



1st Young Concert Artists International Piano Competition 2021

President of WPTA Thailand

Poom Prommachart

Director of WPTA Thailand

Krit Niramittham

Register by 1 August 2021

Grand Gala Winners' Concert

in Dominus Grand Hall

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 2022 (TBC)

For more information, <http://www.wpta.info/thailand/>

Jury Members

Vanessa Latarche

Sara Davis Buechner

Baruch Meir

Paul Stewart

Eri Nakagawa

Congyu Wang

Dinara Klinton

Avan Yu



STEINWAY & SONS
MALAYSIA



FAIRVIEW
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE-

DOMINUS
Arts Venue

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Application Procedure

1. Applicants will submit their application forms and video recording links via this online link:
<https://forms.gle/wHFjXLUxDw7U5zzC8>
2. Application deadline is 1st August 2021 | 23:59 (Malaysia Time).
3. Late submission and incomplete applications will not be considered.
4. Applicants may apply to more than one category.
5. Application fees are non-refundable. In the event of withdrawal by candidates, the application fee(s) will not be refunded.
6. Candidates will be sent a confirmation email of their complete submitted application(s).
7. The competition results will be announced via WPTA Thailand's official website and social media platforms as well as the candidates' emails on 21st August 2021 | 18:00 (Malaysia Time).



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Repertoire Guidelines



Solo Performance:

1. Free choice of repertoire.
2. A maximum of 3 pieces is allowed for each category.
3. Incomplete piece(s) will not be accepted. Piece(s) chosen can be part of all larger works or sets (e.g., Mozart - Piano Sonata in C major, K.330, 1st movt.)
4. All works must be performed from memory.
5. Repeats are at the discretion of candidates and are not compulsory.



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Repertoire Guidelines



Classical Piano Duet (4-hands) & Duo Performance:

1. Free choice of repertoire(s).
2. A maximum of 2 pieces is allowed for each category, preferably contrasting styles.
3. No pieces with an accompaniment role are allowed (e.g., Piano concerto).
4. All repertoire originally composed and arranged for piano duo and piano duet are permitted.
5. Candidates presenting works that are unpublished must submit the respective music score by uploading it to the online application form. The score will be used solely for the purpose of adjudication. The candidates presenting unpublished works are responsible for ensuring that the works are free of copyright issues and agree to rights given to the WPTA Thailand committee to publish the winning videos of the work(s) involved.
6. Memorization is not mandatory.
7. Category is selected based on the oldest member of the duo/duet.



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Categories, Duration & Application Fees



Kids Category: 100 USD (3,000 THB)

Category A: 5-6 years (01.01.2015-31.12.2016) – Max. 2 mins.

Category B: 7-8 years (01.01.2013-31.12.2014) – Max. 3 mins.

Category C: 9-10 years (01.01.2011-31.12.2012) – Max. 4 mins.

Junior Category: 110 USD (3,400 THB)

Category D: 11-12 years (01.01.2009 -31.12.2010) – Max. 6 mins.

Category E: 13-14 years (01.01.2007-31.12.2008) – Max. 7 mins.

Category F: 15-16 years (01.01.2005-31.12.2006) – Max. 8 mins.

Senior Category: 120 USD (3,700 THB)

Category G: 17-19 years (01.01.2002-31.12.2004) – Max. 10 mins.

Category H: 20-22 years (01.01.1999-31.12.2001) – Max. 12 mins.

Artist Category: 130 USD (4,000 THB)

Category I: 23-35 years (born on or after 31.12.1986) – Max. 15 mins.

Duo Category: 150 USD (4,500 THB)

Category J: 10 years below (born on or before 31.12.2011) – Max. 5 mins.

Category K: 11-16 years (01.01.2005-31.12.2010) – Max. 10 mins.

** Total video performance time should not exceed the stated times and should include all pauses and non-playing time.*



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Mode of Payment

For Thai candidates, please transfer the registration fees to the following Thai bank account:

Krit Niramittham/Krungthai Bank:
081-0-15803-5



For international candidates, please transfer the registration fees from your local platforms to the following Malaysian account:

NAME: Woon Sze Ting ACCOUNT NUMBER: 114496260309 BANK: Maybank BRANCH: KLCC ADDRESS: C-21-C, Petronas Twin Tower, Concourse Expansion, Jalan Ampang, Kuala Lumpur City Centre, 50088 Kuala Lumpur, Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur TEL: 1-300-88-6688 SWIFT CODE: MBBEMYKL

Applicants can also pay the application fees by credit cards via PayPal by clicking the “Pay Now” button on the WPTA Thailand website and select the relevant category.

