

PRESS RELEASE

73rd GENEVA INTERNATIONAL MUSIC COMPETITION Prizewinners of the piano & clarinet competition 2018

Geneva, 14 November 2018

The 73rd Geneva International Music Competition ended last night! The piano & clarinet competition took place from 29 October to 14 November 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland. The Jury, composed of major figures of the music world and chaired by Israeli clarinetist Sharon Kam and Spanish pianist Joaquín Achúcarro, noted the exceptional level of this years' competition and warmly congratulated its six prizewinners. Next year, Geneva will be offering composition and percussion; application deadline is 2 May 2019.

Piano competition

The seven members of the piano jury, chaired by Spanish pianist Joaquín Achúcarro, jointly awarded First Prize to Mr. Théo Fouchenneret (24 years old, France) and Mr. Dmitry Shishkin (26 years old, Russia). Mr. San Jittakarn (26 years old, Thailand) won Third Prize.

The Geneva Piano Competition 2018 comprised five competition rounds, including a preselection round last Spring (video recording). The three candidates selected for the final round each performed a concerto with the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, conducted by Peter Oundjian. The final round was held on 8 November 2018 at Victoria Hall, in Geneva, Switzerland.

Members of the 2018 piano jury were: Joaquín Achúcarro (Spain, President), Hortense Cartier-Bresson (France), Peter Donohoe (Great Britain), Kei Itoh (Japan), Björn Lehmann (Germany), Cédric Pescia (Switzerland) and Andrei Pisarev (Russia).

Clarinet competition

The clarinet jury, composed of seven renowned figures of the clarinet world and chaired by Israeli clarinetist Sharon Kam, awarded First Prize to Mr. Kevin Spagnolo (22 years old, Italy). Mr. Vitor Fernandes (24 years old, Portugal) won Second Prize and Mr. Carlos Ferreira (24 years old, Portugal) was awarded Third Prize.

The Geneva Clarinet Competition 2018 comprised five competition rounds, including a preselection round last Spring (video recording). During the final round, the three candidates performed two concertos, with the Geneva Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Pierre Bleuse, including the prizewinning piece of last year's Composition Prize by Jaehyuck Choi (1st Prize 2017). The final round was held on 14 November 2018 at Bâtiment des Forces Motrices in Geneva, Switzerland.

Members of the 2018 clarinet jury were: Sharon Kam (Israel, President), Vincent Alberola (Spain), Jerry Chae (Korea), Lorenzo Coppola (Italy), Romain Guyot (France), Kari Kriikku (Finland) and Richard Stoltzman (USA).

Prizes & awards: page 3

Piano prizewinners: page 4

Clarinet prizewinners: page 5

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73rd edition: historical record of applications

This year, the Geneva Competition recorded a historical number of applications: no less than 418 young musicians (248 pianists and 166 clarinetists) aged 14 to 29 representing 49 nationalities applied for this year's piano & clarinet competition. Applications rose 43% from latest piano competition in 2014 (Piano & Flute), demonstrating increasing recognition for the competition.

The preselection Jury met in Geneva in June to watch the video recordings sent by candidates from around the world. Members of both jury selected 48 pianists aged 18 to 29 years from 15 countries and 42 clarinetists aged 17 to 29 years, from 14 countries, to participate in this year's competition.

Percussion & Composition 2019

The 74th Geneva Competition will be offering percussion & composition and will be held from 7-21 November 2019. Application deadline: 2 May 2019. A major highlight of the Geneva music scene, the Percussion Competition will be held from 10-21 November 2019 and comprises four rounds, open to the public. Candidates selected for the final round will perform on 21 November 2019 with the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande. The subject of the Composition Prize 2019 is a work for oboe and ensemble. The Jury will meet during the Spring to select the three finalists. Their works will be performed during a public final round by the Lemanic Modern Ensemble on 8 November 2019, in Geneva.

More details on our website: www.concoursgeneve.ch

LIVE VIDEO STREAM – PIANO & CLARINET 2018

Both final rounds were broadcast live on RTS – Espace 2, media partner of the Geneva Competition. The semi-final and final rounds were video streamed on the Geneva Competition's website as well as its official Facebook page and YouTube channel.

