



DUBLIN INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION

STRATEGIC PLAN 2026 – 2031

Celebrating Young Talent



Board of Directors Tony Carey (Chairman)
Pauline Ashwood
Jane Susan Bourke
Daire Coffey
Philippa Cottle
Killian Croke
Carolanne Cunningham
Jacqueline Sheridan Comerford



DIPC 2025 Winner Carter Johnson with First Prize

Foreword

The Dublin International Piano Competition (DIPC), founded in 1987, has established itself as one of the world's premier platforms for emerging talent. Renowned for its artistic excellence, and commitment to nurturing young performers, the Competition now stands at a transformative moment. As global musical culture evolves, shaped by technological change, shifting audience expectations, and increasing international connectivity, the DIPC aims to build on its position as a leading artistic institution while further deepening its contribution to Dublin's cultural life.

The organisation's strategic vision focuses on creating an environment where exceptional young pianists can thrive and where audiences can fully engage with the power of live performance. Achieving this requires innovation, collaboration, and a renewed commitment to artistic and educational excellence. This strategy outlines several core priorities for the coming years: enhancing the artistic experience for competitors and audiences; expanding educational and outreach initiatives; strengthening Irish and international partnerships; and ensuring long-term organisational sustainability. These priorities are grounded in the DIPC's enduring values of excellence, inclusivity, fairness, and cultural enrichment.

A central belief underpinning this plan is that great music has the capacity to inspire, connect, and elevate. By investing in emerging artists and fostering a culture of creativity, the

DIPC intends not only to uphold the highest standards of performance but also to broaden its impact on Ireland's cultural landscape.

Pivotal to the DIPC's success is its broad community of competitors, jury members, board members, artistic leadership, executive staff, friends and supporters. The Competition has launched many of its winners into successful international careers, and its consistently high calibre of participants is seen as a hallmark internationally.

Recent developments, including the appointment of internationally acclaimed pianist Finghin Collins as artistic director, have opened new opportunities to refine the Competition's format and have continued to enhance its artistic standards.

The uniquely warm Irish welcome extended to all participants remains a defining feature of the Competition. Moreover, the DIPC continues to enrich Dublin's cultural life by showcasing extraordinary young talent, drawing global attention to the city's artistic vibrancy, and inspiring audiences through world-class performance. Its commitment to excellence, education, and community engagement strengthens Dublin's reputation as a thriving, internationally connected cultural capital.

Tony Carey (Chairman)
April 2026

Our Vision and Mission



VISION

The Dublin International Piano Competition is a beacon of excellence, advocacy, and support for the very best young pianists in the world.

for a competitive event which has excellence, integrity, transparency, and professionalism at its core.

- To inspire the young musicians of Ireland by presenting an event of the highest quality.
- To promote the winners of the event and support them in their career development.



MISSION

The Mission of the DIPC is:

- To attract the very best young international pianists to Dublin



DIPC 2022 Winner Yukine Kuroki making her début at Weill Hall, Carnegie Hall in October 2024

DIPC – Our Core Proposition

Our proposition centres on three key elements:

Purpose, People, and Place.

- **Purpose:** The DIPC will promote and exemplify the highest international standards of piano performance. It will bring the best young artists to Dublin for a competition which ranks among the very best of international piano competitions. Its winners will be truly exceptional artists who will bring prestige to Dublin as a musical venue and who will go on to have major musical careers.
- **People:** The DIPC community includes our competitors, jury members, sponsors, partners, audiences, supporters, as well as young and talented Irish pianists who we are determined to

support as they demonstrate potential to become DIPC competitors of the future. We are keen to expand and diversify these groups. We will continue to inspire a love of the piano and a desire to play in wider and more diverse groups.

- **Place:** We are determined to play a key role in further promoting and developing Dublin as a centre of artistic and musical excellence. The warmth of our welcome, the quality of our facilities, and the prestige of our winners will draw international recognition of Dublin as a venue for high quality musical artistry and will continue to encourage aspiring Irish musicians to develop their talents to the highest international standards of excellence.



