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Dr. Wojciech Kocyan, Artistic Director is available for interviews

Website: <https://paderewskimusicsociety.org/> Images available on Google Drive

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1CwQTaxmYdnoMp8GmJdu0WeuH_vceszia

Young Sun Choi of South Korea wins International Piano Competition.

Young Sun Choi, a South Korean, has won the Drollinger Family Charitable Foundation First Prize in the 2022 American International Paderewski Piano Competition in Los Angeles.

Choi emerged from a field of 28 semi-finalists and eight finalists during a week of competition held at Loyola Marymount University.

“The jury reached the decision to award the first prize to Young Sun Choi unanimously. It is especially impressive since the jury also commented on the exceptionally high level of the competition in general “ said Dr. Wojciech Kocyan, president of the Paderewski Music Society in Los Angeles, which organized the event.

Alexander Agate of Moorpark, California won the Fidelity Investments Second Prize and Andrzej Wiercinski of Poland won the Tony Tortorice Third Prize. Yanfeng Bai of China won a special prize for his performance of a work by the contest’s namesake, Ignacy Jan Paderewski, the celebrated composer and concert pianist who would serve as Poland’s Prime Minister after World War I.

The competition’s goal was to identify and celebrate the best among the next generation of concert piano performers, those destined to go on to star on the world’s top stages.

Winners were presented with their prizes before a packed house Saturday, March 26, at the university’s Murphy Recital Hall.

An international panel of top professional musicians judged the competition. It included Grammy Award-winning American pianist Gloria Cheng, internationally acclaimed piano educator Adam Wibrowski, esteemed Polish pianist Wojciech Switala, juror of the International Chopin Competitions in Warsaw. Hungarian-American pianist Peter Toth and Italian pianist Gloria Campaner, laureates of the 2013 and 2010 American International Paderewski Piano competitions, respectively rounded out the panel of the judges. Dr. Kocyan, clinical professor of piano at Loyola Marymount served as the chairperson.

Semi-finalists were chosen from among 72 contestants between the ages of 16 and 30 who had submitted video recordings. They represented the United States, Canada, China, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, Peru, Poland, Romania, Russia, South Korea, Taiwan and Vietnam.

After arriving in Los Angeles, the 28 semifinalists each performed 30 minutes of music. Those who went on to the finals had 55 minutes to demonstrate their musical artistry in a program of their free choice.

In the finals, Choi performed the first piano sonatas of two piano greats, Robert Schumann and Carl Vine, composed about 150 years apart.

Other finalists included Ryota Yamazaki of Japan; Linda Lee of South Korea; Arsenii Mun of Russia and Soyeon An of South Korea.

Choi attended Yewon School and Seoul Arts School, then continued her musical studies at Seoul National University. There, she earned a national scholarship for outstanding artists and graduated summa cum laude. She moved to the U.S. in 2018 and earned a Master of Music degree from Indiana University Jacobs School of Music.

Choi's standout performance earned her the top prize of \$10,000 sponsored by the Drollinger Family Charitable Foundation.

The \$5,000 second-place prize to Agate was donated by Fidelity Investments and the \$2,500 third-place prize awarded to Wiercinski was a tribute to the memory of Tony Tortorice.

Dr. Kocyan announced that the next American International Paderewski Piano Competition will be held in 2025.

All performances from the competition are available for viewing on the Paderewski Music Society in Los Angeles You Tube Channel

here: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UComqb4_OyMgv4hTdPuXmAnw