Videos are still available on www.concoursgeneve.ch and www.youtube.com/user/Genevacompetition

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PRIZES PIANO 2018

OFFICIAL PRIZES

1st Prize ex aequo (20'000 CHF)
Théo Fouchenneret, 24 years old, France

1st Prize ex aequo (12'000 CHF)
Dmitry Shishkin, 26 years old, Russia

3rd Prize (8'000 CHF)
San Jittakarn, 26 years old, Thailand

Our main partner, Montres Breguet, awards a watch to the 1st Prize Winner

SPECIAL PRIZES

Audience Prize (1'500 CHF)
Dmitry Shishkin, 26 years old, Russia

Young Audience Prize (1'000 CHF)
Dmitry Shishkin, 26 years old, Russia

Students Prize (1'000 CHF)
Dmitry Shishkin, 26 years old, Russia

Paul Streit Prize (3'000 CHF)
Sung Ho Yoo, 22 years old, Korea

Georges Leibenson Prize (3'000 CHF)
Daumants Liepins, 23 years old, Latvia

Paderewski Prize (3'000 CHF)
San Jittakarn, 26 years old, Thailand

PRIZES CLARINET 2018

OFFICIAL PRIZES

1st Prize (20'000 CHF)
Kevin Spagnolo, 22 years old, Italy

2nd Prize (12'000 CHF)
Vitor Fernandes, 24 years old, Portugal

3rd Prize (8'000 CHF)
Carlos Ferreira, 24 years old, Portugal

Our main partner, Montres Breguet, awards a watch to the 1st Prize Winner

SPECIAL PRIZES

Audience Prize (1'500 CHF)
Carlos Ferreira, 24 years old, Portugal

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Carlos Ferreira, 24 years old, Portugal

Students Prize (1'000 CHF)
Carlos Ferreira, 24 years old, Portugal

Concerts de Jussy Prize (3'000 CHF & concert)
Kevin Spagnolo, 22 years old, Italy

CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

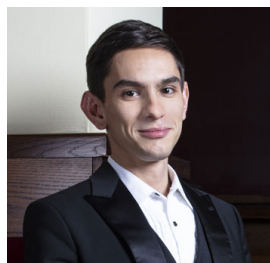
In addition to its official Prizes, the Geneva Competition offers a career development programme, providing precious support and advice to help boost laureates' careers. Founded in 2003 in partnership with Promusica Genève concert agency, this programme includes two years of concert management, as well as CD recordings, international tours, a festival and professional workshops.

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PRIZEWINNERS – PIANO 2018

DMITRY SHISHKIN - 1st Prize ex aequo



Born in Tchelyabinsk, Kazakhstan, Dmitry Shishkin demonstrated exceptional talent for the piano at a very young age, performing with orchestra at the age of six years old. Three years later, he entered the prestigious Gnessin Moscow School of Music, where he studied with Mikhail Khokhlov, then the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory as a student of Elisso Virssaladze. He pursued his studies in Sicily with Epifanio Comis in Catania. From a very young age, Dmitry Shishkin won a great many prizes, competitions and scholarships, both in Russia and abroad. He is prizewinner of renowned competitions, such as Busoni in Bolzano (3rd Prize in 2013), Rio Janeiro (2nd Prize in 2014, Chopin in Warsaw (6th Prize in 2015) and Queen Elisabeth in Brussels (Finalist). He is also 1st Prize winner of the Top of the World Competition in Tromsø (2017). Dmitry has performed in Bulgaria, Germany, Croatia, Italy, France, Spain, England, Japan, Austria, China and Poland, with orchestras such as the Gnesin Virtuosos, the Moscow State Symphony Orchestra and the Musica Viva Academic Orchestra.

PROGRAMME FINAL ROUND : S. Prokofiev: *Concerto N° 3, Op. 26*

THEO FOUCHENNERET - 1st Prize ex aequo



Born in Nice, Théo Fouchenneret started studying piano in his hometown with Christine Gastaud. At thirteen years old, he entered the CNSM in Paris, first in the class of Alain Planès, then with Hortense Cartier-Bresson, with whom he continued his studies during the 3rd cycle. He also studied chamber music with Jean-Frédéric Neuburger, Yann Ollivo, and received the advice of many renowned professors. Théo Fouchenneret won the Gabriel Fauré Prize in 2013. An adept of chamber music, he founded the Ensemble Messiaen, with which he won 1st Prize at the Lyon Competition. He currently leads an active career as chamber musician and soloist, regularly performing with renowned musicians at festivals in France and in Switzerland, as well as in Lebanon, China and Japan.