Or applicants can use the PayPal account to transfer the registration fees to this PayPal account:

Harit Chunhanantasap, email: haritpianist@gmail.com

** Applicants MUST make the payment before entering and submitting the application form.*

Please screenshot, save, or take a photo of the proof payment(s), preparing for an upload while completing the application form.



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Awards of the First Young Concert Artists International Piano Competition



- Platinum Award
- Gold Award
- Silver Award
- Bronze Award
- Certificate of Participation
- WPTA Thailand Artists Award (Presented by Poom Prommachart)
- Special Teacher Award (Teachers of Top Award Winners)

1. Jury members' comments will be sent to each candidate's email.
2. All candidates will receive a certificate according to the award signed by all jury members of the competition.
3. Winners will receive an opportunity to broadcast their performance in the Winner Concert through WPTA Thailand's social media platforms.
4. Selected award winners will be offered scholarships to attend masterclasses given by renowned and world-class concert pianists as well as performance opportunities in Bangkok, Malaysia, and Singapore. (scholarships do not include travel and accommodation expense)



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Application Form: Link & QR Code

<https://forms.gle/wHFjXLUxDw7U5zzC8>

Registration Deadline:

1st August 2021/ 23:59 (Malaysia Time)

For more information:

<http://www.wpta.info/thailand/>



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Steinway Artist Poom Prommachart, Thailand As such a passionate pianist and pedagogue, Mr. Prommachart has recently been appointed a distinguished Piano Faculty of University College Fairview, Malaysia, the Artistic Director of the 5th Steinway Youth Piano Competition 2020 in Thailand, and VP Agency International, Singapore.

Mr. Prommachart has completed his Bachelor of Music degree, Master of Music degree, and Artist Diploma under at first with Prof. Yonty Solomon, Prof. Ian Jones and later on with Prof. Dina Parakhina at the Royal College of Music, London (RCM) in 2014 on full scholarship, sponsored by H.R.H Princess Galyani Vadhana of Thailand and the RCM. During his time in London, he won the most prestigious Tagore Gold Medal which was presented by His Royal Highness the prince of Wales upon graduation. Currently, Mr. Prommachart is based in Montréal, Canada, and will be receiving his Doctorate of Music under the tutelage of Prof. Dang Thai Son and Prof. Jean Saulnier at the Université de Montréal, Canada in 2022. He also previously studied at Moscow Conservatory, Russia with Prof. Vladimir Tropp.

Mr. Prommachart's performances are highly considered for their lyrical intensity and virtuosity. He has already developed an international reputation of carrying rare expressive depth, and has been acclaimed by critics who praised him as "a young Ashkenazy" from Seen and Heard UK Concert Review after his performance of Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 2 in G Minor with London Musician Symphony Orchestra in 2010. Moreover, The Straits Times, Singapore, applauded his performance that "Still in his late twenties, Poom Prommachart is Thailand's most accomplished and decorated pianist."

Mr. Prommachart has released his first solo debut CD in April 2015 with Champs Hill Records in the U.K. featuring works by Medtner, Liszt, and Rachmaninoff which received great reviews in Europe, America, and Asia, a recording with Steinway Spirio in New York, USA as well as his coming recording of Prokofiev Piano Concerto No. 2 in G minor under Maestro Jean - Francois Rivest and Orchestre de l'Université de Montreal.

Mr. Prommachart's international performing career has started when he won the First Prize in the Fifth Isidor Bajić International Piano Competition, Serbia in 2010. In addition, he made a victory in his homeland by winning the First Prize in Thailand International Piano Competition in 2011, followed by continued success of winning the First Prize in Sussex International Piano Competition in 2013. The distinguished orchestras he has recently worked with include Montevideo Philharmonic Orchestra, London Musician Symphony Orchestra, Timisoara Philharmonic Orchestra of Romania, , National Symphony Orchestra of Serbia, Worthing Symphony Orchestra, Vojvodina Symphony Orchestra, Thailand Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Bangkok Symphony Orchestra, World Doctors Orchestra, and Philippines Philharmonic Orchestra. His recent major concert engagements included piano recitals at Rachmaninoff Hall in Moscow, Belgrade Kolarac Hall in Serbia, Seoul Arts Center in Seoul and Busan, South Korea, Esplanade Hall in Singapore, South Bank and Royal Albert Hall in the U.K., Music Festival Perugia in Italy and Suntory Hall in Japan.

