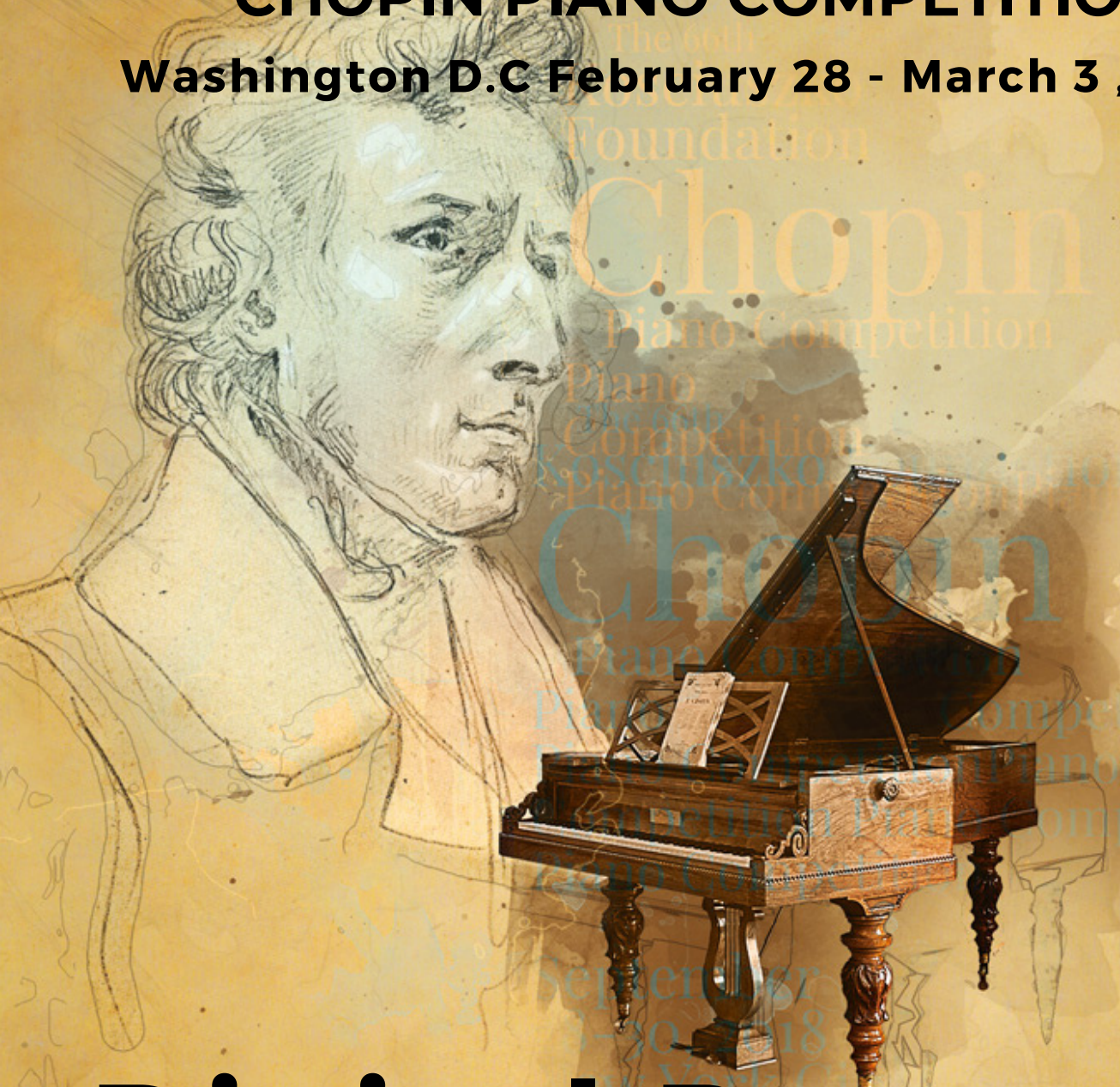


THE 68TH KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION CHOPIN PIANO COMPETITION

Washington D.C February 28 - March 3 , 2024



Digital Program



Embassy
of the Republic of Poland
in Washington, D.C.



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Barbara Bernhardt

Kosciuszko Foundation, Vice President
Washington D.C., Director

KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION D.C.

With great excitement and pride I welcome you to the 68th Kosciuszko Foundation Chopin Competition. We are excited to present in 2024 the competition for young artists. This competition has a rich history of almost 70 years and is now presented here in Washington D.C. We invite you to watch the competition rounds online and in person at St. Ann Catholic Church here in Washington. I wish to all our contestants good luck and to all of you a wonderful week with the music of Chopin!

CHOPIN PIANO COMPETITION

It is my pleasure and great honor to welcome you to the 68th edition of the Kosciuszko Foundation Chopin Piano Competition. Our goal is to always foster the legacy of Poland's greatest composer and at the same time continue the rich tradition of this competition established more than seventy years ago and whose laureates belong to the pinnacle of the 20th and 21st century pianism. As the Artistic Director, I would like to wish all the contestants the best of luck and inspired performances.



Martin Labazevitch

Chopin Piano Competition, Artistic Director



Jason Solounias

Competition Director



Jolanta Stefanska

Advancement Director

Beginnings of the Competition

In 1949, to mark the centennial of the death of Frederic Chopin, the Kosciuszko Foundation's Board of Trustees authorized a National Committee to encourage observance of the anniversary with concerts and programs throughout the United States. Howard Hanson, then Director of the Eastman School of Music, headed this Committee, which included, among others, Claudio Arrau, Vladimir Horowitz, Serge Koussevitzky, Claire Booth Luce, Eugene Ormandy, Artur Rodzinski, George Szell, and Bruno Walter.