PROGRAMME FINAL ROUND : B. Bartók: *Concerto N° 3*

SAN JITTAKARN - 3rd Prize Piano 2018



San Jittakarn studied in some of the most prestigious schools in the United States: having completed his bachelors at the Oberlin Conservatory in Ohio, he pursued his studies at the Juilliard School in New York, where he obtained his master's degree. He is now completing his 3rd cycle at Yale University with Monique Duphil, Jerome Lowenthal and Hung-Kuan Chen. Having won several competitions in the United States, San started attracting attention on the international scene in 2016; he distinguished himself at the Maria Canals Competition in Barcelona, where he won an award from the Jury, and was semi-finalist at the Queen Elizabeth Competition in Brussels. In 2017, he won 2nd Prize and Sonata Prize at the Shigeru Kawar Competition in Tokyo. These different awards have given him the opportunity to perform in Japan, Korea, Belgium and Spain, in addition to concerts in New York.

PROGRAMME FINAL ROUND : L. v. Beethoven, *Concerto N°3, Op. 37*

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PRIZEWINNERS – CLARINET 2018

KEVIN SPAGNOLO, 22 ANS, Italy – 1st PRIZE



Born in Lucca, Italy, Kevin Spagnolo studied at the Instituto Boccherini in his hometown with Remo Pieri, then with Carlo Failli and Fabrizio Meloni. He is currently pursuing his studies in Geneva with Romain Guyot. Kevin has won many awards in Italy, and in 2016, he also started winning prizes abroad, including 3rd Prize at the Jacques Lancelot Competition in Rouen and, last year, 3rd Prize at the Gand International Competition. He has performed with many orchestras as permanent and alternate member, including the Mahler Jugendorchester, the Verbier Festival Orchestra and the Orchestra del Teatro di San Carlo in Naples.

PROGRAMME FINAL ROUND

Jaehyuck Choi, *Nocturne III Concerto for clarinet & orchestra*
Bernhard Henryk Crusell, *Concerto N°2 in F minor, Op. 5*

VITOR FERNANDES, 24 YEARS OLD, PORTUGAL – 2nd PRIZE



Despite his young age, Vitor Fernandes is already considered one of the best clarinetists of his generation. A student of the famous ESMAE school in Porto, he obtained his Bachelor's with Nuno Pinto, before pursuing his studies in Geneva with Romain Guyot, thanks to a scholarship from the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation. He has won many national and international competitions, including First Prize at the prestigious Gand Competition in Belgium. Vitor Fernandes is regularly invited by festival in Europe, as well as in China and the United States. He has performed as soloist with orchestras in Portugal, including the Portuguese Philharmonic Orchestra, and with the Chamber Orchestra of Europe.

PROGRAMME FINAL ROUND

Jaehyuck Choi, *Nocturne III Concerto for clarinet & orchestra*
Julius Rietz, *Concerto in G minor, Op. 29*

CARLOS FERREIRA, 24 YEARS OLD, Portugal – 3rd PRIZE



Born in Porto, Carlos Ferreira began his studies at the Conservatory of his hometown with José Ricardo Freitag, before entering the prestigious ESMAE school in Porto with Nuno Pinto. He then pursued his studies in Madrid at the Escuela Superior de Música Reina Sofía with Michel Arrignon. Carlos has won a great many prizes in Portugal, in Spain and in Italy, including 3rd Prize at the Lisbon Competition and 1st Prize at the Saverio Mercadante Competition. He has performed as soloist with orchestras in Portugal and performs chamber music throughout Europe with renowned partners. Carlos Ferreira was an intern at the Concertgebouw Orchestra in Amsterdam, 2nd clarinet solo at the Monte-Carlo Philharmonic Orchestra and has recently been named clarinet solo at the Orchestre National de Lille.

PROGRAMME FINAL ROUND

Jaehyuck Choi, *Nocturne III Concerto for clarinet & orchestra*
Carl Maria von Weber, *Concerto N°1 in F minor, Op. 73*

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