Nathalia Milstein, winner DIPC 2015, is applauded by President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins

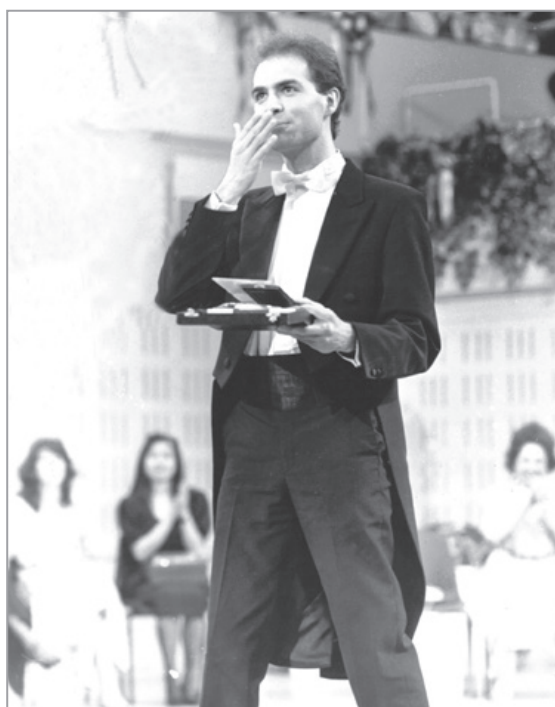


President of Ireland, Mary McAleese presents Alexej Gorlatch with 1st Prize, DIPC 2009

Our individual Strategic Objectives are laid out here in more detail:

Theme	Strategic Objective	Outcome	Timeframe
Artistic Excellence and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continue to ensure that the Competition format remains attractive to the world's best young pianists. ● Ensure that the artistry of DIPC prize winners is of the highest international standard. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Competition is effectively publicised to international community of pianists and teachers well in advance of Competition entry dates. ● Agreed format for future Competitions finalised by Artistic Director and approved by Board, to include commissioned Irish pieces in the quarter-final round, chamber music in the semi-final round, and concerto in the final round. 	<p>Summer 2027 for the 2028 Competition and Summer 2030 for the 2031 Competition</p> <p>November 2026 for the 2028 Competition and November 2029 for the 2031 Competition</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continue to develop DIPC to ensure that it is consistently regarded among the top echelon of international piano competitions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● DIPC regarded highly amongst international piano competitions. ● DIPC will investigate opportunities to collect meaningful data, including potential to survey current and past applicants and participants. 	Ongoing.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continue to secure entry of highest quality young Irish and international artists to DIPC. This includes putting in place attractive prizes, concerts, and concert venues for winners consistent with high prestige international competitions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Top quality young artists consistently apply to DIPC. ● List of prize engagements is continuously fine-tuned and enhanced. ● Continued progress to be evident in quality of applications for the 2028 Competition and beyond. 	<p>Summer 2027 for the 2028 Competition</p> <p>Summer 2030 for the 2031 Competition</p>

Theme	Strategic Objective	Outcome	Timeframe
Artistic Excellence and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continue to secure a highly prestigious jury consistent with the ambition of the DIPC to be a top-quality competition. ● Continue to nurture and support the new generation of young Irish pianists through mentoring and training. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Relations with current/former jury members maintained and developed. ● Prestigious new jury members recruited. ● The Young Pianists Programme is enhanced and continues to attract highly talented young Irish pianists. 	Jury for 2028 competition to be agreed by November 2026 and contracted in 2027.
Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Secure a major or corporate partner for the DIPC with a term of sponsorship of at least two competitions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strong partnership case for support developed that will be attractive to corporate funders. ● Major partner signed up. 	Mid-2027
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Effectively manage costs for the 2028 Competition and beyond. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cost base is optimised without compromising the quality of the competition. 	Ongoing to the 2028 Competition.



Philippe Cassard, winner of the first DIPC, 1988



Finghin Collins, Artistic Director, DIPC, with John O'Connor, DIPC Co-Founder and former Artistic Director

Theme	Strategic Objective	Outcome	Timeframe
Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maintain a strong relationship with Dublin City Council, who are confirmed as partners to 2029. Seek opportunities to attract sponsorship beyond this date where possible. ● Continue to develop the relationship with the Dept of Culture, Communications and Sport. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dublin City Council funding remains steady until 2029. ● Increased funding from Dept of Culture, Communications and Sport. 	<p>DCC – confirmed to 2029</p> <p>Department amount agreed annually.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase the pool of medium-sized and small donors over the next 5 years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Steady increase in donor pool and money donated over next 3-5 years. 	<p>3-5 years (with close annual monitoring).</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop digital fundraising capabilities of the DIPC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Full spectrum digital fundraising capabilities deployed to significantly scale-up fundraising efforts for the 2028 Competition and beyond. 	<p>Late 2026 with focus on 2028 and 2031 Competitions.</p>



Piano Spectacular – Seven winners of the DIPC performed with John O'Connor, former Artistic Director, in the National Concert Hall, Dublin, October 2008

