



THE 4TH WPTA FINLAND INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION

The Competition Jury



Jeremy Wing Kwan Wong Singapore / Finland



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*. He also 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.

Carles Lama

Spain



Steinway Artist and concert pianist, co-founder and director of the label KNS Classical and artistic director of several cycles and festivals of music, Carles Lama has also won a reputation for mentoring a wide number of young talents.

Together with superior studies in piano performance in Spain, Paris and United States and having directed the Conservatory of Music in Girona -from 2006 to 2012 - he studied Music Business, Branding and Digital Marketing and has founded Music Talent Lab, and presented workshops and lectures in different institutions in order to guide and enlighten the musicians' careers.

At the same time, he has taught Master-Classes around the world and has been jury member of many renowned international competitions.

He is member of the acclaimed "Carles & Sofia piano duo" with his wife Sofia Cabruja, with whom they have played around the world, including venues like Carnegie Hall, Palau de la Música Catalana, Sala Verdi or Teatro Solís, among others. They have been praised by public and critics alike as one of the best piano duos in the world. Their discography of more than 10 CDs includes masterworks for four hands and brilliant and demanding orchestral transcriptions, as well as original and exclusive projects created by the duo, including the transcription of the opera "Goyescas" or a "Lieder Project", with transcriptions for four hands of Brahms, Schumann and Schubert lieder repertoire.

Always committed with social needs, he has a UNICEF award for his humanitarian aid.

In 2012, together with his wife, they founded Concerts4Good, Music on a Mission, a solidarity project. And in 2020, they created their own Foundation: Carles & Sofia Music Foundation.

He has been recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Foundation and has received the Golden Star for the Professional Excellence, the Golden Medal for the Merit at Work and the European Golden Cross.

In 2021, he was appointed President of WPTA SPAIN - Comunidad de Madrid.

Jarmo Eerikäinen

Finland



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.

Anna Pavlova

Austria



Anna Pavlova is a concert pianist and music educator living in Vienna, Austria. She received her early musical education at the Penza Music School and the Penza Music College in the class of G. A. Grossman. She pursued and completed her graduate degree at the Saratov State Conservatory L. V. Sobinov under Prof. L. I. Shugom. After a short stint as lecturer at the Saratov State Conservatory she moved to Austria to continue her piano performance studies with Prof. Oleg Marshev at the Anton Bruckner University where she graduated with distinction in 2016.

Anna also holds a Master of Arts degree in Pedagogy from the Anton Bruckner University in Linz, which she finished under Prof. Michael Korstick in 2019.

Recently Anna completed her post graduate studies at the Piano Academy Neue Sterne in Hanover, where she refined her piano playing craft with the renowned teacher and pianist Albert Mamriev. Anna also had the privilege of receiving masterclasses from notable musicians such as G. Borisov, A. Greene, Ch. Hinterhuber, M. Korstick, E. Kupie, S. Möller, W. Nabore, N. Petrow, S. Pocheikin, N. Trull and M. Voskresensky.

Anna Pavlova regularly performs at music festivals and concert halls all over the world. As a soloist and member of chamber music ensembles Anna Pavlova has performed in concert halls in Armenia, Austria, Czech Republic, Croatia, France, Germany, Italy, Mexico, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Russia, Ukraine and the United States, where she debuted with a recital at the Carnegie Hall (Weill Recital Hall) in New York in 2015. She also has been featured as soloist with various symphony orchestras headed by A. Ivanov (Russia), E. Serov (Russia), V. Ponkin (Russia), I. Kazhdan (Ukraine), O. Balan (Cantu, Italy), F. Krager (USA), I. Iliev (Bulgaria).

In addition to her performance career, Anna Pavlova is also a devoted pedagogue based in Vienna who also teaches regularly in Upper Austria, she also gives piano masterclasses for the Golden Key Music Festival in Vienna and is serving as jury member for international piano competitions.

As a virtuosic young pianist, Anna has had great success in piano competitions and has to date been a laureate in over 25 prestigious international piano competitions held around the world.

Jacob Lidåkra

Sweden



Swedish pianist, Jacob Lidåkra made his debut in Musikverein in Vienna in 2016, and has since been a highly demanded artist. He holds a master's degree from the Sibelius Academy, where he studied with renowned piano professor, Liisa Pohjola. He has also participated in master classes for Fabio Bidini, Stanislav Ioudenitch and Dmitri Bashkirov. He has performed with the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra and Norrköping Symphony Orchestra with Daniel Harding and Per Hammarström.

He has been the recurring artist at Lake Como International Piano Academy and the International Holland Music Sessions for several years, which led to many solo recitals in numerous venues all over The Netherlands.

Jacob Lidåkra won second prize and prize for best contemporary piece in the Stockholm International Music Competition, won second prize in the Ljunggren competition in 2016 and was the winner of the Yamaha Finland competition in 2017.

Besides being an active soloist, Jacob is also a well sought after accompanist. He has played on several Scandinavian tours with Nordic Song Festival, accompanied singers in the Mirjam Helin International Singing Competition in Helsinki and is also teaching at the Birgit Nilsson-masterclasses for professional singers. In 2013, Jacob Lidåkra co-founded the Aurora Piano Quintet, and some recent chamber music partnership have included the Van der Pals-quartet and flutist Janne Thomsen.

Jacob Lidåkra is an experienced educator specialising in solo piano, lied-duo, chamber music and accompaniment and he has given frequent masterclasses at OrkesterEfterskolen, the only boarding school in Denmark specialized in classical music. He currently holds the position as the head of chamber music program, and is also the founder of OrkesterEfterskolen's First Chamber Music Festival, which will take place in May 2022.