

PRESS RELEASE – *for immediate release*

72nd GENEVA INTERNATIONAL MUSIC COMPETITION

Jaehyuck Choi wins 1st Prize at Geneva Competition – Composition 2017

Geneva, 28.11.2017 – Korean composer Jaehyuck Choi (23 years old) was awarded First Prize at the 72nd Geneva International Music Competition for his concerto for clarinet & orchestra: *"Nocturne III"*. Jury Chairman Matthias Pintscher praised the expressivity, colour, movement and emotion conveyed through the winning piece. Jaehyuck Choi is currently a student at the Juilliard School in New York. He has won many composition awards in the United States and in Korea.

Second Prize was attributed to Mr Yair Klartag (32 years old, Israel) for his piece *"Bocca Chiusa"*. The Audience Prize was awarded to Mr. Hankyeol Yoon (23 years old, Korea), and the young Audience Prize was divided between Mr. Jaehyuck Choi & Mr. Hankyeol Yoon. This year, all three finalists were also commissioned to compose a work for violin solo, to be performed during the Menuhin Competition 2018, which will take place next spring in Geneva.

Candidates had to submit a **concerto for clarinet and orchestra**. After the first round, which took place in June, the official Jury, chaired by world-famous composer **Matthias Pintscher**, selected 3 finalists amongst 67 applications received from around the world (26 countries, 55 men, 12 women, 16–30 years old) to pursue to the final round:

Nocturne III for clarinet & orchestra by **Mr. Jaehyuck Choi** (22 years old, Korea)
Bocca Chiusa for clarinet & orchestra by **Mr. Yair Klartag** (31 years old, Israel)
Prank for clarinet & orchestra by **Mr. Hankyeol Yoon** (23 years old, Korea)

Their compositions were performed as world premiere during a public final round on November 26th in Geneva, Switzerland, by soloists Fabio Di Càsola, Jérôme Comte and Ernesto Molinari and the Geneva Chamber Orchestra. The winning piece will be imposed as compulsory piece for the final round of the clarinet competition in 2018.

Jury members were: Matthias Pintscher, President (Germany), Unsuik Chin (Korea), Xavier Dayer (Switzerland), Magnus Lindberg (Finland) and Ichiro Nodaïra (Japan).

The final round was broadcast live on Radio Television Suisse – Espace 2 and video streamed on RTS Culture, as well as 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

New discipline at the Geneva Competition since 2011, composition pursues the tradition of the Prix Reine Marie José, founded in 1958. Its goal is to encourage new compositions and to support creation of quality. The Organisation of the Geneva Music Competition thanks the Reine Marie José Foundation for its generous support of this event.

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OFFICIAL PRIZES

First Prize Jaehyuck Choi, 23 years old, Korea	CHF 15'000.-
Second Prize Yair Klartag, 32 years old, Israel	CHF 10'000.-

SPECIAL PRIZES

Audience Prize Hankyeol Yoon, 23 years old, Korea <i>Awarded by the audience during the final round</i>	CHF 1'500.-
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Young Audience Prize Hankyeol Yoon, 23 years old, Korea Jaehyuck Choi, 23 years old, Korea	CHF 1'000.-
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Students Prize Yair Klartag, 32 years old, Israel <i>Awarded by students in musicology from the University of Geneva</i>	CHF 1'000.-
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Menuhin Competition Prize Prize awarded to all three finalists <i>A work for violin solo commissioned for the Menuhin Competition 2018</i>	CHF 1'000.-
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A Breguet watch is awarded to the winner of the 1st Prize



Jaehyuck Choi © Anne-Laure Lechat

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FINALISTES DU PRIX DE COMPOSITION 2017

Jaehyuck Choi (23 years old, Korea)