Mr. Prommachart has recently won first prize at the 2020 Orford Music Award, Canada.



President of WPTA
Thailand

Poom Prommachart

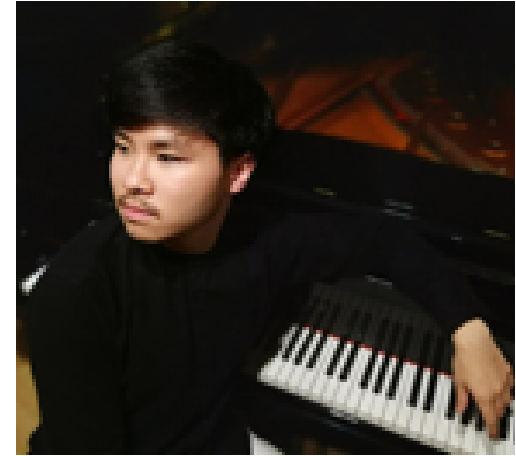
Krit Niramittham was born and grew up in Thailand. He studied piano with Jamorn Supapol during 2007-2009. In 2009, he won the 1st prize at the Siam Kolkarn Piano Competition and the 1st prize at the Conrad Young Musician of Thailand Competition (organized by the Royal Over-Seas League London and Thailand), where he received the Royal Trophy awarded by His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand.

Krit Niramittham holds bachelor's and master's degrees in Piano Performance from Conservatoire de Lausanne (HEMU) in Switzerland, where he studied the piano under Jean-François Antonioli, contemporary music with William Blank, and chamber music with Vincent Coq.

Krit Niramittham has participated in masterclasses with many prominent international pianists, including Abdel Rahman El Bacha, Ádám György, Tuija Hakkila, Ronan O'Hora, Boris Kraljević, John Lill, Georgi Mundryov, Mūza Rubackytė, and Frank Wibaut. As a performer, he has given chamber music and piano solo concerts in many countries in Europe and Asia, including Switzerland, France, Italy, Germany, Romania, Albania, England, Japan, Koreas, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia, and Thailand.

In 2020, Dr. Krit Niramittham completed a doctoral degree in music education (Ed.D.) from the National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, under the supervision of Dr. Leonard Tan. He has submitted his dissertation in record time with commendation from the Associate Dean for “the high quality of scholarship.” As a music education scholar, Dr. Niramittham has presented his research at local and international platforms, such as the 12th International Research in Music Education Conference (RiME) organized by Royal College of Music, London, the 12th Asia Pacific Symposium for Music Education Research (APSMER) in Macau, Mahidol University and Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Soongsil University in Seoul, and Nanyang Technological University in Singapore.

Dr. Krit Niramittham teaches piano, chamber music, music theory, and music education to local and international students in Thailand. His piano students have been awarded prizes in numerous national and international music competitions and exams. Currently, he teaches at Princess Galyani Vadhana Institute of Music in Thailand. Besides, he also serves as the director of WPTA Thailand (World Piano Teachers Association).



Director of WPTA
Thailand

Dr. Krit Niramittham

French hornist Woon Sze Ting, graduate of the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory, Singapore, is currently the Head of Subject Music for Fairview International School and University College Fairview. He is also the Co-Principal Horn at Philharmonic Winds of Malaysia. Prior his appointment in Fairview, Sze Ting is the member of the Malaysian National Symphony Orchestra. He was a founding member of the Malaysian Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, and he has performed with the Orchestra of the Music Makers, Singapore, and the Singapore Festival Orchestra. He obtained his Post Graduate Certificate in Education from Nottingham University, UK in year 2018.

In addition to being an active orchestral musician, he is an avid chamber musician. In 2006, he and four fellow members of the Penang Symphony Orchestra created the Penang Wind Quintet, which was named Concert Artist Category champion in that year's HSBC Kuala Lumpur Classic Wind Competition. More recently, his Yong Siew Toh Conservatory horn ensemble was awarded Second Prize at the 2011 Singapore International Ensemble Competition.

