

Loïc Lafontaine Wins International Piano Competition

April 11th, Paris - Loïc Lafontaine of Yamaha Artists Services Europe in Paris, has swept away all the top awards of the 21st International Competition for Outstanding Piano Amateurs. Loïc competed against 100 candidates from 33 countries across the globe and at the finals held on 11th April at Salle Gaveau in Paris, he played Mendelssohn's Variations Sérieuses and the Bach-Busoni Toccata and Fugue in D minor. In addition to the Gold Prize, he also won the Audience Award and the Press Award.

Loïc remarks that he felt an immense joy—as well as immense surprise—when he heard the thundering applause of the appreciative audience following his triumphant performance.

Despite winning this hat-trick of awards, the prizes were not his motive for entering the competition. Loïc explains that he had been busy with work and felt he had been neglecting the piano, despite his lifelong passion for the instrument. Entering this contest was mainly to create self-motivation to begin regular practicing again.

Undoubtedly the prizes of a concerto performance with the Orchestre de la Garde Républicaine, and solo recitals at several festivals will help keep Loïc's motivation high.

Loïc began studying piano at age 4 and continued at the National Conservatory at Bordeaux.

In 2003 he entered Yamaha France as product specialist for strings and piano, and for the last two years has been a member of Artist Services Europe.



Photos by Jerome Wargnier



The Jury Members of the competition included: Germaine Devèze, Marisa Bruni Tedeschi, Sabine Lacoarret, Reiko Nakaoki, Tania Heidsieck, Jacques Caulin, Marc Laforet, Eric Heidsieck, Marc André, Christian Debrus, Karol Beffa, Pierre Cheremetiev, François Chaplin, Jean-Paul Sévilla, Tristan Pfaff

A second "jury of the press" was composed of more than twenty musical journalists from around the world.

For more about Loïc (in French): http://fr.yamaha.com/fr/news_events/about_yamaha/2010/meandmyyamaha_lafontaine/