

A confirmation after five competitions in Sion

THE PURITY OF A JURY ... of CHILDREN

The scene takes place in Sion, in Switzerland, Aug. 24, 2007. After 15 days of an outstanding competition, the public waits impatiently for the list of winners of the International Violin Competition. However, before declaring the winners, the violinist Shlomo Mintz, the President of the jury, turns towards a Children Jury and call on them to

exuberance of the youth. According to the instrument they each play, different types of an ear and perception are made use of. These differences enrich the jury, and there is a dynamic of evolving that moves within the group. Over the years as new children join the older ones become their mentors.

The goal of the training is to allow the

Even if the goal does not at all consist of obtaining the same results as the International Jury, often the results concord and in so doing they act to support and confirm the adult's choice with the added touch of freshness and spontaneity that only the children can bring to it. Since 2003 the results that have been reached have demonstrated a great deal of coherence in

come to embrace so naturally, while giving it away without any thought of reward. In fact they inspire hope for a better tomorrow and they bestow on everyone around them their precious laughter and simple goodness. This explains why the decision of the Children Jury struck me because in essence, it indicated that there was indeed something in my playing, which they felt was honest and unspoiled. I remember being overwhelmed with happiness in hearing the announcement that they had chosen me as their laureate.

Nicole Coppey, founder and director of the 'Un, Deux, Trois Musiques...'



Nicole Coppey and the children of the Jury 2007

give their choice... Since 2003 this scenario has taken place five times, the result of an innovative collaboration between the Sion Violin Competition and the 'Un, Deux, Trois Musiques...' music school (www.123musique.ch) which led to the inclusion of a Children Jury into an international competition.

As it is in the International Jury the Children Jury is made up of nine members, with a President and vice-President. It's composed in a manner that allows the members to complement each other age-wise, according to the instruments they play, and in each one's level and skills. In this way a variety of perceptive aspects are represented, whether it's in childlike spontaneity, teenage affectivity or the expressive

child to call upon his own knowledge and musical instincts. The pedagogical training is based upon a general approach to classical music, to the violin repertoire and the setting of the competition. However beyond the development of an ear and musical knowledge, emphasis is also placed on expressing musical instincts. The important thing is to keep the child's spontaneity intact, while at the same time helping him/her to be able to put into words what he's picking up and feeling.

The children follow all the stages of the competition. They go into action in a successive manner from the first qualifying rounds up to the finals, making their selection of candidates and finally designating their winner who is awarded The Children's Prize".

the choices made by the two juries: for example in 2003 during the 2nd qualifying round 5 candidates out of 6 were the same between the two juries. The 6th candidate that the adult jury retained was also classified 6th in the scoring of the children. In 2004 the two juries established a ranking for the 6 finalists that was identical. In 2005, as well as in 2006, 11 of the 12 finalists who qualified for the 2nd eliminatory round were the same, and 10 were the same in 2007.

Sergey Tsoy, 2nd place winner of the Competition and the Children Jury's 1st place winner in 2007, testifies: "Among the prizes won at the Sion Competition, the most precious one is Children Jury's prize. Why? To my mind, the essence of life originates in its purity, which children in general

music school concludes: "It seems to me that it's a fundamental necessity that the real value of the child's point of view be taken into consideration. They provide an instinctive perspective which is sometimes needed to bring to light other qualities that certain candidates are in possession of."

The particularity of the Sion-Valais Competition is that it takes place jointly with a Festival. If the Festival is yearly, from now on the violin competition will occur every two years. We therefore look forward to the next competition which will take place in the summer of 2009.