

1

Article :**Kyohei Sorita, Aimi Kobayashi among 8 Winners of 18th International Chopin Competition**

Directions: Read the following article aloud.

This is the first time two Japanese pianists have been named among the top winners. The top prize is awarded to Canadian pianist Mr Bruce (Xiaoyu) Liu.

JUST ANNOUNCED: The 17-member jury of the 18th International Fryderyk Chopin Competition announced the winners of the competition in the wee hours of the morning on October 21 in Warsaw, Poland. They are:

1st Prize – Mr Bruce (Xiaoyu) Liu, Canada

2nd Prize ex aequo – Mr Alexander Gadjiev, Italy/Slovenia

2nd Prize ex aequo – Mr Kyohei Sorita, Japan

3rd Prize – Mr Martin Garcia Garcia, Spain

4th Prize ex aequo – Ms Aimi Kobayashi, Japan

4th Prize ex aequo – Mr Jakub Kuszlik, Poland

5th Prize – Ms Leonora Armellini, Italy

6th Prize – Mr J J Jun Li Bui, Canada

Eight pianists share the spotlight in being awarded the six top prizes by the international jury. This is the first time two Japanese artists are represented among the top prize winners.

An interesting fact in the current competition is that four of the eight winners of the six prizes are Asian, including Sorita and Kobayashi. In addition, the winner of the previous competition was Seong-Jin Cho, the first Korean pianist to win first place, with Aimi Kobayashi winning the 2nd prize in that competition. It seems an Asian wind is blowing in the world of classical music.

Auditions for the famed International Fryderyk Chopin Piano Competition began on October 2, 2021,, with 87 participants representing 17 countries. After three rounds of auditions, the 12 best pianists qualified to audition in the Finals. Kyohei Sorita of Japan, who shares the 2nd prize, and Aimi Kobayashi who shares the 4th prize, were among them. All of the finalists performed one of Fryderyk Chopin's two piano concertos, accompanied by the Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Andrzej Boreyko. Nine pianist selected the Concerto in E minor Op. 11, and the remaining three – the Concerto in F minor Op. 21.

The competition awards six prizes, and this time two were shared, for eight winners from five countries.

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<https://japan-forward.com/kyohei-sorita-aimi-kobayashi-among-8-winners-of-18th-international-chopin-competition/>

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Directions: Read the following article aloud.

This was an unusual number of prizes, as Katarzyna Popowa-Zydron, member of the jury, explained in a press event following the ceremony:

"It was a very difficult competition for everyone, for the participants of course, but also for the jury. We had to extend the list of participants at every level of the competition, and then later at the awards, because the level was exceptionally high."

Popowa-Zydron concluded: "We, like the participants, asked ourselves what kind of Chopin do we want? We always thought that Chopin would rather be moved than dazzled. But I have a strong feeling that among the laureates of this year's competition we have pianists who can at the same time move, amaze, and dazzle us."

Director of the competition, Artur Szklener, echoed her sentiment, as he directed his thanks to the competitors: "We know Chopin music very well, we know it by heart, from a very young age. But because of you, the participants but especially the laureates, we were finding some new aspects, some new perspectives, and I wanted to thank you for that."

Kyohei Sorita shares his 2nd prize with Alexander Gadjeiev, of Italy and Slovenia. Aimi Kobayashi shared the 4th prize with Jakub Kuszlik of Poland. In addition to the two pianists from Japan, the top eight prizes included two from Canada, 1st prize winner Bruce (Xiaoyu) Liu and 6th prize winner J J Jun Li Bui, Canada. There were also two winners from Italy, and one each from Spain and Poland.

Reacting immediately after receiving the award, 1st prize winner Bruce (Xiaoyu) Liu said with a stunned face:

"(I am) full of emotions of course, we all have been dreaming with all these people for this prestigious stage, and being able to play Chopin in Warsaw is one of the best things you can imagine. I am truly honored for this award."

In a press event following the event, Gadjeiev also reflected on the particular environment of the competition:

"I want to thank everyone who has been involved in this incredible event, my family that was able to be with me during this time, the incredible audience that was able to listen with such attention that I have probably never found anywhere else. The care and attention they listened helped us to also listen to ourselves even more intensely. For me it's been a great privilege to share my journey and my views on this music, and I am just extremely happy this happened, and let's see what happens next."

Japan's Kyohei Sorita, shared in a short yet moving statement of his excitement to having been awarded the prize of the competition:

"I am very very happy. I don't have many words, of course the Chopin competition is very famous in Japan, and there are so many people that watched on YouTube. And I've finally done it, so really, I just want to sleep (laughs). Thank you so very much."

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2 Key phrases and vocabulary

Directions: First repeat after your tutor and then read aloud by yourself.

1. In addition それに加えて、その上、さらに

There were more than 100 food stalls, and in addition we saw a number of retail vendors and workshops at the event.

2. represent 代表する、象徴する、意味する

The 49 teams that represent 45 prefectures and 4 regions take part in the national high school baseball championship.

3. accompanied by ～を伴って、～と同時に起こる、～が付属している

In France, meals are usually accompanied by wine.

4. laureate 受賞者、栄誉・名誉を受けた人、栄誉ある

Hideki Yukawa was the first Japanese Nobel laureate.

5. moving 感動的な、心を打つ

This is a deeply moving story from the author of “12 Years a Slave”.

3 Questions

Directions: Read the questions aloud and answer them.

1. How many participants made it to the final?
2. Who shares the 2nd prize with Kyohei Sorita?
3. Why were 8 pianists rewarded for 6 prizes according to a member of the jury, Katarzyna Popowa-Zydron?
4. What kind of music do you enjoy to play and/or listen?

4

日本語関連記事：

ショパンコンクールに日本人2人入賞 反田さん2位、小林さん4位

ポーランドの首都、ワルシャワで開かれた「第18回ショパン国際ピアノ・コンクール」の最終審査の結果が21日未明(日本時間同日午前)に発表され、東京都出身の反田恭平(27)が2位に、山口県出身の小林愛実(26)が4位にそれぞれ入賞した。本選に出場した日本人2人がともに入賞したのは初めて。1位はブルース・リウ(カナダ)。2、4位にそれぞれ2人ずつ、計8人が入賞した。入賞8人のうち4人がアジア系となった。

同コンクールは、第一次世界大戦後間もない1927年に始まり、第2次世界大戦の空白期を経て、戦後もマルタ・アルゲリッチ、マウリツィオ・ポリーニ、スタニスラフ・ブーニン等のスターピアニストを数多く輩出してきた不動の地位を持つ。これまでの日本人の最高位は1970年の内田光子による2位入賞。

本選は、日本から小林、反田の2人のほか、地元のポーランドやイタリア、カナダ、スロベニア、スペイン、アルメニア、韓国、中国のピアニスト計12人で争われた。小林は前回2015年も本選に進んだが、入賞を逃していた。

- 1位:ブルース(シャオユー)・リウ(カナダ)
- 2位:アレクサンデル・ガジェヴ(イタリア／スロベニア)
- 2位:反田恭平(日本)
- 3位:マルティン・ガルシア・ガルシア(スペイン)
- 4位:小林愛実(日本)
- 4位:ヤクブ・クシュリク(ポーランド)
- 5位:レオノーラ・アルメリーニ(イタリア)
- 6位:J・J・ジュン・リ・ブイ(カナダ)

出典：ショパンコンクールに日本人2人入賞 反田さん2位、小林さん4位

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