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medici.tv launches dedicated broadcast platform for The Leeds International Piano Competition

**Public vote for Audience Award opened to global audiences for the first time
through this major new partnership**

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medici.tv's extensive coverage of The Leeds International Piano Competition, relaying the full Competition experience including performances from every round to more than 180 countries, begins today [8 August 2018] at leedspiano2018.medici.tv.

From today, audiences can enjoy the First Round performances of the 24 competitors who were selected from among 68 First Round pianists to go through to the next round in Leeds in September. Their progress can then be followed through 8 days of free live webcasts of the final rounds in Leeds between 6 to 15 September. All performances will also be available on demand for three years.

'The Leeds' and medici.tv will work together to deliver a rich digital experience on a dedicated new platform. As well as viewing every Competition performance for free, global audiences will also be able to experience the full atmosphere of the Competition through extensive behind-the-scenes

coverage, interviews with the competitors and coverage of other events surrounding the Competition. Broadcaster **Petroc Trelawny** presents the live webcasts of the whole Competition and is joined by pianists **Lucy Parham** and former Leeds prize winner **Noriko Ogawa** for the Semis and Finals.

The new partnership will significantly extend the global reach of the Competition and bring the atmosphere and music-making of this most prestigious event to music lovers in more than 180 countries. It has been made possible thanks to the University of Leeds, a long-standing partner of The Leeds, which has extended its financial support to ensure that international audiences can experience everything that Competition has to offer.

In a major new development for both The Leeds and medici.tv, the global audience will be invited to vote online for the **medici.tv Audience Award**. This is the first time that worldwide audiences will be able to have a say at The Leeds. The international medici.tv vote will be verified and added to the vote from inside Leeds Town Hall and announced as part of the prize presentation which follows the second day of the Finals on Saturday 15 September. The winner of the inaugural medici.tv Audience Award will have a performance broadcast on medici.tv within the next three years.

Music communities around the world can also come together to follow news, blogs and interact on the newly-created medici.tv platform and via the hashtag #LeedsPiano on social media channels (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter).

Global streaming is one of the key innovations that are rejuvenating The Leeds under the artistic leadership of Paul Lewis and Adam Gatehouse, and is a key pillar of their new vision for the much enhanced Competition.

Held once every three years, The Leeds is one of the world's foremost music competitions. Since the first Competition in 1963, it has attracted the world's finest young pianists, drawn by the opportunities offered by the outstanding prize package, the challenge of demanding repertoire, a stellar jury – and a warm welcome from the City of Leeds. The roll call of eminent past winners and finalists includes many of the world's best-known pianists. The Competition's 1972 winner Murray Perahia became Patron in June 2017. Lang Lang is Global Ambassador and Dame Fanny Waterman was appointed Life President and Founder Director Emeritus in 2015.

Paul Lewis, co-Artistic Director of The Leeds, says: *“The Leeds has introduced some outstanding pianists to the world over the past half century. Now, through the exceptional quality and reach of medici.tv’s webcasts, we can share the extraordinary music-making of the Competition in real time and to more people than ever before.”*

Adam Gatehouse, co-Artistic Director of The Leeds, added: *“We are thrilled to be working with [medici.tv](https://www.medici.tv) and our Senior Partner the University of Leeds to hugely extend the Competition’s global reach and to share the Competition and the great city of Leeds with such diverse audiences in a new and exciting way. It is wonderful to be able to unite the global audience in voting to give one of our five Finalists the [medici.tv](https://www.medici.tv) Audience Award.”*

Hervé Boissière, Founder & Managing Director of medici.tv: *“The Leeds has a long history of excellence and the Competition's world-class laureates have appeared regularly on medici.tv over the past ten years. We're thrilled to be able to help introduce the next generation of piano stars to music lovers around the globe and particularly excited to give fans worldwide the opportunity to engage with the Competition directly through the medici.tv Audience Award.”*

Following each live webcast, free replay of the various rounds and concerts will be available to online audiences until 16 September 2021, playable worldwide on all devices.

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IMAGES ATTACHED:

[Anna Tsybuleva wins Leeds International Piano Competition 2015.jpg](#)
[Adam Gatehouse & Paul Lewis c. Simon Jay Price \(ii\).jpg](#)

NOTES TO EDITORS:

About the Leeds International Piano Competition:

The first Leeds International Piano Competition took place in 1963; the idea of local piano teacher and former concert pianist, Fanny Waterman. In bringing the competition to fruition, Dame Fanny, as she was to become in 2005, was assisted by her husband Geoffrey de Keyser and by Marion Thorpe, then Countess of Harewood. The first Competition was won by Michael Roll before a jury chaired by Sir Arthur Bliss. In 1981 Dame Fanny Waterman chaired the jury for the first time, continuing to do so until her retirement as artistic director in 2015, when she was succeeded by Paul Lewis (chair of the jury) and Adam Gatehouse as Co-Artistic Directors.

The concerto finals have been supported by a number of major UK orchestras over the years including the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and the Hallé. Sir Mark Elder has conducted the Hallé at all the finals between 2003 and 2015. Other conductors with long associations with the Competition include Sir Charles Groves and Sir Simon Rattle. In 2018 Edward Gardner will conduct at the finals for the first time. The BBC has broadcast all Competitions since 1966 and in 2018 there will be coverage on BBC Radio 3 and BBC Four TV, as well as worldwide streaming by medici.tv.

The list of eminent past winners and alumni includes Radu Lupu and Murray Perahia. More recent winners with growing professional careers include Alessio Bax, Sunwook Kim and Federico Colli. The roll call of other Competition finalists is equally illustrious as that of the winners and includes Dame Mitsuko Uchida and Sir András Schiff (1975), Peter Donohoe (1981), Louis Lortie (1984), Lars Vogt (1990), Denis Kozhukhin (2006) and Louis Schwizgebel (2012).

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About medici.tv

Heralded by the *New York Times* as the closest thing to a classical Netflix, medici.tv brings live classical music to passionate fans worldwide. Since its founding in 2008, it has captured the leading classical artists, ensembles, orchestral concerts from the world's great concert halls, music festivals and competitions.

As the largest online platform for classical music videos, it offers over 100 live performances throughout the year and a vast on-demand catalogue of over 3,000 works including concerts, operas, documentaries, master classes, behind-the-scenes footage, and interviews—all streamed in high quality. medici.tv is available on all devices (desktop, tablet, smartphone, and TV via AirPlay and Chromecast) and will broadcast all rounds of the Competition this September.

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About the University of Leeds

The University has worked closely with the Leeds International Piano Competition since the earliest days of the contest, with heats and events hosted on campus since the inaugural event in 1963.

The University is one of the largest higher education institutions in the UK, with more than 33,000 students from more than 150 different countries, and a member of the Russell Group of research-intensive universities. It is a top ten university for research and impact power in the UK, according to the 2014 Research Excellence Framework, and is in the top 100 in the QS World University Rankings 2019. Additionally, the University was awarded a Gold rating by the Government's Teaching Excellence Framework in 2017, recognising its 'consistently outstanding' teaching and learning provision. Twenty-six of its academics have been awarded National Teaching Fellowships – more than any other institution in England, Northern Ireland and Wales – reflecting the excellence of its teaching.

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