



4-21 May 2019, Beijing

Canadian pianist Tony Siqui Yun wins first prize at inaugural China International Music Competition

18-year-old Canadian winner receives unprecedented prize of US\$150,000, plus a gold medal and representation with Opus 3 Artists & Wray Armstrong Music and Arts

Second prize awarded to Alexander Malofeev (Russia) and third prize to MacKenzie Melemed (USA)

Finals took place at Beijing's National Centre for the Performing Arts with Yannick Nézet-Séguin conducting the Philadelphia Orchestra, streamed worldwide by medici.tv

18-year-old Canadian pianist Tony Siqui Yun was today [20 May 2019] announced as the first ever winner of the China International Music Competition, the new competition created by the China Conservatory of Music and Global Music Education League. Now established as one of the world's most prestigious music competitions, Tony Siqui Yun receives a first prize of \$150,000, a gold medal and representation with Opus 3 Artists in the United States and Europe and Armstrong Music and Arts in China which, combined, will coordinate three years of international concert tours.

After a virtuosic performance of Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No. 1 in B-flat minor, Op. 23 with the Philadelphia Orchestra conducted by Yannick Nézet-Séguin, the jury chaired by Yoheved Kaplinsky announced him the winner at the National Centre for Performing Arts.

Second prize of US\$75,000 and a silver medal was awarded to the youngest competitor in the Competition, 17-year-old Russian Alexander Malofeev who had performed Prokofiev Piano Concerto No. 3 in C major, Op. 26. Third prize of US\$30,000 and a crystal award went to the American pianist

MacKenzie Melemed, age 24, who had performed Rachmaninoff *Rhapsody on a Theme by Paganini*, Op. 43.

Tony Siqi Yun made his orchestral debut in 2014 with the China Philharmonic Orchestra in Beijing and later played with them in Shanghai. Yun has toured Ireland, Spain, China, the United States and performed in Paris's Salle Cortot and at the Heidelberger Frühling Music Festival. He has performed the Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto in B-flat minor with the Cleveland Orchestra in the prestigious Severance Hall. He collaborated with the China Philharmonic Orchestra in its 2018–2019 season and took part in the filming of the 2019 CCTV New Year's Concert. Yun is currently enrolled in Juilliard's Pre-College Division, where he studies composition and conducting in addition to piano.

Li-guang Wang, President of the China International Music Competition, Chairman of the Global Music Education League, and President of the China Conservatory of Music, commented: *"Music unites people and it has been the most incredible experience for everyone concerned at the China Conservatory of Music and Global Music Education League to present 20 great young musicians from around the world. They have shown that great music making is a powerful way of forming relationships that will continue to grow for many years to come. We look forward to welcoming the world to Beijing next year for the second China International Music Competition."*

Yoheved Kaplinsky, Chairman of the jury and Artistic Director of the China International Music Competition, commented: *"Tony exhibited professionalism, musicianship, poise and an incredible ability to integrate himself with the orchestra. He was the most sensitive in his interaction with the orchestra and conductor. It was incredibly close between all three as all of them were consistent to the end. What made me particularly happy was that they were all as good as they were different."*

Richard Rodzinski, General Director of the China International Music Competition commented: *"In a well-run competition with a good jury, cream is allowed to rise to the top. I sincerely believe that from an artistic and administrative view the cream did in fact rise. In the old-fashioned milk bottles, there was a thin line between cream and the milk, but within the cream there are no lines. Only time and good fortune will tell who will enjoy the big careers, but we are committed to offering them every support through the engagement of top international management and support."*

Tony Siqi Yun said:

"Words cannot express how I feel to have been awarded the Gold Medal of the China International Music Competition. It has been an extraordinary time in Beijing, and I am so grateful to the jury and everyone here who have been such great colleagues."

Audiences around the world were able to watch the finals live for free on [medici.tv](https://www.medicity.com) and they will remain available to online audiences on replay for one month from today, playable on all devices. Music lovers in China and around the world were able to follow the progress of competitors through every round thanks to filming and live-streaming from [Amadeus.tv](https://www.amadeus.tv), China's leading TV and online platform for classical music and the arts, and [Youku.com](https://www.youku.com). Full information [here](#).

The 20 pianists who took part in the Competition were selected by the world's foremost international music authorities and came from a total of ten countries - Australia, Belarus, Canada, China, Georgia, Italy, Kazakhstan, Russia, South Korea, and the United States. Several competitors currently attend the world's leading conservatories, and many have already won prizes at major international piano competitions such as the Cliburn, Chopin, and Queen Elisabeth.

The distinguished international jury of the inaugural Competition includes: Li-guang Wang, President of the China International Music Competition, chairman of the Global Music Education League, and president of the China Conservatory of Music; Yoheved Kaplinsky, Chairman of the jury and Artistic Director of the Competition; Dmitri Alexeev; Jan Jiracek von Arnim; Lydia Artymiw; Boris Berman; Michel Béroff; Ronan O’Hora; Warren Jones; Katarzyna Popowa-Zydroń; and Arie Vardi.