Sze Ting has participated in numerous festivals and workshops. In 2007, the South East Asia Youth Orchestra and Wind Ensemble selected him as its unique member from Malaysia. He participated in the Orchestra Workshop given in 2003 by the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra, in Penang. In his capacity as member of the Penang Symphony Orchestra, he was invited to perform at the Great Hall of the People, Tiananmen Square, by the government of China. He joined the Melbourne Grammar School Orchestra for its tour of Malaysia and Singapore in 2005. He have also take part with the Orchestra of the Music Makers concert tour to the Cheltenham Music Festival and the Lichfield Music Festival, in the UK.

Woon Sze Ting began playing horn in 2000, when he joined the wind ensemble of Chung Ling High School, Penang. He studied first with Sabina Pade, Principal French horn of the Malaysian Philharmonic, and subsequently with Zsolt Peter and Han Chang Chou, Principal French horn of the Singapore Symphony Orchestra. He has attended master classes given by renowned hornists Barry Tuckwell, Gerd Seifert, Stefan Dohr, Hervé Joulain, Petra Botma, and Olivier Darbellay. Woon Sze Ting currently resides in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.



Vice President of
WPTA Thailand

Woon Sze Ting

Chair of International Keyboard Studies and Head of Keyboard
Associate Director for Partnerships in China

After studying at the Royal College of Music and completing her training in the USA and Paris, Vanessa was awarded many scholarships and prizes from international competitions.

Vanessa Lata arche's concert career has taken her to Europe, the USA and the Far East, as well as many festivals within the UK, including Cheltenham, Harrogate and Huddersfield. Her interest in Bach led to a performance of the complete 48 Preludes and Fugues at the Lichfield International Festival in 1992, the performances being given over four consecutive evenings. She has performed as a soloist with international orchestras and those in the UK including the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, BBC Concert Orchestra, BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra, working with many leading conductors. She is a Steinway Artist.

She has broadcast for over 30 years for BBC Radio 3 and has also broadcast extensively on the BBC World Service and BBC Radio 4. She has been a juror for international competitions in China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Serbia, Italy, New Zealand, and Hong Kong and has adjudicated the national keyboard final of the BBC Young Musician of the Year, which was broadcast on BBC television. In 2007 she was an advisor to the BBC TV programme 'Classical Star'.

Vanessa frequently travels to give masterclasses, to such institutions as Moscow Tchaikovsky State Conservatory, Hong Kong Academy for the Performing Arts, Shanghai Conservatory of Music, Beijing Central Conservatory, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Singapore, Tokyo College of Music, Seoul National University as well as to other UK conservatoires and specialist music schools She is an advisor to Lang Lang's music school, Lang Lang Music World, in Shenzhen, China, where she formerly held the position of Vice-Chairman.

Since September 2005, Vanessa has been Head of Keyboard at the Royal College of Music, having been previously a professor of piano at the Royal Academy of Music for 14 years, where she was made an Honorary Associate in 1997.

A renowned pedagogue, with many international piano competition prize-winners amongst her students, Vanessa was made a Fellow of the Royal College of Music, for outstanding services to music, an honour conferred on her by HRH Prince of Wales in May 2010. In September 2011, she was granted a Personal Chair at the RCM, which gave her the title of Chair of International Keyboard Studies. In 2017, as an extension to her keyboard faculty work, Vanessa was made the Associate Director for Partnerships in China, which involves managing the RCM's collaborative work in China, particularly the KMEG training centre in Shanghai.



Jury Member

Prof. Vanessa Lata arche

Noted for her musical command, cosmopolitan artistry, and visionary independence, Sara Davis Buechner is one of the most original concert pianists of our time. Lauded for her “intelligence, integrity and all-encompassing technical prowess” (New York Times), “thoughtful artistry iOn the full service of music” (Washington Post), and “astounding virtuosity” (Philippine Star). Japan’s InTune magazine sums up: “Buechner has no superior.”

