

PRESS RELEASE – for immediate release

74th GENEVA INTERNATIONAL MUSIC COMPETITION Two candidates awarded First Prize at Composition Competition

Geneva, 09.11.2019 – The Jury jointly awarded First Prize of the Composition Competition to Hinako Takagi (30 years old, Japan) for her work “L’Instant” and Daniel Arango-Prada (32 years old, Colombia) for his piece “Dune”. Third Prize went to 33-year-old Korean Hyeon Joon Sohn for his composition “The Living Reed”. The Final Round of the 74th Geneva International Music Competition took place last night. The finalists’ works for oboe & ensemble were performed as world premiere by soloists Matthias Arter, Philippe Grauvogel and Ernest Rombout with the Lemanic Modern Ensemble, dir. Pierre Bleuse.

Several Special Prizes were also awarded: Audience Prize and Young Audience Prize were attributed to Daniel Arango-Prada. Students’ Prize went to Hinako Takagi. Nicati-de Luze Special Prize was attributed to Hyeon Joon Sohn and consists in a commissioned piece to be performed during two concerts.

Candidates had to submit a **concerto for oboe and ensemble**. After the first round, which took place last Spring, the official Jury, chaired by world-famous Finnish composer **Kaija Saariaho**, selected three finalists amongst 60 applications received from around the world (23 countries, 50 men, 10 women, 19-39 years old) to pursue to the final round:

« Dune » by Mr. Daniel Arango-Prada (32 years old, Colombia)

« The Living Reed » by Mr. Hyeon Joon Sohn (33 years old, South Korea)

« L’instant » by Ms. Hinako Takagi (30 years old, Japan)

Their compositions were performed as world premiere during a public final round on November 8th in Geneva, Switzerland, by oboists Matthias Arter, Philippe Grauvogel & Ernest Rombout with the Lemanic Modern Ensemble, conducted by Pierre Bleuse. The winning piece will be imposed as compulsory piece for the final round of the next oboe competition.

Jury members were: **Kaija Saariaho**, Chair (Finland), **Julian Anderson** (Great Britain), **Toshio Hosokawa** (Japan), **Michael Jarrell** (Switzerland), **Liza Lim** (Australia).

The final round was broadcast live on Radio Television Suisse – Espace 2 and video streamed on the Geneva Competition’s official website, Facebook page and YouTube channel. A video of the final round is still available on www.concoursgeneve.ch

PERCUSSION COMPETITION: 11-21 NOVEMBER

The 74th Geneva International Music Competition continues next week with the Percussion Competition. Thirty-one young percussionists aged 19-29 years old from 12 countries will compete for one of the Geneva Competition’s prestigious prizes. The Jury is chaired by French percussionist Philippe Spiesser. 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.

More information on www.concoursgeneve.ch

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OFFICIAL PRIZES

First Prize ex aequo CHF 15'000.-

Mr. Daniel Arango-Prada
32 years old, Colombia

First Prize ex aequo CHF 15'000.-

Ms. Hinako Takagi
30 years old, Japan

Third Prize CHF 5'000.-

Mr. Hyeon Joon Sohn
33 years old, South Korea

SPECIAL PRIZES

Audience Prize CHF 1'500.-

Mr. Daniel Arango-Prada
32 years old, Colombia

Awarded by the audience during the final round

Young Audience Prize CHF 1'000.-

Mr. Daniel Arango-Prada
32 years old, Colombia

Students Prize CHF 1'000.-

Ms. Hinako Takagi
30 years old, Japan

Awarded by students in musicology from the University of Geneva

Nicati-de Luze Prize CHF 3'000.-

Mr. Hyeon Joon Sohn
33 years old, South Korea

Awarded by the Nicati-De Luze Foundation to one of the finalists. It consists in one commissioned piece (for chamber music or ensemble), to be performed two times.

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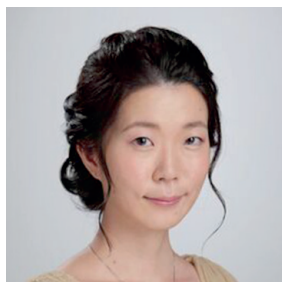
PRIZEWINNERS COMPOSITION 2019

DANIEL ARANGO-PRADA, 32 years old, Colombia
1st Prize ex aequo, Audience Prize, Young Audience Prize



Composer and guitarist, born in Bogotá in Colombia. After completing his studies in music theory and classical guitar in Colombia and Argentina, in 2010 he moved to France to perfect his skills in composition and joined Christophe de Coudenhove's instrumental and electroacoustic composition class at the Conservatoire de Montpellier. In 2013, he continued his studies at the regional Conservatoire de Lyon with Stéphane Borrel and Christophe Maudot. In 2015, he joined the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Lyon (CNSMD) with Michelle Tadini, Philippe Hurel, Martin Matalon and François Roux. His writing ranges from instrumental music to mixed music, music for images and electroacoustic music. His works have been performed in Germany, Switzerland, France and Colombia.

HINAKO TAKAGI, 30 years old, Japan
1st Prize ex aequo, Students' Prize



Professor and assistant at the Osaka College of Music, Hanako Takagi composes contemporary pieces for young artists. In 2017, she won 3rd prize in the composition category of the Japanese National Music Competition with a piece for string quartet and prepared piano which was broadcast on NHK radio. As a student, she had the opportunity to work with Allain Gaussin and Eric Tanguy in Kyoto and studied French intensively. A composer and pianist, Hanako Takagi devotes much of her time to teaching young people. She is always trying out new musical forms to transmit impressions and philosophical concepts using contemporary writing.

HYEON JOON SOHN, 33 years old, South Korea
3rd Prize, Nicati-de Luze Prize



After graduating from the Seoul Arts High School, Hyeon Joon quickly went on to continue his studies abroad, first at the Berlin University of the Arts, where at age 15 he was the youngest composition student in Walter Zimmermann's class. He then continued his studies in New York where he was enrolled at the Juilliard School with Christopher Rouse. During his years as a student, he won the annual Composition Prize in 2010 for his Piano Concerto, played by Conor Hanick. A man of deep faith, Hyeon Joon then went to Jerusalem and studied for three years with Vladimir Scolnic at the Jerusalem Academy of Music, where he also learned Hebrew. He then spent his two years of South Korean military

service with the Korea Air Force Band, for whom he wrote, arranged and produced numerous works in a variety of genres, such as jazz, pop, opera and military music. He is currently finishing a Master's degree in theology at Liberty University and dreams of devoting his life to his two passions, music and religion.

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CONCOURS DE GENEVE – INTERNATIONAL MUSIC COMPETITION

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.

The Geneva Competition offers a multidisciplinary approach, alternating between eight main disciplines: piano, flute, clarinet, cello, viola, string quartet, voice and percussion. Every second year, it offers a composition prize.

In addition to its official prizes, Geneva offers a career development programme, providing precious support and advice to help boost laureates' careers. The programme includes two years of concert management, as well as CD recordings, international tours, a festival and professional workshops.

www.concoursgeneve.ch

PRESS MATERIAL

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- **PRESS KIT:** https://www.concoursgeneve.ch/site/app/webroot/kcfinder/upload/files/press-kit-cdg19_final_low%281%29.pdf
- **VIDEOS OF THE FINAL ROUND:**
<https://youtu.be/t6oliYD8RI4>

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