



The 2nd WPTA International Piano Competition 2020

The Competition Jury

*Jeremy Wing Kwan Wong
Lena Ching
Giuseppe Devastato
Anthony Hartono
Teppo Koivisto
Elena Nesterenko
Dr. Tham Horng Kent
Poom Prommachart
Massimiliano Valenti*



www.wpta.info/finland/ipc

Jeremy Wing Kwan Wong



Jeremy Wing Kwan Wong is an internationally accomplished Singaporean pianist and the president of World Piano Teachers Association (WPTA) Finland. He holds a full time teaching position in International School of Music Finland, where he is also the ABRSM coordinator. He takes charge as the pianist and music coordinator for Andreaskyrkan, Finland as well as artistic director for 'East Meets West' Music series under the International Artists' Association of Finland. Since 2019, Jeremy became part of adjunct faculty in Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) Singapore, teaching Schenkerian Analysis.

As an established Classical musician, Jeremy was the best graduate from Nanyang Academy of Fine arts (NAFA), after which he completed his Bachelor of Music (First class honors) at the Royal College of Music (London) under the full scholarship by National Arts Council, (NAC) and Masters of Music at Sibelius Academy. Equally flexible in Classical music and contemporary improvisation, Jeremy is often engaged with musical theatre productions,

improvised accompaniments, composition and research work. He is the prize winner in many competitions including the 7th International Piano Competition in Milan, and 26th International Music Competition 'Vittoria Caffa Righetti Award' where he received Second Prize for his composition work titled 'Miniatures for Duo Accordions'. As a strong advocate for piano and theory pedagogy, Jeremy has also written numerous exercises and pedagogic materials on piano improvisation. These include, a three-volume book on Applied Improvisation (2014) and Adult Improvisation Course for Adult learners (2018), that contains pedagogical materials for theory-led improvisations.

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. She also holds a Master of Arts degree in 'Psychology for Musicians' from the University of Sheffield (U.K.), in order to better understand 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. Since 1986, she has taught, developed and mentored numerous students and young performers who have won numerous prizes at local and overseas music 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.

Giuseppe Devastato

Giuseppe Devastato born in Naples, is a award winning pianist & composer recognized by international critics as one of the most exciting pianists of his generation, has worked in the most important theaters in Europe America and Asia, He was awarded the "International Prize Cartagine 2011" for his professional achievements in the "MUSIC" section, in virtue of the merits acquired as a pianist and composer, with the intention to spread the world of classical music. During his debut at Carnegie Hall in New York in 2014 as a pianist and composer, he presented the "Sembazuru Fantasy" (dedicated to Tsunami Victims) which will be published and recorded, with part of the sales donated to the victims.

In 2015 he won two international awards to Global Music Awards in Los Angeles - USA, Gold Medal "Toccata" composition, and Gold Medal for the album "The Pianist Composer" by Da Vinci Classics Label. He currently teaches Master Classes in Europe, America and Asia and is Professor of Piano at Universidad Alfonso X El Sabio in Madrid. Many of his pupils have been award winners at national and international competitions like Thalberg, Cesar Franck, Compositores de España, Maria Herrero, Riga, Warsaw , Newcastle, etc. As an avid composer, his compositions are regularly performed in Europe, America and Asia. He is the Artistic Director of the International Piano Competition "The Neapolitan Masters" in Naples (Italy).



Anthony Hartono



Hailed as one of the most talented young pianists in his home country, Anthony is a multi international piano competition award winner who has made his appearances in Asia and Europe as performing artist, chamber musician and accompanist. By the age of fourteen, he has made his solo recital tours in six major cities across Indonesia. Some of his major competition accomplishments include first prize (absolute award) in Vittoria Caffa Righetti International Music Competition in Italy, third prize in Lia Tortora International Piano Competition and first prize in Ananda Sukarlan Award International Piano Competition in Indonesia, among others. An avid soloist and chamber musician, Anthony has performed with the Sibelius Academy Orchestra and worked with many renowned artists such as Antti Siirala, Nelson Goerner, Mikhail Voskresensky, Philippe Entremont, Jahja Ling, Philip Fowke, Sasha Starcevich, Roger Vignoles, Gary Hoffman and Ananda Sukarlan. Anthony holds a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance from Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music in Singapore, under Albert Tiu and Masters of Music in Piano Performance from Sibelius Academy in Finland under the tutelage of Teppo Koivisto. He launched his first CD recording in 2017, performing works by Sibelius and Sukarlan, produced by The Grand Pianos Official on a Fazioli piano.

Teppo Koivisto

Teppo Koivisto (b. 1961) is one of the most eminent Finnish pianists of his generation. After his studying years at Sibelius Academy with Jussi Siirala, he continued his studies with Menahem Pressler in USA and with Bernard Ringeissen in France. Koivisto has appeared as soloist and chamber musician widely in Europe and in USA. During his student years he was successful in national and Scandinavian piano competitions including shared second prize (with Olli Mustonen) for the Maj Lind Piano Competition in 1982 and second prize in Nordic Piano competition in Oslo. He has performed concertos with many renowned conductors as Jukka-Pekka Saraste, John Storgårds, Arvo Volmer and Roy Goodman among others.

