

Earned Media Highlights

International Arts Manager

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sideNotes: Grand ideas for Cleveland

According to Gustav Alink, founder and director of the Alink-Argerich Foundation in The Hague, there are now close to 1,000 piano competitions in the world. They all aim to foster and support young talent and offer a variety of awards and opportunities. But how true is this? How much do they really help young artists to prepare for life as a musician or to learn how to interact with audiences? And what tools do they give musicians to make an impact on society?

The Cleveland International Piano Competition, celebrating its 50th anniversary this year under the slogan “The Future is Grand”, has tried to answer these questions by offering a number of innovative and diverse ideas. Participants were not only playing “against” each other; they were asked to also perform together in a spectacular “Grand Piano Playoff”. Here, the 16 competitors performed in pairs, playing new arrangements of pop songs well known to the audience.

“People really love the idea that we’re teaming pianists up to play popular music,” explained Yaron Kohberg, President of Piano Cleveland. “This not only makes the opening ceremony more interesting and exciting, it also helps introduce the constants to the audience, who can then vote for their favourite pair and continue to follow them throughout the competition.”

Later in the competition, “salon performances” at the historic Glidden House provided an opportunity to play in an intimate, chamber-music like setting while speaking about their goals and artistic vision to the jury and audience. And apart from the official competition rounds, which offered maximum repertoire flexibility, the competition offered performance opportunities like the “Concert Truck”,

workshops in programming and audience engagement, and courses in branding, social-media marketing, and fundraising. Lastly, prizes included not only substantial monetary awards, but also residencies at local universities as well as mentorship opportunities.

Looking back at the 2024 Cleveland competition, many of the new features have worked well. Of course, few competitions can show off with an orchestra as spectacular as the Cleveland Orchestra, and the four finalists made for a truly exciting last round (Zhan Wei, 25, won First Prize with a lively Rachmaninoff No. 3). But the competition’s efforts to attract and engage new audiences, to present young artists in new and attractive settings, and to expand the boundaries of the traditional piano competition repertoire, have definitely paid off and earned praise not only from the locals, but also from the 80 delegates of the 2024 Conference of the Alink-Argerich Foundation, who visited Cleveland during the final week of the competition. Representatives from piano competitions in 20 countries around the world discussed a variety of topics related to their competitions, trying to share creative ideas and offer innovative solutions.

“Careers in music have completely changed in the past 50 years, and competitions need to reflect those changes,” says Kohberg. “I wouldn’t say that the traditional competition structure doesn’t serve them, but there is certainly room for improvements.”

Many of those ideas could already be experienced firsthand in Cleveland, proving that its 2024 competition has already made a “grand” step towards the future.

Florian Riems

FOCUS

CONCOURS DE CLEVELAND 2024

Entre France et États-Unis, l'édition du cinquantenaire prépare l'avenir.

Pour souffler ses cinquante bougies, le prestigieux Cleveland International Piano Competition renoue avec son héritage tout en se projetant dans l'avenir. Fondé en 1974 pour commémorer l'amitié entre Robert Casadesu et George Szell, directeur mythique du Cleveland Orchestra, le concours, qui avait porté le nom du pianiste français jusqu'en 1994, a bâti sa réputation sur l'excellence de ses lauréats, tels Philippe Bianconi, Sergei Babayan, Nicolas Angelich, Angela Hewitt, François Dumont et Nikita Mndoyants. En cette édition anniversaire, le concours lance son premier tour sur deux continents, à Cleveland et à Paris, rendant hommage à son identité franco-américaine mais aussi à la vision cosmopolite de son président, Yaron Kohlberg. «La Cleveland Competition s'inscrit dans le rang des concours les plus prestigieux du monde», nous a



musicale et l'envie de contribuer à sa société. Ce sont des idées que nous entendons évoquer dans nos entretiens. C'est un plaisir de voir que le concours a pu attirer des pianistes de très haut niveau et passionnés par ce type d'échanges», se réjouit Yaron Kohlberg. D'autres éléments s'ajoutent au déroulement classique des épreuves: un concert d'ouverture autour des mélodies célèbres transcrites



tandis que Julien Trevelyan impose une virtuosité spectaculaire et parfois artificielle à Boulez et à Chopin. Nous retenir le jeu saisissant de Jonathan Mamora jouant Milà, Liszt et Ónaç, le discours poétique de Giuseppe Guarrera dans Mozart et Liszt ainsi que la

Gramophone

“[The] competition has radically redrawn expectations.”

