



Valentine's Day Performance

Amateur pianist and Formula one racer designer Dominic Piers Smith drew a standing ovation and rapturous applause from a sell-out audience at the Royal Festival Hall on Valentine's Day. The concert was presented by Yamaha, in partnership with the Pianist Magazine, and the London Philharmonic Orchestra, who accompanied Dominic's performance of the romantic 2nd Piano Concerto by Rachmaninov, and it was part of his prize for winning the 'Pianists' Competition for Outstanding Amateurs last year.

It had been Dominic's dream to perform on a world-class orchestra stage, and the dynamic and expressive performance by this remarkable young pianist proved to the capacity audience he thoroughly deserved the honor.

At an early age Dominic had won a scholarship to study at Trinity College of Music in London and he was an active performer, but later music took a backseat while Dominic studied aeronautics at Imperial College. He worked with the Ferrari racing team and his first aerodynamic design won the prestigious Indianapolis 500 at the hands of Juan Pablo Montoya. For the past 7 years he has led the Honda Formula One design team.

Dominic Piers Smith stated, "I am hugely grateful to both Yamaha and the London Philharmonic Orchestra for inviting me to play... Saturday's performance was undoubtedly the most exhilarating experience of my life... To have the honour of sharing my music, both instantaneously for an attentive audience of thousands of people, and also now eternally through my debut recordings, is the greatest of gifts I could wish for!"

Just over a year ago, Dominic Piers Smith won the 'Pianists', sponsored by Yamaha and Pianist Magazine where he drew unanimous admiration from a heavyweight panel of classical music judges; Noriko Ogawa, Piers Lane, Martin Roscoe and Barry Wordsworth.

Yamaha Senior Director, Mike Ketley comments, "Dominic is a shining example of the extraordinary talent, focus and dedication of the UK's most exceptional amateur pianists and I'm delighted that winning the competition has provided a life changing experience and platform for him to pursue his passion as a classical pianist. Dominic's performance at Royal Festival Hall was a triumph, and is at the very heart of the reason why at Yamaha we decided to make this event central to our piano marketing activities.

For more information on the competition, please visit <http://www.thepianists.co.uk/>

We welcome your advice or comments. Contact us at roger_manners@gmx.yamaha.com