



THE 3RD WPTA FINLAND INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION 2021

The Competition Jury



Jeremy Wing Kwan Wong



Jeremy Wong is an accomplished Singaporean concert pianist, chamber musician, composer and music theorist. He is the president of World Piano Teachers Association, Finland and is highly sought after for masterclasses and served regularly as a member of jury panel in international piano competitions. His versatile performance and teaching experiences led to regular appearances in music festivals, competitions and performance masterclasses in Asia and Europe.

As a young concert artist, Jeremy received an accolade of academic and performance awards. Under the tutelage of Professor Boris Kraljevic, he finished his Diploma in Performance as the "Best Graduate" in 2009 and he received the prestigious scholarship from National Arts Council Singapore to continue his Bachelor studies at the Royal College of Music London (UK). Thereafter, he kept his academic excellence as the highest scorer and graduated with a First Class Honours. From 2014-2017, Jeremy pursued and completed his Masters in Music degree in Sibelius Academy, University of the Arts Helsinki, in music theory with Prof. Lauri Suurpää and piano performance under former head of piano department, Jarmo Erikäinen. His compositions, "Variations and Theme" and "Miniatures for Duo Accordions" were premiered in Helsinki Music Center and were lauded with the 'Vittoria Caffa Righetti Award' at the 26th International Music Competition in Italy. At the same time, he was a top prize winner in the artist category of the 7th International Piano Competition in Milan.

Alongside his international performing career, Jeremy is a reputable piano and theory pedagogue. Having written and published numerous pedagogical works on teaching piano improvisation and performance analytical theses. His three-volume book on Applied Improvisation was completed in year 2014 followed by the Adult Improvisation Course for Adults in year 2018. His two academic research papers, Tonal organisation of three Schubert Sonatas from a Schenkerian Perspective and Phrase structure and Formal Functions in the Opening Themes of Tchaikovsky's Seasons op. 37, was published in 2013 and 2017 respectively. He is well versed with the practical knowledge of Orff, Dalcroze and Kodály pedagogical approaches as well as the UK international music examination system, being an Associate and Licentiate diploma holder from the Trinity College London and certified teacher himself of the Associated Board of Royal School of Music London.

The core of his teaching methods involved the holistic approach to musical meaning, inner hearing, and applied improvisation into one's performance. Being a devoted and pedagogically driven teacher, Jeremy's students have succeeded in international competitions as well as international music examinations and entrance exams.

Currently based in Finland, Jeremy is the founder of Nordic Piano Studio, the music director of Andreaskyrkan and is part of the faculty of International School of Music, Finland. He served as the Associated Board of Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM) Finland coordinator and worked as an overseas research assistant and adjunct lecturer in his alma mater, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts Singapore. Under his leadership, WPTA Finland has successfully organised international events that benefitted hundreds of talented young pianists around the world to showcase and develop their artistry on an international level.

Elena Nesterenko



The piano art of Elena Nesterenko absorbed the best traditions of Russian and German performing schools. Captivating expressiveness, the depth of penetration into the very core of composer's emotional content and huge range of subtlest nuances with brilliant musical energy. Upon graduating with honors from the Ippolitov-Ivanov Music Academy in 1989, Elena entered the Moscow State Tchaikovsky Conservatory in the studio of Eugene Mogilevsky and Professor Elena Richter. She continued her post-graduate studies in Groningen, Netherlands in 1997 with Professor A.B.Makarov-Goldfeder having received top prize at the Mazarò del Vallo International Piano Competition in Italy on the same year. Elena also holds a Master of Arts diploma from Munich in the class of Prof. Gerhard Oppitz. Since 1998, Elena performed extensively in major cities across Europe. As an avid performer, she has worked with Regensburg Philharmonic Orchestra, Yaroslavl Symphony Orchestra,

Kostroma Symphony Orchestra and her debut CD, containing works by F.Liszt, A. Scriabin and Shostakovich, lauded positive reviews from legendary pianists like Alfred Brendel and Grigory Sokolov. Elena gives regularly masterclasses in Arcore, Italy, Groningen, the European Centre in South Korea, Moscow, Kostroma, Russia, Walderbach, Germany, and at Tallinn's Alion Baltic International Music Festival. She has also appeared frequently on the Classic Channel 4 of Bavarian Radio and Television, the Moscow Radio 1 as well as on the Russian television, and on the Italian RAI and Dutch radio and television networks. From 2011 to 2014, Elena has performed more than 150 concerts related to "The Universe of F. Liszt" as well as concert tour throughout Germany with collaboration with famous German lecturer and orator, Lutz Görner.

Elena is a Steinway Artist and the artistic director of Classics at Regen. She is also the founder of Maestro Academy, Weimar Intensive Piano Courses, and part of the festival faculty of International Music Festival "Music is the way of life" in Kostroma, Russia.

Anthony Hartono



Hailed as one of the most talented young pianists in his home country, Anthony is an accomplished Indonesian pianist who has made his appearances in Asia and Europe as performing artist, chamber musician and accompanist. Beginning his piano studies at the age of six, Anthony won his first piano competition when he was ten years old, and by the age of fourteen, he has made his solo recital tours in six major cities across Indonesia.

Anthony holds a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance from Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, under Albert Tiu and Master of Music of Music in Piano Performance from Sibelius Academy in Finland, under the tutelage of Teppo Koivisto. He was selected as one of the pianists to represent the piano department of Sibelius Academy to give a solo recital in Reykjavík, Iceland, in November 2018.

