

For immediate release

February 17, 2022

Contact: Patricia K. Rose, 310-871-6816

plkrose@earthlink.net

Dr. Wojciech Kocyan, Artistic Director is available for interviews

Website: <https://paderewskimusicsociety.org/>

LOS ANGELES — Twenty eight of the world's best young pianists have been chosen for the honor to perform in an international competition that will burnish Los Angeles' role as a leading city for classical music.

The public is invited to attend the semi-finals and finals of the Third American International Paderewski Piano Competition to be held March 21 to 26 at Loyola Marymount University Music Department, situated in the Westchester neighborhood of Los Angeles. Tickets are available on the website, paderewskimusicsociety.org.

“This promises to be a world-class event of the highest order — right here, in our city,” said Dr. Wojciech Kocyan, artistic director of the Paderewski Music Society. “The competition stands out among other international competitions for its free programming, which allows the pianists to fully express their unique artistic personalities.”

The live rounds jury includes Grammy Award-winning American pianist Gloria Cheng, internationally acclaimed piano educator Adam Wibrowski, esteemed Polish pianist and teacher Wojciech Switala, juror of the International Chopin Competition in Warsaw. Hungarian-American pianist Peter Toth and Italian pianist Gloria Campaner, laureates of the 2013 and 2010 American International Paderewski Piano competitions, respectively round out the panel of five judges.

In a huge boost to the competition, the society has received a major grant from the Drollinger Family Charitable Foundation, which includes sponsoring the \$10,000 grand prize and Fidelity Investments is the sponsor of the \$5,000 second prize. Additional sponsors include The Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Los Angeles, Kawai Corporation of America, Steinway & Sons, The Book Jewel, Stevens Piano Specialties, Kim's Piano, Forest Lawn Museum, Playa Music Lessons, Martin's Music Studio, Kasimoff Bluthner Piano Co. and David G. Eriksen Complete Piano Service.

Originally planned for 25, the semi-finalists field was expanded to 28 because of the wealth of talent among the applicants, who hail from many of the world's finest music schools. They hail from Canada, China, Poland, Russia, South Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam and the United States.

The semifinalists were winnowed from a field of 72, ages 16 to 30.

Besides the \$10,000 prize, the winner will be given the opportunity to perform concerts in the U.S., France, Italy and Poland.

The competition carries on the legacy of Ignacy Jan Paderewski (ig-NAH-see yawn pad-er-EV-ski), not only the most celebrated concert pianist of his time and composer, but also a leader in the Polish fight for independence after World War I and the nation's prime minister. In his later years, he resided in Paso Robles, California, and died at age 80 in New York in 1941.

The semi-finals take place Monday through Wednesday, March 21, 22 and 23. Finals are on Friday, March 25 and the winner's concert and reception is Saturday, March 26. Daily passes start at \$30. All tickets are available at <https://paderewskimusicsociety.org/> along with LMU Covid safety protocols that will be observed.