

The logo for the Hubert van der Spuy National Music Competition features the name 'Hubert van der Spuy' in a large, elegant, orange cursive font. Below it, the words 'NATIONAL MUSIC COMPETITION' are written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. The logo is set against a white background that is part of a larger graphic design.

NATIONAL  
MUSIC COMPETITION

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### Final results: Hubert van der Spuy National Music Competition 2021

#### 8 finalists:

Madison le Roux (14, Piano – Pinelands in the Western Cape)  
Elena Monvoison (11, Piano – Loevenstein in the Western Cape)  
Annie Chang (11 years, Violin – Pretoria, Gauteng)  
Jaden van Balla (14 years, Piano – Bothasig, Western Cape)  
Henrich Sutton (14 years, Piano – Pretoria, Gauteng)  
Emma Steenkamp (14, Violin – Somerset West, Western Cape)  
Tanya Zhu (13 years, Piano – Kensington, Gauteng)  
Gongxuan Zhang (13, Piano – Durban North, Kwazulu Natal)

#### Top 3 results:

3rd prize winner: Gongxuan Zhang  
2<sup>nd</sup> prize winner: Emma Steenkamp  
Winner: Tanya Zhu

On Thursday 23 September Tanya Zhu (13, Piano) was crowned the winner of the 32nd Hubert van der Spuy National Music Competition, taking home a gold medal and R15 000. In second place was Emma Steenkamp (14, Violin) and third was Gongxuan Zhang (13, Piano).

This instrumental competition has taken place every year since 1989, except for 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It was established by Prof Hubert van der Spuy, who still plays an active role within the organisation as a non-voting board member. The competition is hosted by the **South African Society of Music Teachers (SASMT) Tygerberg branch**. It is exclusively for primary school learners; however as a result of the competition not taking place last year, a concession was made for this year to allow participants aged 14 years or in grade 8 to take part.

After a year of forced absence, everyone was delighted to be back at the Hugo Lambrechts music centre for the final round of the competition which took place from 20-23 September 2021. Even though audience numbers were limited in their capacity, there was a buzz of excitement in the air. Live music concerts have been in short supply as of late and so it was a joyous occasion to be back in a concert hall and enjoy the performances of these talented young musicians.

The event was also **livestreamed** on Facebook for family, friends and supporters to watch and will be made available to watch on the Hubert van der Spuy National Music Competition YouTube channel.

The first and second round saw 47 hopeful participants, which was whittled down to 24 in the third round and eventually 8 finalists were selected to compete in the final round.

The standard of playing was very high and the **panel of adjudicators** had their work cut out for them to choose the prize winners.

The panel consisted of violinist David Bester, who resides in Qhbergha and is a senior lecturer at the Nelson Mandela University. He has performed as soloist with numerous orchestras in South Africa and is a sought-after chamber musician;

Megan-Geoffrey Prins. Prins is a well-known pianist, locally and internationally. He has featured in various music competitions and is a past winner of the Hubert van der Spuy National Music Competition (2001). He currently serves as full-time piano lecturer on the faculty of the University of Pretoria: School of arts; and flautist Carina Bruwer, who has won numerous music awards as a soloist. She is the founder of the all-women three-piece ensemble, Sterling EQ and directs and tours her own Classical crossover production, performing and recording for diverse musical groups.

The **audition panel** consisted of Hilda Boonzaier (chairperson of the organizing committee), Charlene Bopenhagen, Carike Byker and André Grové.

Dr Marlene le Roux, Head of Performing Arts of Artscape and Patron of the Hubert van der Spuy National Music Competition could unfortunately not attend the evening and was wished a speedy recovery.

The evening kicked off on a personal note as each soloist was introduced to the audience with a little piece of interesting information about them, followed by **8 stellar performances**.

The Johanna van der Spuy **first prize winner**, Tanya Zhu from Johannesburg in Gauteng, delivered her programme with a sensitive approach to the piano, beautiful long phrases and dressed in a pair of sparkling blue shoes to add a bit of extra dazzle! Her final programme included Deux Melodies Russes No. 1 (F. Liszt), Sonata in C: Allegro (J. Haydn) and Preludes Op 32 Nos 5 and 12 (S. Rachmaninoff). Tanya also received the prizes for the best performance of a Classical work in the second round (Sonata in C by Haydn), best performance of a Romantic work in the third round (Rachmaninoff), best performance of a South African composition (Jazz Impromptu 2 by A Johnson) and the category prize for piano. Her teachers are Malcom Nay and Pauline Nossel and they also receive a cash prize of R2500.

She is a grade 8 student at Redhill School in Sandton and her dream is to become a professional pianist. She has already played her grade 8 ABRSM exam and she practises between 4 and 5 hours everyday. When she is not behind the piano she enjoys reading and swimming.

Emma Steenkamp, **second place winner** of the silver medal and R10 000 hails from Somerset West in the Western Cape and is a student of Suzanne Martens, who also received a cash prize of R2000.

