

PRESS RELEASE

COLCHESTER'S BEST YOUNG PIANIST NAMED AS EIRYS PROSELKOV

A competition organised by Roman River Music and Fenwick Colchester to seek out the town's most talented young pianist has identified 14-year-old Eirys Proselkov of Colchester as the winner.

The competition was organised as part of Roman River Music's Festival '17, which begins tonight and runs until 1 October. Ten exceptional entries were received across ten days, with each entrant having to submit a one minute film of themselves performing on a piano installed in Fenwick Colchester.

Entries ranged from age eight upwards and were judged by Orlando Jopling, Artistic Director at Roman River Music, and Carl Milton, Managing Director of Fenwick Colchester.

Orlando Jopling said, "There was a really fantastic range of quality performances by the young people who submitted entries, and we're delighted to have found such talent among Colchester's young people. Eirys' performance was a joy - she has natural musicianship and a beautiful sound, and was the clear winner from a competitive field."

Eirys Proselkov, who was born in Wales but now lives in Colchester, was announced as the winner yesterday and invited to perform for an audience at Fenwick's one year anniversary event last night, as well as at a future Roman River Music concert.

Eirys performed a variety of music she chose herself, including Chopin, Bach, Villa-Lobos, Kabelevsky and Albeniz.

Azim Lake, menswear sales assistant from Fenwick Colchester, also performed during the evening.

Roman River Music's Festival '17 begins tonight with an opening night performance in Colchester's old Queen Street bus depot by world-class cellist Matt Sharp, performing pieces by Errollyn Wallen, Arvo Part and John Adams. Tickets are still available for this and many other events as part of the festival.

For further information please see www.romanrivermusic.org.uk

ENDS

Issued by Loudmouse PR. For further information, please contact Frances Fleming, marketing and communications manager for Roman River Music, frances@loudmousepr.com or 07946 268341.

Notes to editor:

Two visuals are included for your use.

Photo 1: Caption; Eirys Proselkov receiving flowers from Carl Milton, Managing Director at Fenwick Colchester and Orlando Jopling, Artistic Director at Roman River Music.

Photo 2: Eirys Proselkov performing at the Fenwick Colchester one year anniversary celebration.

About Fenwick's Redevelopment

On Thursday 15th September 2016, Fenwick Colchester opened its doors following a major £35 million redevelopment. One year on, the store now offers a sophisticated and modern shopping experience featuring the most sought after brands in the region including Jo Malone, MAC, Michael Kors, Mulberry, Longchamp, Hugo Boss and Ralph Lauren.

Family-owned Fenwick acquired Williams & Griffin in 2008, and its redevelopment marked an important milestone in Fenwick's longstanding commitment to the re-establishment of Colchester as a major retail and leisure destination alongside its antiquity and stature as Britain's oldest town.

Roman River Music Festival '17

Thursday 14 September

8pm Opening Night

Friday 15 September

3 & 6pm Joseph Toonga

6pm Chiaroscuro Quartet

9pm Maya Youssef

Saturday 16 September

11am-4pm Sound Factory

Midday Street Hunt

6pm hEARd

6pm Clip

9pm Jessica Walker

Sunday 17 September

4pm NYC Fellows

8pm Natalie Clein

Friday 22 September

8pm Clio Gould & Friends

Saturday 23 September

11am Harriet Mackenzie

2pm Trio Apaches

8pm Benjamin Grosvenor

Sunday 24 September

11am Oboe Quartets

6pm Illyria Consort

Wednesday 27 September

8pm Gwyneth Herbert & Will Duke

Thursday 28 September

8pm The King's Singers

Friday 29 September

11am & 1pm Abi's Adventure

8pm Mahler Symphony No 9

Saturday 30 September

6pm Bach Mass in B Minor

Sunday 1 October

4 pm Festival Finale

Read and download the full programme at:

<https://www.flipsnack.com/Romanrivermusic/roman-river-music-festival-17.html>

About Roman River Music

Roman River Music brings internationally renowned performers to informal and unexpected venues in Colchester and coastal Essex each year for a 3-week festival. Our festival is informal, open to everybody, with no rules. We convert disused urban buildings into performance venues because there is no concert hall in Colchester. Audiences can clap when they want, bring drinks into the concerts, and no shushing is allowed! We run bars and often serve food as well.

With our partners Dance East, the Mercury Theatre, and Colchester Arts Centre, we commission new work and collaborations, nurture emerging talent. We give artists the time and space to develop their skill and create new work among the salt marshes and wide open skies of coastal Essex.

We create opportunities for over 1,000 young people to compose, perform or listen to music and get involved in the performing and visual arts.

Active involvement in music by schoolchildren has been shown to improve concentration, self-confidence, social awareness and ability in maths and English. Giving young people the chance to listen to live music and develop their own music-making has remained at the core of our organisation, and our dream is to give every schoolchild within reach of the festival the life-enhancing opportunity to compose, perform or listen to music.

The charity combines strong grassroots support from over 100 volunteers with a truly international quality programme. The summer festival 2017 concerts were broadcast on Radio 3.