In her twenties Ms. Buechner earned a bouquet of top prizes at the world’s premiere international piano competitions – Queen Elisabeth (Brussels), Leeds, Mozart (Salzburg), Beethoven (Vienna), and Sydney. She was a Bronze Medalist of the 1986 Tchaikowsky Competition in Moscow and the Gold Medalist of the 1984 Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition.

Ms. Buechner has performed in every state and province of North America – as recitalist, chamber musician and soloist with top orchestras like the New York Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony and Philadelphia Orchestra; and in venues such as Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center and the Hollywood Bowl. She has toured throughout Latin and South America and Europe; and she enjoys a special following in Asia, where she has been a featured soloist with the Sydney Symphony, New Zealand Philharmonic, New Japan Philharmonic and Shanghai Philharmonic, among many others.

She has commissioned and premiered important contemporary scores by composers such as Michael Brown, John Corigliano, Ray Green, Dick Hyman, Vitězslavá Kaprálová, Jared Miller, Joaquín Nin-Culmell, and Yukiko Nishimura. Ms. Buechner’s performance versatility extends to unique collaborations with film and dance (including tours with the Mark Morris Dance Group, and Japanese kabuki-mime-mask dancer Yayoi Hirano).

Ms. Buechner has released numerous acclaimed recordings of rare piano music by composers such as Rudolf Friml (“a revelation” – The New York Times), Dana Suesse, Joseph Lamb, Joaquín Turina, Miklós Rózsa, and Ferruccio Busoni (including the world première recording of the Bach-Busoni “Goldberg” Variations). Stereophile magazine selected her Gershwin CD as “Recording of the Month,” and her interpretation of Hollywood Piano Concertos won Germany’s coveted Deutsches Schauplaten Preis. Most recently her recorded traversal of the score to Carl Dreiser’s silent movie classic Master of the House (1925) may be heard on Criterion Collection DVD.

Sara Davis Buechner joined the faculty of Temple University’s Boyer College of Music and Dance in 2016, after previously teaching at the Manhattan School of Music, New York University and the University of British Columbia. She has presented masterclasses and workshops at major pedagogic venues worldwide, adjudicated important international piano competitions, and is also a contributing editor for Dover Publications International. In 2017 Ms. Buechner marked her 30th year as a dedicated Yamaha Artist.

As a proud transgender woman, Ms. Buechner also appears as a speaker and performer at important LGBTQ events, and has contributed interviews and articles about her own experience to numerous media outlets worldwide.

Sara is a dual American-Canadian citizen who makes her home in Philadelphia.



Jury Member
*Dr. Sara Davis
Buechner*

Pianist Baruch Meir is one of only 65 artists worldwide named Bösendorfer Concert Artist since the founding of the company in 1828. Meir has performed extensively in Austria, Canada, China, England, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Portugal, Serbia and the United States. Meir has presented recitals at the Bösendorfer Saal, Vienna; Bauman Auditorium, Oregon; Murphy Hall, Popper Theater and Nixon Library in Los Angeles; Dixon Hall, New Orleans; Wise Auditorium, Jerusalem; Bates Recital Hall, Austin; Katzin Hall and the Scottsdale Center for the Arts in Arizona, and at the Toujours Mozart Festival in Salzburg, Austria.

An associate professor of piano at the Arizona State University School of Music in the Herberger Institute, Meir maintains a busy teaching schedule in addition to his international concert career. Meir toured China's main music schools a number of times, including the Shanghai Conservatory, the Sichuan Conservatory, and Wenzhou University where he was awarded a guest professorship. He has also taught at Seoul National University, Yonsei, Kookmin, Hanyang, Sunhwa, Kyoungbook and Seoul Arts High School in South Korea. Meir has given master classes at the Music Academy in Vienna, the Rubin Academy of Music in Jerusalem, The Buchman-Mehta Music Academy at Tel Aviv University, the Manhattan School of Music, and various conservatories and universities and music festivals in the United States, Asia and Europe.

A native of Israel, Meir is a summa cum laude graduate of the Rubin Academy of Music at Tel Aviv University, where he earned his master's degree in piano performance. He holds the Artist Diploma from the Royal College of Music in London and the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from ASU. His teachers include Walter Aufhauser, Michael Boguslavsky, Rachel Popilski Gordon, Robert Hamilton, Pnina Salzman, and Irina Zaritskaya. Meir's distinctions include the American-Israel Cultural Foundation Awards, the British Council Fellowship, the ASU concerto competition, and the first place at the Klatzkin Competition for Contemporary Piano Music.

