - Piano

Peixun - Autumn Moon on a Calm Lake

Piazzolla - Toccata from Suite para Piano Op 2

Isaac has played piano since the age of four, taught by Susan Olden, and has achieved LCM Associate Diploma in piano performance. An academic and music scholar in Year 7 at King Edward's School in Birmingham, Isaac enjoys playing solo piano, taking part in chamber ensembles and accompanying other instruments and choirs. Isaac also loves jazz and started to play the alto saxophone this year. He has already joined a swing band and is exploring new ways of sharing his passion for music with his friends.

Ellen Zeng – Violin

Tartini - Sonata in G Minor Op 1 No 10 1st and 2nd Movts

De Falla - Danse Espagnole from La Vida Breve

Ellen started learning the violin at age 6. She has been going to orchestra on Saturday mornings since the age of 7, and currently leads the Milton Keynes youth orchestra and string orchestra. She started learning with Ruth Gapp when she was 8, and now learns the violin with Erica Grajner-Desa. In 2018, she joined the Buckinghamshire County Youth Orchestra, where she currently plays first violin. She has been on several tours with the orchestra in the last couple of years, including places like Prague and Jersey. In the past she has played in several regional orchestras, such as the NCO regionals and NYO Inspire. In 2022, she also came second place in the MK Young Musician of the Year final. In November of 2022 she passed her violin performance diploma with a distinction. At the start of March this year, she was invited to perform at the I Am Woman concert, along with members of the Alina orchestra string quartet and several adult choir groups. She hopes to study music at university in the future.

Tham Luanghvisut – Saxophone

Quate - Light of Sothis 1st and 2nd Movts

Binge - Concerto for Saxophone and Orchestra III. Rondo

Tham has been playing saxophone since the age of ten. Now in his upper 6th year, he is currently studying with Sarah Watts at Stowe school, where he is a music award-holder. He is actively involved in a large number of ensembles and he regularly takes part in school concerts. Before concluding his A-level studies at Stowe, Tham would like to perform Glazunov's concerto for alto saxophone with the school orchestra. In addition to his saxophone studies, Tham is a capable cellist.

Matias Yung – Piano and 'Cello

Chopin – Etude in E Major Op 10 No 3 (piano)

Popper - Tarantella Op 33 ('cello)

Matias is 15 years old and is currently learning piano under the tuition of Mrs Maia Griffin. He is also a cellist and studies cello with Ms Selma Gokcen in the Junior Guildhall School of Music and Drama. He is currently working towards his diploma for both instruments. Driven by his character he is an active musician who always engages himself in a variety of music activities. He played in the National Children Orchestra and chamber music in various cello events and summer courses. Apart from playing solo he is also an accompanist for the school choir and his sister and friends in their strings performances. He intends to make a full-time career as a musician.

Rebecca Bazlov – Piano

Ravel - Jeux d'eau

Sancan - Toccata pour piano

Rebecca is 16 years old and is currently taught by Dr Robert Markham. Last March, she gave a public performance of a Mozart concerto with the Royal Sutton Coldfield Orchestra. One of the highlights of the year was a fundraising Concert for Ukraine in the Ruddock Hall in Birmingham which she organised and was one of the performers in. In January 2023 she played piano in the rock band formed for the King Edward's Schools' production of Little Shop of Horrors. Rebecca is also a member of the Out Of The Blue jazz band and regularly plays gigs and sings with them. A music scholar at King Edward VI High School for Girls, she performs in public concerts organised by the school and by the University of Birmingham.

Guest Performance

Rosie Freear – Milton Keynes Young Singer of the Year 2023

Britten - Salley Gardens

Sondheim - Green Finch and Linnet Bird

Rosie Freear is currently studying for GCSEs, including GCSE music, and enjoys singing as a soloist and in a choir. She likes to stretch herself with different styles, including pieces from musicals and opera, classical and foreign language works. Rosie also keeps busy with netball and dance.

Milton Keynes Dance, Music and Drama Festivals

Dates and Adjudicators - Festival 2024

All held at Walton High / The Venue MK7 7WH

Speech and Drama

24 and 25 February 2024

Priscilla Morris and Eleanor McLeod

Music

9 and 10 March 2024

Piano:

Murray McLachlan and Nancy Litten

Instrumental

Kay Tucker

Voice

Sarah Jeffries

Choirs, Barbershop and Ensembles

16 March 2024

To be confirmed

The 2024 syllabus will be on our website in August 2023

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