

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the BNDES International Piano Competition of Rio de Janeiro 2012 will receive musicians from 12 countries and prizes will total R\$ 215,000**

*Venezuelan pianist Sergio Tiempo will perform the opening concert at Theatro Municipal on November 25*

Between **November 25** and **December 8**, the city will host the **III BNDES International Piano Competition of Rio de Janeiro**, the largest competition of its kind in Brazil. Under supervision of pianist Lilian Barretto, the event will gather 18 selected pianists from 12 countries who will compete for the **R\$ 215,000** in prizes. The winner will be awarded R\$ 80,000 and perform concerts in Brazil, Europe and the USA. The sole contest sponsor is **BNDES (National Bank for Economic and Social Development)** in partnership with the **Brazilian Symphony Orchestra**.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition starts with an opening concert on November 25 at Theatro Municipal, with guest pianist Sergio Tiempo. The Venezuelan will perform with the **Brazilian Symphony Orchestra** under the baton of maestro **Roberto Tibiriçá**. The program includes *Arcos Sonoros da Catedral Anton Bruckner* by Almeida Prado and *Concertos* for piano and orchestra by Ravel and Tchaikovsky.

Throughout **November 26, 27, 30** and **December 1, 3** and **4**, preliminary and semifinal rounds will be held in the Auditorium of BNDES. The final round and the competition closing will be held on **December 8** at Theatro Municipal, when three finalists will perform with the **Brazilian Symphony Orchestra**, under the baton of conductor **Ligia Amadio**. **Admission will be free at all concerts and auditions.**

The competition features five events: Pre-selection, Preliminary Semifinals I and II, and Final rounds. In the Pre-selection round – consisting of the evaluation of DVDs forwarded by 91 candidates – the 18 pianists who will participate in the Preliminary round were chosen. Following, eight pianists will be selected for the Semifinal Rounds. Only three candidates will participate in the Final Round, and each one will perform a *Concerto* for piano and orchestra.

Every edition of the competition pays tribute to a Brazilian composer and a Brazilian pianist. The 2012 edition will honor pianist and composer **Almeida Prado**, his *Cartas Celestes* to be performed by each of the eight semifinalists. In 2009, the honorees were Jacques Klein and Claudio Santoro. In 2010, the event paid tribute to Guiomar Novaes and Edino Krieger.

The winners will be determined by a jury consisting of nine musicians of international recognition. The total prize pool will be split into the following categories: **R\$ 80,000 for the first, R\$ 55,000 for the second and R\$ 35,000 for the third** places, plus **R\$ 15,000 for the Best Performer of Brazilian Music, R\$ 15,000 for the Almeida Prado Award**, and, for the first time, a favorite candidate voted by the **public** whom will be entitled to a **R\$ 15,000** prize.

The jury of the BNDES International Piano Competition will feature renowned names from the international music scene. Frenchman **Jean-Philippe Collard** presides the jury, which also includes pianists **Antonio Pompa-Baldi, Francesco Libetta, Frank Levy, Gabriel Tacchino, Mikhail Voskresensky, Piotr Paleczny** and **Sergio Tiempo**, plus Brazilian conductor **Ligia Amadio**.

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