At Arizona State University, Meir maintains a class of outstanding pianists from all over the world. His students were awarded top prizes in various competitions, including top prizes at MTNA Competition, the Schmindbauer International Competition, the North International Music Competition, Yamaha USASU International Competition, Carmel Clavier International Competition, New York Young Concert Artist International Competition, Washington International Piano Artists Competition, Putra International Competition, Radda Rise International Competition, winners at the ASU Concert of Soloists Concerto Competition, and many others. Meir also frequently adjudicates in many international competitions including the Isidor Bajic Piano Memorial in Serbia, Los Angeles Young Musicians International Competition, the Russian Music Competition in Vancouver, Psanter Letamid National Piano Competition in Israel, Shanghai's China National Competition, and others. Meir previously taught at Music Fest Perugia summer festival, and he is currently on the piano faculty of the Semper Music (Schlern) International Festival in the Italian Alps and the White Nights International Piano Festival in Saint Petersburg, Russia.

Baruch Meir is the Founder, President, Artistic Director and Chairman of the Jury of the Bösendorfer and Yamaha USASU International Piano Competition.



Jury Member
Dr. Baruch Meir

Canadian pianist Paul Stewart launched his career in 1981 with a performance of Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1, with the Toronto Symphony. Since then he has appeared frequently in concert throughout Canada, the USA (including Carnegie Hall, New York and the Kennedy Center, Washington), Mexico, South America, the United Kingdom, Europe, South Africa and Asia. He is often invited as guest-soloist with major orchestras in Canada and abroad, and has collaborated with such artists as James Ehnes, Maureen Forrester, Ben Heppner, Jessye Norman, Mstislav Rostropovich, Pinchas Zukerman, and the Leipzig, Prague and Moscow String Quartets.

In 1995, his British debut at Wigmore Hall, London was broadcast by the BBC, and a performance of Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No. 4 with the Moscow State Radio Orchestra was broadcast throughout Russia and subsequently released on a bestselling CD. Other recordings include works by Beethoven, Britten, Honegger, Liszt, Prokofiev, Ravel, Schubert and Strauss.

For Grand Piano he is currently recording the complete piano sonatas of Nikolay Medtner, a composer he has championed and performed on four continents. Volume 1 in this series received enthusiastic critical acclaim. '... Stewart launches a deeply personal and complex project with unflinching mastery and acute stylistic awareness' (Gramophone). "This is pianism at its pinnacle. Stewart's dynamic range is amazing... but through all the virtuosic wizardry that leaves one agape, there emerges an artist of poetic sensitivity who makes every measure of Medtner's music sing" (Fanfare).

Paul Stewart has been a Professor of Piano at the Université de Montréal, Canada since 2002.



Jury Member
Prof. Paul Stewart

Eri Nakagawa, a native of Osaka, Japan, has been on the piano faculty of College of Music, Mahidol University in Thailand since 1995. Prior to her appointment at Mahidol, she was Assistant Professor of Music Performance at Ball State University, Indiana, USA. She has been invited as a guest pianist and professor at the University of Northern Colorado in USA, Bruckner Conservatory in Linz, Bösendorfer Saal in Vienna, Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music in Singapore, Corfu Festival in Greece, Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts in Perth, Moulin d'Andé International Masterclasses in Normandy, France, Piano Plus Festival in Corfu, Greece, UCSI University in Kuala Lumpur, Beijing China Conservatory, Northwest Minzu University in Lanzhou, NanJing Xiaozhuang University, Zhejiang Conservatory of Music in Hangzhou, Sicily International Piano Festival, etc. Besides giving frequent recitals, she has performed more than ten concertos with numerous orchestras. She also enjoys working as a collaborative pianist and accompanist with distinguished musicians in Thailand and abroad.

She graduated from Osaka Kyoiku University and continued postgraduate studies at Mukogawa Women's University in Japan. She completed her Master's and Doctoral degrees in piano performance at Ball State University. Among her principal teachers were Koji Tanaka, Naoyuki Inoue, Mitchell Andrews, and Pia Sebastiani.

