



KEYNOTES

Summer 2019

Highlights of the 2019 Hilton Head International Piano Competition

The 2019 HHIPC has ended, but the wonderful memories continue. We'd like to share some of the highlights with you as we begin planning for 2020—our 25th year.

A New Venue



The competition's early rounds took place at a new venue, Central Church, and it proved to be an audience favorite. Not only did it offer many amenities and a comfortable environment, Pastor Michael Carr and his staff could not have been more welcoming or hospitable. We look forward to returning next year.

The Competitors

The HHIPC had the exciting opportunity, through live streaming, to introduce 19 amazingly talented pianists from 11 countries not only to our local community, but also to a world-wide audience of over 6,400 in 65 countries. Live streaming provides competitors the opportunity to perform for an international audience—an important part of advancing their careers. It also allows our Lowcountry audience the opportunity to participate when they cannot come to a venue to hear the performances live. The archived video files will be available soon on our YouTube channel so you'll have the opportunity to enjoy your favorite competitors again. You can access these videos from our homepage – www.hhipc.org.

The competition is all about the pianists and we had our share of brilliant performances of works from just about every composer imaginable. One competitor even performed his own

composition at the semifinals—a deeply emotional piece inspired by the Fukushima disaster. We can honestly say that the competitors’ repertoires collectively spanned four centuries.



The Finalists

After Rounds I and II, our esteemed panel of jurors announced the six semifinalists – Jakub Kuszlik (Poland), Chaeyoung Park (South Korea), Arisa Onoda (Japan), Yi-Yang Chen (Taiwan), Anna Han (United States), and Yuchong Wu (China). Each performed a 50-minute program at First Presbyterian Church. It was a full day of sublime music, after which the judges made the final cut.

Jakub Kuszlik (22), Chaeyoung Park (21), and Anna Han (23) were chosen to compete in the Finals Concerto Program, performing with the Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra conducted by Music Director John Morris Russell.

And the winners were.....



First Prize – Chaeyoung Park, Prokofiev Concerto No. 3 in C major, Op. 26 (the first time performed in the HHIPC)

Second Prize – Jakub Kuszlik, Beethoven Concerto No. 3 in C minor, Op. 37

Third Prize – Anna Han, Beethoven Concerto No. 5 in E-flat major, Op. 73

The Sascha Gorodnitzki Memorial Prize-
Arisa Onoda

Carnegie Hall Concert

Mark your calendars for first-prize winner Chaeyoung Park's recital at Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall in New York City on Sunday, October 27th at 7:30 pm. Call the HHIPC office for information and reservations (843-842-5880). Chaeyoung will return to Hilton Head for her winner's engagement with the HHSO on January 12/13 performing Beethoven's Concerto No. 4.



Master Classes

The Master Classes on Monday, March 18 proved to be popular as always with our jurors providing their professional insights to selected competitors. The Lecture/Recital by Jury Chair Pavlina Dokovska on "Debussy and His World" was the highlight of the day at the lovely setting of All Saints Episcopal Church.

Ambassador Program

Our School Ambassador Program played a prominent part in the 2019 competition with 15 competitors visiting 11 schools in Hilton Head and Bluffton. Performances were also held at the Rotary Club, Boys & Girls Club, the Food & Wine Festival, The Cypress and TidePointe for a total of 22 community performances. Many thanks to Gulfstream and to eviCore for their support of our educational outreach programs.



The Generosity of Many

None of this would be possible without the generous financial support of our donors, sponsors, business supporters, plus the host families, committee members, staffs at Central, First Presbyterian and All Saints Episcopal churches, and the Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra. Special thanks to our friends at Steinway & Sons for the wonderful pianos and to the Competitor Selection Jury who reviewed 237 submissions to arrive at this year's slate – Alan Chow (Chair), Jonathan Bass, and Nancy Weems. And, we are very grateful to our distinguished Competition Jury who were hard at work for the entire week – Pavlina Dokovska (Chair), Bruce Brubaker, Marian Hahn, Gabriel Kwok, Evans Mirageas, Ronan O'Hora, and Orli Shaham.



Looking Ahead

In 2020, as we celebrate 25 years of world-class piano performances, we present the HHIPC for pianists ages 13 – 17 on March 9 – 14. Make plans to hear the future of classical piano music right here on Hilton Head Island. You won't believe your ears!