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Berenberg Bank Foundation of 1990: Pianist Volodymyr Lavrynenko Receives 2017 Berenberg Cultural Prize

Hamburg. Over 400 guests attended the Berenberg Cultural Prize award ceremony at Hamburg's Elbphilharmonie concert hall yesterday evening. The 10,000 euro prize went to concert pianist Volodymyr Lavrynenko, who is studying at the Hamburg School of Music and Theatre.

This year's prize-winner **Volodymyr Lavrynenko** was born in the Ukraine and had piano lessons when he was only five years old. He attended the M. Lysenko Special School of Music for the especially gifted and later attended the P.I. Tschaikowsky Conservatorium in Kiev, where he graduated with distinction. In 2006 he continued his studies in Switzerland at the Bern Academy of the Arts with Tomasz Herbut and then in the Master Class of Konstantin Lifschitz at the Lucerne University of Applied Arts and Sciences. He is currently a concert recital student with Prof. Anna Vinnitskaya (another past winner of the Berenberg Cultural Prize). "Volodymyr Lavrynenko is an unusual talent who convinces with his gentle and finely-graduated piano playing. One feels his passion for music," says Trustee Board member Prof. Elmar Lampson, who personally awarded the Berenberg Cultural Prize together with Dr. Hans-Walter Peters, spokesman of Berenberg's managing partners.

One of the most generously endowed young talent awards in northern Germany, the Berenberg Bank Foundation of 1990 awards the Berenberg Cultural Prize every year. The Foundation also promotes education in the arts by awarding scholarships and project funding. "Berenberg is very important to Hamburg as a major metropolitan cultural centre, and we feel we have a very special responsibility in promoting young artistic talent, thereby furthering Hamburg's reputation as a city of culture," Peters says. So far, over 900,000 euros have gone to benefit new cultural talent.

Peters expressed his special thanks to both Trustee Board members Katharina Trebitsch (a film producer) and Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Hermann Rauhe (Honorary President of the School of Music and Theatre / HfMT) who have supported the work of the Foundation since its inception. He also thanked the two other Trustee Board members Prof. Elmar Lampson (President of the HfMT) and Prof. Martin Köttering (President of the Hamburg Academy of Graphic Arts / HFBK).

Scholarships went to violinist **Danae Papamatthäou-Matschke**, who is currently completing postgraduate studies at the HfMT with Prof. Tanja Becker-Bender, hornist **Tomás Guerra Figueiredo** and counter-tenor **Jungkwon Jang**. Both are concert recital students with professors Ab Koster and Mark Tucker at the HfMT.

The Berenberg Bank Foundation of 1990 also supports the "International Opera Studio" of the Hamburg State Opera House and is awarding a scholarship to soprano **Narea Son**, who was born in South Korea. She is also a student at the HfMT.

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About Berenberg

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