Many of her students have won top prizes in national and international competitions, and her former students have received scholarships in prestigious schools such as Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, Juilliard School, Mozarteum University Salzburg, Royal College of Music, etc. She received the Trinity Guildhall Award for Excellence in Music Teaching in 2010 and 2017, the Teaching Award at the 13th Chopin International Piano Competition in ASIA in 2013, and the Best Teacher Award at the Kawai Music Competition 2016.



Jury Member

Dr. Eri Nakagawa

Hailed as a “complete musician - a sensitive artist and an extremely talented young pianist”, Congyu Wang is an internationally renowned soloist who has garnered acclaim as a recitalist, accompanist and chamber musician.

Born in Singapore, Congyu Wang started playing the piano at the age of 3. He was selected for a scholarship that enabled him to attend the prestigious Ecole Normale de Musique de Paris, where he studied with renowned French pianists Jean-Marc Luisada and Odile Catelin-Delangle. He later enrolled in the Schola Cantorum (Paris) to continue his studies with Gabriel Tacchino (who had been Francis Poulenc’s only student). Ever since youth, Congyu Wang has enjoyed phenomenal success in international piano competitions, ultimately winning the Grand Prize in Berlin and Bordeaux. His other prizes include Vulaines-sur-Seine, Lagny-sur-Marne, Merignac, Paris, Jakarta, Tallinn and Cle d’Or Reunion. He was featured in the national news journal ‘Zao Bao’ as Singapore’s most promising young artist of the year in 2016.

At the Chopin International Piano Competition for Young Pianists in Slovenia, Congyu was awarded 6th Prize. One of the jury members, François Weigel, believed he should have won, and resigned thereupon in protest. Congyu Wang has since made appearances in over 800 recitals in France, England, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Belgium, Switzerland, Germany, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, Sweden, Latvia, Mauritius, South Africa, Reunion Island, China, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and other countries.

Highlights of some of his performances include festival appearances at Château de la Verrerie (France), Ernen Music Festival (Switzerland), the Geza Anda Piano Festival Masterclasses (Berlin), the International Isang Yun Academy (Paris), International Hammer Klavier Piano Series (Barcelona), International Piano Festival (Amarante), Festival Langtang (Reunion Island) and Chopin Fest (Belgrade). Congyu Wang has performed for many important guests internationally - Celebrities, Bankers, Diplomats and Ambassadors including the Prince of Brunei, the Prime Minister of Singapore, Ambassadors and Consular of France, Singapore, China and Norway.

Congyu Wang has earned a reputation for delivering stunning performances of extremely demanding repertoire. His vast repertoire includes 30 piano concertos, along with the complete solo piano oeuvre of Chopin and Poulenc. Congyu Wang has shared the stage with many well-known musicians, such as Roman Leulcu, Agnes Kallay, Giancarlo de Lorenzo, Elena Xanthoudakis, Grigor Palikarov, quatuor arsis etc.

In 2015 Congyu Wang published his first album ‘Charme’ on KNS classical featuring the works of Francis Poulenc to international acclaim. Recently he released his second album ‘Reflets’ dedicated to Claude Debussy commemorating the 100th death anniversary of the French Composer. His recordings are frequently broadcasted on radios internationally - France Musique, BBC radio 3 (UK), Radio Vic (Reunion), Radio Antena 2 (Portugal), Classic 1027 (South Africa), Symphony 92.4 (Singapore) etc. In 2019 Congyu Wang was featured on the movie ‘Une Barque sur l’Ocean’ directed by French director Arnold de Parscau.

Congyu Wang is the Founder and Artistic Director of the Piano Island Festival and the Piano Concerto festival and the International Chopin Competition in South Africa. He is ambassador to several charitable foundations - Association des Jeunes Musiciens (Young musicians), Association Koinonia (International Refugees), Grace International Foundation Liverpool (Youth Development). Congyu Wang is a Young Steinway Artist.



