

## IVOR MAIRANTS GUITAR AWARD

The 1997 (and first) winner was Amanda Cook (RCM) who received £1,000; the runner up was Clive Carroll (Trinity College) who was awarded £400. It was considered that the high standard sought did not warrant the the award of a third prize. The Value of the awards was enhanced by cash prizes donated by Classical Guitar Magazine and Mel Bay Publishing Company.

The competitors were required to play either 'Evocation for Joe Pass' or 'Rhapsody for Raney'. Both works, composed by Ivor Mairants, were from the music book, 'Jazz Sonatas for the Solo Guitar'.

The adjudication panel under the Chairmanship of Assistant Philip Jones was augmented by Colin Cooper, Martin Taylor and Gilbert Biberian, all well known participants in the "Guitar World". While the initial intention was that the competition should take place every other year, plans are in hand for it to become an annual event. In addition, consideration is being given to arranging a concert to commemorate Ivor's life early in 1999.

---

Sadly, Ivor Mairants passed away the week before the presentation was made. Since obituary notices have already appeared in the National Press, we are printing this message prepared by his daughter, Valerie Jablon, and read by the Master to the Prizewinners:

*"Today should have been a special occasion for my father. It is a great tragedy that fate decreed otherwise.*

*Throughout his life as an established musician, my father loved to encourage talented young guitarists and give them a helping hand up the professional ladder. He was a missionary for the guitar, an instrument which was almost unknown when he first played it 70 years ago.*

*The Ivor Mairants Guitar Award is the fulfilment of his last wish to continue helping young guitarists not only during his lifetime but for posterity.*

*The auditions for the award brought my father great satisfaction who was most impressed by the skill and enthusiasm of the contestants. He was particularly impressed by the playing and personality of the winner for whom he predicted a brilliant future. He was so looking forward to presenting the prizes and would have offered his congratulations with the greatest of pleasure. My mother and I do so on his behalf."*