



LEEDS INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION ANNOUNCES THE 24 PIANISTS FROM 18 COUNTRIES SELECTED TO ENTER FINAL ROUNDS IN LEEDS

WIDEST EVER DIVERSITY OF COUNTRIES REPRESENTED IN HISTORY OF THE COMPETITION

**Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Croatia, Germany, Iran, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan,
Morocco, Peru, Poland, Russia, South Korea, Ukraine & UK all represented**

SECOND ROUND 8 - 10 SEPTEMBER

SEMI-FINALS 12 – 14 SEPTEMBER

FINALS 17 – 18 SEPTEMBER

One of the world's leading music competitions, The Leeds International Piano Competition, today announces details of the 24 pianists who have been selected to go through to the final rounds of the 20th Edition of the Competition in Leeds in September.

Originally due to take place in three cities, the First Round of The Leeds International Piano Competition recently took place in 17 locations around the world with the jury remotely viewing all 62 competitors' 25-minute recitals under identical conditions with all of them playing a Steinway Model D, and the same HD camera and audio set up.

In a line-up more diverse than ever before in the Competition's 58-year history, 18 countries will be represented in Leeds: three from China; two from Britain, Russia, South Korea & Ukraine and one from Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Germany, Iran, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Peru and Poland.

A full list of the 24 shortlisted competitors can be viewed here: <https://www.leedspiano.com/2021-competitors>

Adam Gatehouse, Artistic Director and juror, commented:

"As the Leeds International Piano Competition prepares to celebrate its 20th Edition in September this year it's particularly fitting that the Competition, which has transformed the lives and careers of so many pianists from all over the world, should be welcoming its most internationally diverse group of brilliant young pianists in its history to go forward to the Second Round in Leeds.

Despite the huge logistical challenges posed by the global pandemic, The Leeds' First Round jury was able to view and listen online to all 62 First Round pianists performing in identical conditions from 17 cities across the world, and I wish to thank everyone involved for ensuring that this could take place within a very strict timetable and schedule. It is I believe a sign of hope and optimism for the future that we have been able to harness the best of digital technology, combined with the best of young pianistic talent worldwide, to make this happen in such a ground-breaking way."

The Second Round, Semi-Finals and Finals of The Leeds will take place at the University of Leeds and Leeds Town Hall this September. All rounds will be streamed worldwide by medici.tv, with the Semi-Finals and Finals broadcast by BBC Radio 3 and the Finals aired on BBC Four.

The Concerto Final performances take place at Leeds Town Hall with The Leeds' new orchestral partners, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Andrew Manze, alongside an enhanced programme of activities during the Competition in Leeds. With a city-wide festival across the Competition's own community piano trail, piano workshops for schools, masterclasses, discussions, industry lectures from major figures in classical music, and a special exhibition on the life and work of the late Dame Fanny Waterman, the competition aims to create a much enriched experience for both competitors and audiences.

The finalists are competing not just for generous cash prizes, worth over £90,000, but for a career-changing prize package which has redefined what a competition can offer young artists, and which has helped to attract young international pianists of the very highest calibre promising a thrilling Competition.

The portfolio prize includes artistic management with Askonas Holt, one of the world's most renowned music management agencies; recordings, including a studio recording with Warner Classics; a major European tour organised with partners Steinway & Sons; concert and recording opportunities with some of the world's premiere venues and orchestras, including London's Wigmore Hall, Southbank Centre and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra; concert and recording engagements with BBC Radio 3, broadcast partner of The Leeds; a programme of recital engagements in Yorkshire and other UK venues; and mentoring from members of the performer-led jury, chaired by Imogen Cooper (England), which includes Artistic Director Adam Gatehouse (England), Silke Avenhaus (Germany), Inon Barnatan (Israel/ USA), Adrian Brendel (England), Gaetan Le Divelec (France), Ingrid Fliter (Argentina), Ludovic Morlot (France/ USA) and Steven Osborne (Scotland).

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

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Tickets and information available at: www.leedspiano.com

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The Leeds International Piano Competition

The Leeds is one of the world's foremost music competitions. Since the first Competition in 1963, it has attracted the world's finest young pianists, drawn by the opportunities offered by the outstanding prize package, the challenge of demanding repertoire, a stellar jury – and a warm welcome from the City of Leeds.

The competition is held every three years with the support of Principal Partner the University of Leeds which has played an integral role in its history from the first Competition. The University works closely with The Leeds on a global national and regional level to seek out new partnerships and explore opportunities to benefit a diverse audience.

A bold new vision, launched in 2016 by Co-Artistic Directors Paul Lewis and Adam Gatehouse, has seen The Leeds spread its wings. Internationally, in 2018 First Rounds were held in Berlin, New York and Singapore. And for the first time the whole Competition was broadcast online with [medici.tv](https://www.mediciv.com), attracting over 1 million views across more than 190 countries.

Locally, the Competition's roots are further deepened through its partnerships with Leeds City Council and Leeds BID, who support a varied programme of year-round Learning & Engagement work, including the [Leeds Piano Trail](#), a diverse and imaginative festival of city-wide activity held during the competition.

The Leeds is led by Adam Gatehouse, who became sole Artistic Director in 2019, and is honoured to have the support of [Murray Perahia](#) as Patron and [Lang Lang](#) as Global Ambassador.

2021 Finalists

1. Nour Ayadi (21, Morocco)
2. Alim Beisembayev (22, Kazakhstan)
3. Dmytro Choni (27, Ukraine)
4. Federico Gad Crema (21, Italy)
5. Galyna Gusachenko (28, Ukraine)
6. Arseniy Gusev (22, Russia)
7. Tyler Hay (26, British)
8. So Hyang In (29, South Korea)
9. Thomas Kelly (22, British)
10. Elizaveta Kliuchereva (21, Russia)
11. Kaito Kobayashi (25, Japan)
12. Maximilian Kromer (24, Austria)
13. Lucas Krupinski (28, Poland)
14. Ariel Lanyi (23, Israel)
15. Ying Li (23, China)
16. Yuzhang Li (21, China)
17. Lovre Marusic (28, Croatia)
18. Priscila Navarro (26, Peru)
19. Hyunjin Roh (20, South Korea)
20. Arash Rokni (27, Iran)
21. Victoria Vassilenko (28, Bulgaria)
22. Tony (Yike) Yang (22, Canada)
23. Gabriel Yeo (22, Germany)
24. Xiaolu Zang (21, China)