Cleveland International Piano Competition: Finding The Piano World's Future Leaders

Sponsored

Friday, July 26, 2024

This Sunday, July 28, one of America's great piano competitions gets underway - don't miss it!



Yedam Kim, Fourth Prize-winner at the 2021 Cleveland International Piano Competition (photo: Roger Mastroianni)

As one of America's most distinguished instrumental contests, the [Cleveland International Piano Competition](#) prides itself on having helped launched the careers of artists including Angela Hewitt, Jean-Yves Thibaudet and the late Nicholas Angelich. But despite the illustrious laureates, there is no sense in Cleveland of an institution resting on its own laurels. As the competition approaches its fiftieth year, it has re-thought the entire basis on which a major instrumental contest might operate and is determined to prepare future laureates for a changing musical and creative landscape.

Cleveland International Piano Competition Announces Finalists

04 August 2024



ANNOUNCING THE FINALISTS!



FINALS START TOMORROW! After two rounds of performances including solo recitals and chamber music, the Cleveland International Piano Competition (CIPC) has selected the four pianists who will proceed to the Final Round

The Final Round is divided into two parts: a Salon Round on August 6 and 7 and a Concerto Round with The Cleveland Orchestra on August 9 and 10. While the Salon Round is new to the

Pianist

Xinhua News

Official Chinese gov't news

“The Cleveland International Piano Competition is one of the top three piano competitions in the United States.”

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新华网 > 新闻 > 正文

2024
08/12
00:44:28
来源: 新华网

字体: 小 中 大 分享到:

中国青年钢琴家在克利夫兰国际钢琴比赛中获第一名

新华社纽约8月11日电 (记者刘亚南) 美国克利夫兰国际钢琴比赛组委会发布的消息显示, 中国青年钢琴家韦子健10日晚在2024年克利夫兰国际钢琴比赛中获得第一名。

本届比赛共有超过50名选手参加, 经过四轮竞争, 韦子健在10日晚的决赛中 与克利夫兰管弦乐团合作演奏了拉赫玛尼诺夫《第三钢琴协奏曲》, 最终获得第一名。

韦子健毕业于中央音乐学院。克利夫兰国际钢琴比赛官网信息显示, 今年25岁的韦子健曾在第76届日内瓦国际钢琴比赛中获得三等奖。

克利夫兰国际钢琴比赛与范·克莱本国际钢琴比赛、吉娜·巴考尔国际钢琴比赛并称美国三大钢琴赛事, 今年共有4名来自中国的选手入围克利夫兰国际钢琴比赛四分之一决赛。

【责任编辑: 徐海知】

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World's Leading
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August 14, 2024



TOP STORY

**Cleveland International Piano Competition
Announces 2024 Winners**

Testimonials

"It was probably the best CIPC ever... the infusion of so many talented young people into the Cleveland area rejuvenated the whole region."

Paul Schenly
Head of PianoFest
(Former Artistic Director of CIPC)

"Piano Cleveland has taken new bold steps in rethinking what it means to host an international piano competition. It was an exciting experience for attendees, and you deserve recognition for finding new ways to advance the public appreciation of classical music."

Thomas Pooley
Head of UNISA South Africa

"Seeing the finals of the CIPC and all of the amazing work that incredible team of piano Cleveland put into the event explains why we're simply one of the best in the world. Kudos to everyone there."

Robert Koenig

Head of Palm Springs International competition
(formerly Virginia Waring)

"It was an opportunity to be in the heart of one of most were non-piano competitions while while during the conference. We were so touched you took time to welcome us and You can be sure we will be the best and ambassadors of the CIPC."

Delphine Dubreuil
Head of 'Etoiles du piano,' France

"As performers, educators, and administrators deeply invested in the future of classical music, it is exciting to see Piano Cleveland really thinking about the elements of a successful artistic career, and incorporating it into the competition. We feel confident that other piano competitions will soon incorporate many of the Cleveland competition's new formats, and we look forward to following future editions of the Cleveland International Piano Competition to see what other new innovations are in store!"

2024 CIPC Jury