None of the competitors currently study or have ever studied with any member of the jury.

The China International Music Competition will be held every year and next year’s competition will be dedicated to the violin.

ENDS

PICTURE ATTACHED SHOWS:

**Tony Siqi Yun during the Final of China International Music Competition with the Philadelphia Orchestra conducted by Yannick Nézet-Séguin
Please credit: Chris Lee**

**For further information, please contact Simon Millward at Premier
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**Full details of events and competitors available at
<http://www.cimcompetition.org/>**

China Conservatory of Music

Long regarded as the “Cradle of Chinese Musicians,” the China Conservatory of Music has been devoted to the training of professionals in theory, creation, and performance of traditional Chinese and Western music since its founding in 1964. The Conservatory confers bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees in music and dance as well as MFA degrees in music and dance. It is China’s only school offering a doctorate in musical performance research, and also maintains the Music and Dance Postdoctoral Research Center.

The Conservatory has formed an integrated multilevel teaching system centered on the theory, creation, and performing of Chinese music, and includes eleven departments: Music, Composition, Voice and Opera, Chinese Instruments, Music Education, Piano, Art Management, Conducting, Orchestral Instruments, Music Technology, and Social Science. The Conservatory also houses the Beijing Advanced Innovation Center for Chinese National School of Music, a graduate school, a continuing education college, and a middle school.

With numerous renowned teachers, the China Conservatory of Music is a national leader in all its disciplines. It has attracted countless influential musicians and talent over five decades and has added nearly ten thousand outstanding alumni to the global music industry in various disciplines. The Conservatory has established The Global Music Education League—a strategic, cooperative relationship with sixty-four universities around the world—while also promoting cross-cultural exchanges.

First China International Music Competition Jury

Li-guang Wang, president of the China International Music Competition, president of the China Conservatory of Music, and chairman of the Global Music Education League

Yoheved Kaplinsky, chairman of the jury of the First China International Music Competition, chairperson of the piano department and artistic director of the Pre-College Division, The Juilliard School

Dmitri Alexeev, piano professor at the Royal College of Music

Jan Jiracek von Arnim, artistic director and chairman of the jury of the International Beethoven Piano Competition

Lydia Artymiow, professor of piano at the University of Minnesota

Boris Berman, head of the piano department, Yale School of Music

Michel Beroff, pianist and conductor

Ronan O’Hora, Head of piano studies, Guildhall School of Music

Warren Jones, pianist, conductor, and renowned operatic vocal coach

Katarzyna Popowa-Zydroń, jury chairman of the International Chopin Piano Competition

Arie Vardi, artistic advisor and chairman of the jury of the Arthur Rubinstein International Master Competition

medici.tv

[medici.tv](#) is the global leader in classical music video streaming. Heralded by *The New York Times* as “the closest thing to a classical Netflix,” [medici.tv](#) has brought live classical music to passionate fans worldwide. For over 10 years, it has captured the performances of leading classical artists, ensembles, and orchestras in great concert halls, festivals, and competitions the world over. As the largest online platform for classical music, it offers over 150 live performances throughout the year and the world’s largest VOD catalog of more than 2,000 videos.

Amadeus.tv

Amadeus.tv is a Chinese TV company which focuses on music and art. Since its establishment, important performances and activities of Berlin Philharmonic, Tonhalle Orchestra Zurich, Guangzhou Symphony Orchestra, Shanghai Symphony Orchestra, China Philharmonic Orchestra, Hangzhou Philharmonic Orchestra, National Centre for the Performing Arts, The Juilliard School, Universal Music Group and other institutions have been filmed successively. Artists working with Amadeus.tv include Sir Simon Rattle, Paavo Jarvi, Yuja Wang, Rudolf Buchbinder, Yo-Yo Ma, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Jaap Van Zweden, Long Yu, Jian Wang, Zhang Haochen and other well-known artists in China and abroad. In 2018, it filmed and live-streamed the second Shanghai Isaac Stern International Violin Competition and the 21st Beijing Music Festival. [Amadeus TV](#)

The Philadelphia Orchestra

The Philadelphia Orchestra is one of the preeminent orchestras in the world, renowned for its distinctive sound, desired for its keen ability to capture the hearts and imaginations of audiences and admired for a legacy of innovation in music-making. The Orchestra is inspiring the future and transforming its rich tradition of achievement, sustaining the highest level of artistic quality, but also challenging—and exceeding—that level by creating powerful musical experiences for audiences at home and around the world.

Since 1973, when President Nixon asked The Philadelphia Orchestra to be the first US orchestra to perform in China, we have enjoyed a unique and special relationship with China and its people. Through concerts and residency activities, the Orchestra's work in China has been a bridge for people-to-people cultural, educational, and diplomatic exchange.

Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin triumphantly opened his inaugural season of The Philadelphia Orchestra in the fall of 2012. His highly-collaborative style, deeply rooted musical curiosity, and boundless enthusiasm, paired with a fresh approach to orchestral programming, have been heralded by critics and audiences alike. The *New York Times* has called him "phenomenal," adding that under his baton, "the ensemble...has never sounded better."