As an advocate of Charles-Valentin Alkan's piano music, he has performed the 12 Etudes in full minor keys op. 39 by the composer in a live radio concert which was recorded by Finnish Broadcasting company, YLE in 2007. In addition, he was cordially invited to conduct a piano seminar about Alkan's piano music in New England Conservatory, Boston, USA in 2013. Currently, Teppo works as the Head of Junior Studies and piano lecturer at Sibelius Academy and holds a Guest Professor's position at Line Art Center, Zhengzhou, China. During years 2015-2017 he worked as a piano professor at Hannover HMTM in Hanover, Germany. He has given numerous master classes and lectures both in Finland and abroad and many of his longtime piano students have won international competitions with successful performance careers. Teppo has served as a jury member in piano competitions in Estonia, Finland, Germany and Israel.



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 Mazzarò 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.

Elena is a Steinway Artist and the artistic director of Classics at Regen as well as part of the festival faculty of International Music Festival "Music is the way of life" in Kostroma, Russia.

Dr. Tham Horng Kent



Dr. Tham Horng Kent was one of the recipients of Asia Yamaha Music Scholarship in 2007 and graduated from Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Glasgow with distinction in Master of Music (Performance) degree in 2011. In 2012-2016, he was awarded a full scholarship by the Malaysian Higher Education Ministry and Sultan Idris Education University for his doctoral studies at the Royal Irish Academy of Music in Dublin, where he obtained a Doctor in Music Performance degree.

In 2016, he was invited by the European Academic Artists Association to give a piano recital in the Tallinn Town Hall, Estonia and won the First Prize in the 26th Young Musician International Competition Citta di Barletta (Duo and Ensemble category) in Italy. Academically, he was selected to present a paper in the Second as well as Third Doctors in Music Performance festival conference at the Royal Irish Academy of Music and Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre respectively. In 2018, he was invited to be one of the juries of Kingsburg International Piano Competition in China as well as 3rd ODIN International Youth Piano Festival in Estonia. Dr. Tham is currently a senior lecturer at Sultan Idris Education University in Malaysia.

Poom Prommachart



Still in his late twenties, Poom Prommachart is Thailand's most accomplished and decorated pianist. A Steinway Artist, Poom's international performing career started when he won the First Prize in the Fifth Isidor Bajic International Piano Competition, Serbia in 2010, 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. He completed his bachelor of Music degree, Master of Music degree and Artist Diploma under at first with Prof. Ian Jones and later on with a Russian pianist, 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 received the Tagore Gold Medal presented to him by His Royal Highness the prince of Wales upon graduation. Currently, Poom is pursuing his Doctorate of Music under the tutelage of Maestro Dang Thai Son at the Université de Montréal, Canada.

He also studied Intensely with Prof. Armen Babakhanian in Yerevan. He 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. Alongside an accolade of achievements, Poom Prommachart has been appointed as Artistic Director of the 5th Steinway Youth Piano Competition 2020 in Thailand, Artistic Director of Piano Island Festival, Bangkok, VP Agency International, Singapore as well as President of World Piano Teachers Association Thailand.

Massimiliano Valenti

Massimiliano Valenti began his studies at the age of 4, graduating with honors under the guidance of prof. Mariapia Tricoli at the "V. Bellini" Musical Institute in Catania. He furthered his studies in Stuttgart, Germany with Paul Buch and later in Munich with the scholar Gerhard Oppitz. In 2000 he met Maestro Aldo Ciccolini in Paris with whom he began an in-depth analysis of the French repertoire and finally in Romania with Diana Apan. Having won numerous national and international competitions in all parts of Italy, Massimiliano began a concert career that led him to perform at festivals in all major Italian cities. In 2004, after his debut in Brasov



(Romania), he was invited to perform at the Banatul Philharmonic in Timisoara and Sibiu, the European capital of culture at that time, at the "Carl Filtsch" International Festival of the State Philharmonic. He gradually gained appreciation from the international scene, performing at festivals in prestigious European and overseas theaters including: Germany, Austria, UK, Scotland, Spain, Portugal, US, Canada, Korea, Israel, Japan. From 2016 to today he gave recitals in the best theaters of China and Japan and as well as guest professor for master classes in Kunming and Shanghai. As an advocate of piano pedagogy, he is regularly invited to hold Advanced Piano courses in Italy and abroad, including: the Conservatory of Music of the University of Aveiro in Porto (Portugal), the University of Virginia Tech, Radford and Greenville (USA), the Timisoara Music Department (Romania), the National University of Music of Seoul (Korea), the Jerusalem Conservatory, the Shanghai Conservatory.