Jury Member
Congyu Wang

"This account by Dinara Klinton holds its own against all comers." -- Gramophone (Liszt 12 Études d'exécution transcendante, S.139)

"An astonishing achievement...Dinara Klinton's interpretative gift gives her a wonderful instinct...and her response to the Byronic sweep of Liszt's imagination enthralled at every point...Klinton can find a complete world in a single quiet chord." -- BBC Music (Liszt 12 Études d'exécution transcendante, S.139)

After sharing the top prize at the 2007 Busoni Piano Competition age 18, Dinara took up a busy international concert schedule, appearing at many festivals including the "Progetto Martha Argerich" in Lugano, the Cheltenham Music Festival, the Aldeburgh Proms and "La Roque d'Antheron". She has performed at many of the world's major concert venues, including the Royal Festival Hall and Wigmore Hall in London, Berliner Philharmonie and Konzerthaus, Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, Gewandhaus zu Leipzig, New York 92Y, Cleveland Severance Hall, Tokyo Sumida Triphony Hall, Great Hall of Moscow Conservatory and Tchaikovsky Concert Hall. In concerto engagements, Klinton has worked with The Philharmonia, Lucerne Symphony Orchestra, Svetlanov State Orchestra, St. Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra. Dinara combines her concert activities with her role as Assistant Piano Professor at the Royal College of Music in London.

As a recording artist, Dinara has received widespread critical acclaim for her interpretations. Among many dazzling reviews, her album Liszt: Études d'exécution transcendante, S. 139, released by the German label GENUIN classics, was selected by BBC Music Magazine as Recording of the Month. Dinara's debut album Music of Chopin and Liszt was made at the age of 16 with an American label DELOS. Her third CD is a part of renowned recording series Chopin. Complete Works on contemporary instruments, released by The Fryderyk Chopin Institute in Poland. This year's release with PianoClassic is featuring Prokofiev Complete Sonatas.

Dinara's music education started in the age of five in her native Kharkiv, Ukraine. She graduated with highest honours from Moscow Central Music School, where she studied with Valery Piassetski, and the Moscow State P.I. Tchaikovsky Conservatory, where she worked with Eliso Virsaladze. Dinara completed her Master's degree at the Royal College of Music under the tutelage of Dina Parakhina and became the inaugural recipient of highly prestigious RCM Benjamin Britten fellowship during her Artist Diploma course.. After that, Dinara attended masterclasses at the Lake Como Piano Academy and worked with Boris Petrushansky in Imola Piano Academy.



Jury Member
Dinara Klinton

One of Canada's most compelling young pianists, critics have praised Avan Yu for his "glittering virtuosity" (West Australian) and his "astonishing sensitivity" (La Presse). He has performed extensively throughout Europe, North America, Asia and Australia and at venues such as Carnegie Hall, Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Philharmonie in Berlin, Salle Cortot in Paris, and Sydney Opera House.

As a sought-after guest soloist with orchestras around the world, he has performed over twenty-five different piano concertos with orchestras such as the National Arts Centre Orchestra, Vancouver Symphony, Victoria Symphony, Symphony Nova Scotia, Sydney Symphony, Auckland Philharmonia, Hong Kong Philharmonic, and Dresden Philharmonic, collaborating with conductors and musicians such as Pinchas Zukerman, Rafael Fruehbeck de Burgos, Bramwell Tovey, Christian Arming, Juanjo Mena, Yo-Yo Ma, and Johannes Moser.

Yu first achieved international recognition when he triumphed at the Sydney International Piano Competition, winning First Prize along with nine special awards. At age 17, he was the youngest competitor ever to win the Canadian Chopin Competition. He has also won the Silver Medal and Audience Prize at the Santander International Piano Competition.

His teachers include Horacio Gutierrez, Klaus Hellwig, Kenneth Broadway, Ralph Markham, and Kut Kau Sum. He has obtained Diplom and Konzertexamen degrees at the Berlin University of the Arts in Germany and is currently a candidate for the degree of Doctor of Musical Arts at the Manhattan School of Music. While in Germany, he performed at festivals such as Rheingau Musik Festival, Heidelberger Frühling, Kissinger Sommer, and Ruhr Klavierfestival, and for the President and the Bundestag President of Germany.

He has received generous support from the Canada Council for the Arts, BC Arts Council, Vancouver Women's Musical Society, and The Leon and Thea Koerner Foundation.

His recording of Liszt's piano transcriptions of Schubert's Winterreise and Schwanengesang, released by Naxos, won glowing reviews from critics at Gramophone Magazine, American Record Guide, and Fono Forum.

Besides playing the piano, Avan has also written for the National Post. He loves studying languages and in his spare time enjoys experimenting in the kitchen. He now resides in Berlin.



Jury Member

Avan Yu