Theme	Strategic Objective	Outcome	Timeframe
Creating and growing partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continue to develop relationships with universities and other 3rd level institutions across Dublin, both as sources of artistic talent and as potential venues for performance. ● Maintain and develop partnership with the Royal Irish Academy of Music. ● Engage 3rd level students as volunteers to assist the DIPC and to gain practical experience of arts administration (particularly where students are studying a cognate course). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The DIPC establishes relationships with at least two 3rd level institutions in Dublin. ● The DIPC continues to enjoy an excellent partnership with the Royal Irish Academy of Music and continues to use the RIAM as a venue for the early rounds of the Competition. ● 3rd level students engaged as volunteers. 	Ongoing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reaffirm and develop partnership with National Concert Hall and National Symphony Orchestra Ireland. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Solid, long-term partnership reaffirmed and agreed processes for use of facilities, orchestra performances etc. in place. ● Venue agreed for final of DIPC to be held in May 2028. 	1st Quarter 2027



The Founders of the DIPC: Laurie Cearr, Ida Delamer, Ann Fuller and John O'Connor

Theme	Strategic Objective	Outcome	Timeframe
Creating and growing partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The DIPC will continue to develop its profile as a high-quality artistic event supporting Dublin's tourism and cultural development. There will be a particular focus on the 40th anniversary of the DIPC in 2028. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clear plans developed in partnership with local and national government to maximise the cultural and tourism impact of the DIPC in Dublin. 	Mid-2027
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maintain a strong multi-pronged relationship with RTÉ. ● Maintain relationships with third-party providers such as IT providers and application/audition platform providers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Solid long-term partnerships in place. ● Formal agreements (where appropriate) in place for 3rd party service supply. 	Complete by mid-2027
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Deepen and renew relationships with DIPC friends, supporters, host families, drivers etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The DIPC is well supported by a range of volunteers in all sectors, with renewed input from younger volunteers. ● Annual rolling plan of events in place to attract and deepen relationships. 	Ongoing

Theme	Strategic Objective	Outcome	Timeframe
Inclusivity and Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The DIPC will be a demonstrably inclusive organisation in all that we do. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● DIPC policy and practice in relation to inclusivity and community are in keeping with best practice for similar organisations. ● The DIPC Schools Project continues to enhance the lives of Dublin schoolchildren who receive basic training in keyboard skills. ● The DIPC will formally develop policies and practices to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ensure that we continue to be an inclusive community. ● Attract and support people from all backgrounds and cultures. ● Promote a culture of dignity, respect and wellbeing for all. 	Ongoing



DIPC 2025 Winner, Carter Johnson with NSOI and Conductor, Jonas Alber

Theme	Strategic Objective	Outcome	Timeframe
Governance and Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Have a dedicated, representative, and inclusive Board in place with an appropriate breadth of skills and experience. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Board in place for the next three years at least. 	Ongoing, two new members required in 2026
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ensure that all necessary compliance policies, procedures and processes are in place. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Policies, procedures and processes in place and agreed. ● The DIPC will review its suite of policies and procedures. These will be updated and supplemented as necessary to ensure compliance with best practice for similar type organisations. 	End 2026
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ensure that sufficient administrative resources are in place at critical times – particularly in the run-up and during the Competition. ● Ensure that appropriate succession planning is in place where necessary. ● Ensure that the existing team is well-supported, fairly remunerated, and given the opportunity to thrive in their role. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clear assessment of resourcing requirements and clear plans in place to provide resources. 	Autumn 2026 for 2028 Competition

Theme	Strategic Objective	Outcome	Timeframe
Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase awareness of the DIPC both nationally and internationally. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The DIPC is well-known as one of the top international music competitions. ● Appointment of publicist/ marketing expert to support activities as required. 	Spring 2027 for the 2028 Competition
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continue to develop DIPC website as a real marketing, promotional and information tool to support the DIPC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● DIPC website clearly at the forefront of international piano competition websites. ● The DIPC will build on infrastructure already in place to ensure that website is up-to-date, informative, and a real tool to promote the DIPC. 	Ongoing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop social media presence of the DIPC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● DIPC social media widely recognised as being high quality, timely and effective. ● The DIPC will build on infrastructure already in place to ensure that DIPC social media is up-to-date, informative, and a real tool to promote the competition. 	Ongoing



DIPC Schools Project with Maki Mutai

Theme	Strategic Objective	Outcome	Timeframe
Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ensure that the DIPC works in a sustainable way and influences our stakeholders to do likewise. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The DIPC optimises its contribution to sustainability and is clearly seen to be in-keeping with best practice for similar organisations at home and abroad. ● The sustainability of the Competition format is optimised by continuing with reduced numbers of competitors travelling to Dublin for the 1st round of the 2028 Competition. 	Ongoing



DIPC Young Pianists Programme 2024: Defne Gultoprak, Ava Duffy, Peter Ryan, Iris Stoicescu, Mickey Glen Tomas



'Dublin 2009', limited edition mixed media print



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