An avid soloist and chamber musician, Anthony has appeared as a soloist to perform a Ravel Piano Concerto last season with Sibelius Academy Orchestra. Being the first Indonesian student ever who studied at Sibelius Academy, he was selected to perform for The Embassy of Finland in

Indonesia, to celebrate its 2017 Independence day, performing several Indonesian and Finnish music. He was also invited to perform and collaborate with a renowned musician, Ananda Sukarlan, premiering his works in two consecutive year, for the former president of Indonesia. In the same year, he has collaborated in chamber music with the renowned cellist, Gary Hoffman, in Singapore.

His competition accomplishments include absolute prize in Vittoria Caffa Righetti International Music Competition (Italy), third prize in Lia Tortora International Piano Competition (Italy), and first prize in Ananda Sukarlan Award International Piano Competition (Indonesia), among others. He was also entitled to scholarships to attend prestigious music festival, including Académie Internationale d'Eté de Nice in France, The International Holland Music Sessions, in Netherlands, and Institut Supérieur de Musique et de Pédagogie in Belgium.

His previous teachers include Midya Wirawan and Dr. Johannes Nugroho. He has worked with Antti Siirala, Nelson Goerner, Mikhail Voskresensky, Philippe Entremont, Jahja Ling, Philip Fowke, Sasha Starcevich, Roger Vignoles, among others.

Following his success as laureates in competitions, he is also active in giving masterclasses, recitals in Indonesia and serving as jury member in international piano competitions held in Asia and Europe. Recently, he was appointed as an Associate Artistic Director of World Piano Teachers Association (WPTA) Finland. WPTA is a non-profit organization and aims to bridge the gap between musicians and audience through musical events and competitions. Anthony launched his first CD recording in 2017, performing works by Sibelius and Sukarlan, produced by The Grand Pianos Official on a Fazioli piano.

Jarmo Eerikäinen



Jarmo Eerikäinen is a veteran piano pedagogue and renowned Finnish pianist. Born in Sulkava, Eastern Finland, he received his early musical education at Savonlinna Music School and degree at Sibelius Academy under the tutelage of Liisa Pohjola and Rolf Bergroth. He continued his postgraduate studies with pianist György Sebök in Switzerland and Finland from 1974-75 and with pianist Pierre Sancan in Paris from 1978 - 82.

He was the 3rd prize winner in the prestigious Maj Lind national piano competition in 1973. Jarmo has an extensive performance and teaching career in Finland since the early 1980s. For instance, he has performed all sonatas for piano and clarinet by Brahms and Reger, and was the opera repetiteur for over 20 opera productions in opera studios at both Helsinki Conservatory and Sibelius Academy.

Apart from being a highly demanded soloist and chamber musician throughout his long standing performing career, Jarmo established himself as an exceptional and reputable piano teacher since the very beginning. As one of the pioneer Finnish piano pedagogues, he devoted much of his time and energy raising the next generation of young pianists, many of whom has went on to become laureates of international piano competitions and successful pianists and educators.

He has been a piano lecturer in Sibelius Academy for more than 40 years now where he is still currently teaching and he has served the solo and piano departments as chief and head of department for a period of 15 years.

Lena Ching



Lena Ching received her early music education in Singapore before going to the Royal College of Music in London for her graduate and postgraduate studies, majoring in both the piano and the harpsichord. She counts herself as part of the privileged beneficiary of her teachers, Victor Doggett, Yonty Solomon, Phyllis Sellick and Ruth Dyson.

Amongst Lena's passions in life is teaching young people to cultivate a love and an understanding for music and life, as well as to see them excel in their talents and potential so as to contribute to the profession and to society. Since 1986, she has taught, developed and mentored numerous students and young performers from her private studio, from the LaSalle College of the Arts, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (the School of Music and the School of Young Talents), and also lectured for a period of time at the SIM - University of Buffalo.

In the midst of a flourishing career, Lena's continued search for excellence led her to pursue the Master of Arts degree in 'Psychology for Musicians' from the University of Sheffield (U.K.), in order to understand better the development and function of talent and abilities in musicians. Her area of research and specialization was on the impact/effect that music competitions have on gifted young musicians and high-ability learners. This is one of the many outcomes of her illustrious career in teaching and working with musically exceptional students, among whom are pianists such as Nellie Seng, Michael Cheung and Shaun Choo.

Having won numerous accolades herself, her piano students have also won numerous prizes at local and overseas music competitions, and many have continued to become successful musicians or professionals with a deep interest and love for music.

Her professional experiences have also included numerous opportunities to perform as a soloist, concerto soloist, chamber musician, and accompanist in concerts, auditions, examinations and competitions. Lena has often been invited to adjudicate in piano competitions, conduct pedagogical seminars, workshops and conferences, as well as piano masterclasses, in Singapore and Asian countries such as Malaysia, Indonesia, Taiwan, and China. Additionally, she has served as a committee member / panel member for the National Arts Council in 1996 and 1998, the Nanyang International Music Competition (2017, 2019), and the Nanyang International Piano Academy (2019, 2020).

Lena continues to be greatly inspired and enthused by aspiring young musicians as well as the work of her colleagues and contemporaries, as she delights in pursuing her passion for talent development. She served as the Head of Keyboard Studies at the School of Music of the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts from 2015-2019 and was appointed as Vice Dean of the School of Music from January 2020.