Emma is a natural born performer and elicited a standing ovation from the audience after her fiery performance of the Praeludium & Allegro by G. Pugnani/F. Kreisler. She presented her programme, which also included Partita No. 3 in E: Preludio (J.S. Bach) and Romance in F Op. 50 (L van Beethoven), with passion and flair.

She also won the prize for the best performance of a Baroque work in the first round (Partita No. 3 by Bach) as well as the strings category prize.

Emma also enjoys drawing, spending time with her family and searching for hidden sea creatures in tidal pools.

Winner of the **third place** and bronze medal and R7500, Gongxuan Zhang lives in Durban North in Kwazulu-Natal and ended the evening with a very lively and musical performance. She had people tapping their feet along with the jazzy rhythms in the Paganini Variations on the Style of Modern Jazz (F. Say). The other pieces in her programme, Sonata No. 8 in c Op 13: Rondo Allegro (L van Beethoven) and Virtuoso 1 (J. Zaidel-Rudolph) was also approached with musicality and a depth of character.

Her teacher, Liezl-Maret Livingstone receives a cash prize of R1500.

Apart from playing piano, Gongxuan is also passionate about llamas, snakes, hiking and playing badminton.

11 year-old violinist Annie Chang received prizes for the best candidate of 11 years and younger - a prize of R5000 personally sponsored by Prof van der Spuy; best performance of a Classical work in the second round 11 years and younger (Violin Sonata No. 21 by Mozart) and best performance of a Baroque work in the first round 11 years and younger (Partita No.4: Gigue by J.S. Bach).

Annie was born in Taiwan, but now resides in Pretoria and studies violin under Ivan Lazarov.

It is hard to believe that she is only 11 years old when hearing her perform with such maturity. She delivered an exciting performance and dazzled the audience with her rendition of the acapella Partita No. 2 in d: Gigue (J.S. Bach); the Melodie in E-flat Op 42 (P. Tchaikovsky) and Sonata No.12 in e Op 3 (N. Paganini) Both Chang and Steenkamp were accompanied by Mario Nell on piano.

The Tygerberg prize, awarded to a student whose teacher is a member of the Tygerberg branch of the SASMT, was handed to Elena Monvoisin.

Elena, also only 11 years of age and residing in Loevenstein in the Western Cape, created a beautiful atmosphere with her playing. She really captured the character of each of her pieces and delivered it gracefully. She is a talented musician and also plays the violin, oboe and cor anglais. Her programme included On quiet nights: Starlight pulses gently from your fingertips (P.L. van Dijk), Nocturne No. 20 in c# Op Posthumous (F. Chopin) and The Cat and the Mouse (A. Copland).

Her teacher, Linda Claassen also received a prize of R1200.

The other finalists include:

Madison Le Roux (14), piano student of Mario Nell and a learner at St. Cyprian's School in Cape town who delivered a powerful performance. She played the Sonata in E-flat: Allegro (J. Haydn), Fantasia in f# Op 28: Con moto agitato - Andante (F. Mendelssohn) and Virtuoso 1 (J. Zaidel-Rudolph).

Jaden van Balla (14) is from Bothasig in Cape Town and also a piano student of Linda Claassen. Jaden created a rich tapestry of textures with his interpretation of the Toccata in e-flat Op. 24 (A. Khachaturian). Also on his programme was the Prelude No.12 in g# Op 32 (S. Rachmaninoff) and Sonatina No. 5 in G: 2 Andante; 3 Really fast ( P. Klatzow).

Heinrich Sutton (14) is a piano student of Claudine van Breda, from Pretoria. His programme consisted of the Sonata in C Op no. 3: Allegro Assai (L van Beethoven), Gnomenreigen (F. Liszt) and Two Romanian Folk Dances (B. Bartok). He produced wonderful tonal contrasts in all of his works and produced some mighty fortes on the piano.

The Category prize for woodwinds was awarded to Kian Goliath (14) on saxophone, taught by Arissa Voges. All the participants in the third round received a prize of R1000 and the participants in the final round, R1200.

Honorary mentions were awarded to Tanya Zhu and Madison le Roux for qualifying for and participating in 4 competitions; and Nika Meiring, Mia Botev and Jaden van Balla for qualifying for and participating in 5 competitions.

The evening ended as soon as it began and everyone was left astounded by the remarkable talent and high level of performance that made up the evening.

Ms **Hilda Boonzaaier** remarked that it was a highlight for everyone - especially after the past 18 months. She said that this night was like a cherry on top of the cake.

After being asked to comment on this year's level of performance, **Prof van der Spuy** said that every year is new and that the participants continue to astonish. As another successful competition comes to a close, it is clear in the way he fondly looks around as all the procedures are wrapping up, last photos are taken and goodbyes are said, that he is a proud founding father and deeply and personally invested in this competition.

All Covid protocols were adhered to - social distancing and sanitizing was implemented, masks were worn throughout and the piano was sanitized after each performance.

Attached is the comprehensive prize list. Please confirm which photos you request.

Kind Regards

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