

## **74<sup>e</sup> CONCOURS DE GENÈVE INTERNATIONAL MUSIC COMPETITION**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

#### **Percussion & Composition: 8-21 Nov. 2019**

**Geneva, 7 Oct. 2019 - This year, the Geneva International Music Competition is offering percussion and composition. From 8-21 November 2019, more than 30 candidates from around the world will be competing for one of Geneva's prestigious prizes. Juries are chaired by French percussionist Philippe Spiesser and Finnish composer Kaija Saariaho and include prominent figures of the international contemporary music scene. Founded in 1939, the Geneva Competition will be celebrating its 80th Anniversary!**

#### **PERCUSSION & COMPOSTION 2019**

135 young musicians and composers aged 16 to 39 from 31 countries applied for the 74th Geneva International Music Competition. Juries, chaired by French percussionist Philippe Spiesser and Finnish composer Kaija Saariaho, gathered this Spring in Geneva to select this year's participants: 34 candidates aged 19 to 29 years old from 12 nationalities were designated for the percussion competition and three composers were selected as finalists for the composition competition: Mr. Daniel Arango-Prada (23 years old, Columbia) for his work « Dune », Mr. Hyeon Joon Sohn (32 years old, South Korea) for his work « The Living Reed » and Ms. Hinako Takagi (30 years old, Japan) for her work « L'Instant ».

Competition sessions will be held in Geneva from 8 to 21 November and are open to the public. Both final rounds will be live streamed on the competition's website & YouTube Channel and broadcast live on Radio Television Suisse - Espace 2, media partner of the Geneva Competition.

The final round of the Composition Competition will take place on 8 November at Studio Ansermet. The three finalists' works for oboe & ensemble will be performed as world premiere by oboists Matthias Arter, Philippe Grauvogel and Ernest Rombout and the Lemanic Modern Ensemble, conducted by Pierre Bleuse.

The first three rounds of the Percussion Competition will be held from 11 to 18 November at the International School of Geneva's Centre des Arts. The three candidates selected for the final round will perform on 21 November at Victoria Hall with the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, under the baton of French conductor Julien Leroy. With an exciting and wide-ranging programme, combining video and electronics, this competition promises to be very spectacular.

*Founded in 1939, the Geneva Competition is one of the world's leading international music competitions. It aims at discovering, promoting and supporting young talented artists, giving them the necessary tools to launch an international career. This year, it will be celebrating its 80th Anniversary!*

#### **AROUND THE COMPETITION**

Geneva will be hosting **two special events**: the first one « Project Gekipe », with Philippe Spieler and Ensemble Flashback, will offer an extraordinary show combining music, video, electronics and scientific discoveries (14 Nov. Globe CERN). The second one will take place the day before the final round of the percussion competition. This concert with local contemporary percussion ensemble Eklekto will offer a spectacular programme exploring new sound experiences and classical pieces (20 Nov. Alhambra).

**Outreach activities** are also an important part of the Geneva Competition, which strives to transmit its values and initiate youth and local communities to classical music. The Young Audience and Students' Special Prizes, in partnership with local schools, the University of Geneva and the University of Music, will give students the opportunity to forge an opinion on candidates' performances and award their own prize during both final rounds.

**Educational workshops** will be offered to students of the International School of Geneva, partner of the Geneva Competition, as well as to students of other local schools. Activities such as instrument presentations, discussions with Jury members and meetings with candidates will give students the opportunity to experience the Competition from the inside.

**A masterclass** will be held at the end of the competition with percussionists Daniel Druckmann, Aiyun Huang and Isao Nakamura, members of the Jury and specialists of the domain, celebrated worldwide. Participants will include four candidates of the Percussion competition, as well as a group of students from the Music Universities of Lausanne and Geneva.

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 and professional workshops.

---

## COMPOSITION JURY

Kaija SAARIAHO, Chair (Finland), Julian ANDERSON (UK), Toshio HOSOKAWA (Japan), Michael JARRELL (Switzerland), Liza LIM (Australia).

## PERCUSSION JURY

Philippe SPIESSER, Chair (France), Daniel DRUCKMAN (USA), Fritz HAUSER (Switzerland), Aiyun HUANG (Taiwan / Canada), Marta KLIMASARA (Poland/Germany), Isao NAKAMURA (Japan / Germany), Hèctor PARRA (Spain)

---

## HOW TO BUY YOUR TICKETS

- Tickets are available on the Geneva Competition's website: [concoursgeneve.ch](http://concoursgeneve.ch)
- Tickets for Percussion Final Round are available on [billetterie-culture.geneve.ch](http://billetterie-culture.geneve.ch)

## PRESS CONTACT

Lisa Elias, Responsable Presse & Communication  
[presse@concoursgeneve.ch](mailto:presse@concoursgeneve.ch)  
T (direct) : +41 (0)22 328 17 51  
P : +41 (0)79 614 33 39