

Two Competitions and a new Exchange Network led by Youth

The Association Jeune Musique (AJM), founded by the composer and pianist Michel Runtz, has organized a biannual International Piano Competition in Fribourg (Switzerland) since 2002, which is open to young pianists up to the age of 18. This competition proposes a programme exclusively dedicated to 20th and 21st Centuries repertoires. Moreover, the Association Jeune Musique chooses the compulsory pieces for the competition among works written by Swiss composers. After 11 successful editions of the Fribourg contest, AJM suggested collaborating with the Shanghai Music Conservatory by organizing a similar event with the same characteristics and goals as the one in Fribourg.



Michel Runtz

French-Swiss composer and pianist, Michel Runtz was born in Paris and lives mainly in Switzerland. Founding President of the Association Jeune Musique and the Fribourg International Piano Competition. Co-founder of the Sino-Swiss International Piano Competition of Shanghai. Michel Runtz composes to communicate emotion when presented not only with a film, a play, or a text but also the aesthetic sense of certain painters: the contrast of the material to the beauty it contains. This response echoes other creations in which the composer provides a musical language that seeks not to mislead but to rouse the listener toward clarity and simplicity. His works immerse the listener in a harmonic universe that is situated in a kind of “in-between” that reveals a cross-bred music.

Michel Runtz has already performed his works in China, France, Italy, Morocco, Poland, Russia, and Switzerland. His compositions are increasingly featured in international competitions and in the programmes of renowned performers such as Irina Kataeva, Fanny Clamagirand, Jay Gottlieb, Boris Baraz and Laura Mikkola.

In 2018, Michel Runtz was awarded the Claude Blancpain Foundation Prize (Switzerland) for the foundation of the Jeune Musique Association, for the continuation of the *Fribourg International Piano Competition* and the new international influence of Fribourg through its Fribourg – Shanghai innovative project. Michel Runtz has just finalised the composition of an opera based on Yasmina Khadra’s work, *Cousine K*. His works are published by *Runtz Music Edition*.

www.jeunemusique.com

www.youtube.com/@MichelRuntz/videos