Composer/Conductor Jaehyuck Choi was born and raised in Seoul, South Korea, before pursuing composition studies at the Juilliard School in New York, where he is currently a student of Matthias Pintscher. Choi's music is actively performed and commissioned in the United States, South Korea, and Germany. It is performed by ensembles and soloists such as cellist Christine Lee, the Yieum Ensemble, the Crush Ensemble, the New York Virtuoso Singers and the Gwacheon Symphony Orchestra. Choi has participated in many masterclasses and summer festivals such as "Ink Still Wet" at the Grafenegg Festival in Austria with M. Pintscher, the Ars Nova series of the Seoul Symphony Orchestra with Pascal Dusapin, Péter Eötvös, Tristan Murail, York Höller and Unsuik Chin, the Summer Academy of the Salzburg Mozarteum with José Manuel López López and at Tanglewood with Martin Amlin. Choi appears on the podium of various concerts and master classes as a conductor, including the Gyeonggi Philharmonic with Si-Yeon Sung, the Berliner Sinfonietta with Colin Metters and the Ensemble Linea at Royamont. Moreover, he has received a diploma from IRCAM Manifeste's Ensemble conducting program with Maestro Péter Eötvös, the Ensemble InterContemporain and the Lucerne Festival Academy Ensemble. He has won many composition prizes in the United States and in Korea, and his works have been already released by Ablaze Records (Violin Concerto), Neu Records (Self-Portrait) and Saman Samadis (Piano Etudes 1&2).

Yair Klartag (32 years old, Israel)



Yair Klartag was born in 1985 in Israel. He studied composition with Ruben Seroussi at the University Buchmann-Mehta in Tel-Aviv, with Georg Friedrich Haas at the Basel Musikhochschule and at Columbia University in New York, where he is currently a doctoral student. He has also taken masterclasses with George Lewis, Chaya Czernowin, Brian Ferneyhough and Rebecca Saunders. His music has been performed by ensembles such as the Munich Chamber Orchestra, the Tokyo Sinfonietta, the Wrocław Philharmonic Orchestra, the Ensemble Recherche, the Meitar Ensemble, the JACK Quartet and the MIVOS Quartet and in festivals such as La Biennale di Venezia, Schwetzingen SWR Festspielen, Bludenzener Tage zeitgemäßer Musik and Tage für Neue Musik Zürich. Yair Klartag is recipient of a number of scholarships (STV-KHS Studentpreis, Schweizer Bundesstipendium, «Klon» scholarship from Israel Composers' League) and has won composition prizes such as the Stuttgart Composition Prize, 31st Irino Prize (Japan), 1st Prize at the Ireneu Segarra Competition, 2nd Prize at the Concours Dutilleux (France), Audience Prize at the Isang Yun Competition (Korea), 2nd Prize at the SCCM Competition (China) and 3rd Prize at the Arioso Musica Domani Competition (USA).

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Hankyeol Yoon (23 years old, Korea)

Born in Daegu, Hankyeol Yoon studied at the Yewon School of Arts with Kyu Yung Chin before entering the Hochschule für Musik in Munich, Germany, where he pursued his studies with Isabel Mundry. In addition to composition, he also studied the piano with Yuka Imamine and orchestra conducting with Bruno Weil, Alexander Liebreich and Marcus Bosch. As a composer Hankyeol Yoon has won many prizes including 1st Prize at the Eumyoun Competition, 3rd Prize in Guenter-Bialas Competition in Munich and 2nd Prize at the Vareler Competition (Munich). His works were performed in Seoul at the 28th Eumyoun Young Music Festival in 2011, at the SIMEN'S Junge Solisten Stiftung (Munich) in 2013, at the Daegu International Contemporary Music Festival in 2014, at the Gasteig and by the Karl Hartmann Society in Munich. He also took part in a master class by Unsuk Chin in Seoul. As a conductor, Hankyeol Yoon was assistant to Bruno Weil for the Jeunesses Musicales Opera in Weikersheim and is currently assistant to Marcus Bosch at the Heidenheim Opera for the Stuttgart Philharmonic. He was recently named assistant conductor of the Staatstheater Nürnberg for the 2017 Season. He has directed orchestras in Munich, including the Münchener Kammerorchester, Bayerischer Rundfunk and Münchener Symphoniker. He was semi-finalist at the Aram Khatchaturian Competition in Yerevan, Armenia, and finalist of the 70th Geneva Competition's Composition Prize in 2015.

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.

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<https://www.concoursgeneve.ch/site/app/webroot/kcfinder/upload/files/DP-EDITION-2017-EN-LOW.pdf>
- **VIDEOS OF THE FINAL:**
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLgO6yaT4puv8-3pxdS2jdwQK7a-8kxHIF>
- **TEASER 2017:**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zeunmcZF0aM>

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