The Chopin Centennial was inaugurated by Witold Malcuzyński at Carnegie Hall on February 14, 1949. A repeat performance was presented by Malcuzyński eight days later, on Chopin's birthday, in the Kosciuszko Foundation Gallery. Abram Chasins, composer, pianist, and music director of the New York Times radio stations WQXR and WQWQ, presided at the evening and opened it with the following remarks:

"In seeking to do justice to the memory of a musical genius, nothing is so eloquent as a presentation of the works through which he enriched our musical heritage. ... In his greatest work, Chopin stands alone ... Throughout the chaos, the dissonance of the world, Chopin's music has been for many of us a sanctuary ... It is entirely fitting that this event should take place at the Kosciuszko Foundation House. This Foundation is the only institution which we have in America which promotes cultural relations between Poland and America on a non-political basis. It has helped to understand the debt which mankind owes to Poland's men of genius."

A fund was created during the Chopin celebration by the Kosciuszko Foundation and was further supplemented by Arthur Rubinstein, who donated the receipts from the national tribute to Chopin, held at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York on October 17, 1949. Additional funds came from a cycle of Chopin programs held at the Kosciuszko Foundation House in the 1949-1950 season. These donations served as a scholarship prize for the Chopin Piano Competition.

Early Years of the Competition

The first Competition was held on June 15, 1950. The winner was not of Polish heritage but a young Black American, Roy Eaton, who was a student at the Manhattan School of Music (and City College) of New York. It is important to note here that prior to General Kosciuszko's departure for Europe in 1798, he directed Thomas Jefferson, the executor of his will, to sell the lands given to him by a grateful American Congress for his services during the Revolutionary War, and to use the proceeds to purchase the freedom and educate the Black slaves living there. Eaton's success in the Chopin Piano Competition was significant during the pre-Civil Rights era, and he was featured in the New York Times, Radio WNYC, CBS Radio, and subsequently with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. He later earned an M.A. in musicology from Yale University and, in 1968, became vice-president of Benton and Bowles Company in New York.

Van Cliburn is probably the most famous Chopin Competition alumnus. A pupil of Rosina Lhevinne, Van Cliburn was the winner in 1952 at the age of 17. Six years later, he won first prize in the Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow, a great icebreaker during the Cold War.

The Chopin Piano Competition has become recognized nationally as an important stage in the lives of young pianists embarking upon a concert career following their studies. In surveying the list of winners, one finds men and women who have become well-known through success on the concert stage or as well-regarded professors and teachers throughout the United States. Some of the notable laureates include Daniel Pollack, Marek Jablonski, Murray Perahia, Myung Yun Chung, Lydia Artymiw, Ian Hobson, Moses Hogen, Sara Davis Buechner, Boris Slutsky, Kevin Kenner, Frederic Chu, Kirill Gerstein, and Claire Huangci. Through financial assistance to its winners and their subsequent artistic achievements, the Kosciuszko Foundation, as a Polish American cultural/educational institution, has continued to make a substantial contribution to music in the United States.

New Home in Washington D.C.

In 2021, the Chopin Piano Competition was moved from New York City to the Nation's Capital. The 67th Competition took place in Washington D.C. from February 5-27, 2022, and was organized by Barbara Bernhardt, the Foundation's D.C. Director; Martin Labazevitch, the Artistic Director; Jason Solounias, the Competition Director; and Jolanta Stefanska, the Advancement Director. Garrick Ohlsson, the newly appointed honorary patron of the competition and winner of the 8th Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw, sent his best wishes to the competition and contestants.

Faced with difficulties due to rising COVID-19 infections and the prevailing trend of canceling artistic events during the Winter of 2022, the organizers took a gamble and proceeded with the competition in a hybrid online/in-person format. The enthusiasm of young and talented "Chopinists" was astonishing! Contestants hailed from Poland, Taiwan, China, South Korea, Brazil, and the United States and presented their performances online to the international jury, consisting of pianistic legends and laureates of the International Chopin Competition in Warsaw.

Through the competition rounds, online and live, the jury chose three pianists to advance to the finals, where they presented concerti by Frederic Chopin accompanied by the National Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Maestro Piotr Gajewski at St. Ann's Catholic Church. The award ceremony was hosted at the Polish Ambassador's residence, and after emotional speeches by Ambassador Marek Magierowski, Ms. Bernhardt, and Mr. Labazevitch, deeply influenced by the war in Ukraine, which started only a few days earlier, the guests heard beautiful performances by all six pianists invited to Washington D.C.

This year marks the 68th Chopin Piano Competition and the second edition held in Washington D.C.

Honorary Patron



Garrick Ohlsson

Honorary Patron

Winner of the 8th Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw, 1970.

“

I send my best wishes to the participants and the organizers of the Kosciuszko Foundation Chopin Piano Competition.

Chopin is the Rosetta Stone for pianism, and the Alpha and Omega for pianists.

To play Chopin well, the player needs impeccable physical skills, deep and wide tonal sensitivity, musicianship to deal with complex structures, and a sense of magic. The pianist who can do all this is equipped to take on almost any challenge in the piano repertory.

I salute all those who take on this challenge. May this competition succeed and thrive, and bring deserved attention to wonderful young pianists.

”

Thank You To Our Sponsors

The Kosciuszko Foundation Chopin Piano Competition is sponsored by the Kosciuszko Foundation from the Cierpik Fund, Jan Gorbaty Memorial Fund, and from the donation made by Ms. Krystyna Piorkowska to the Cultural Fund.

The Kosciuszko Foundation Chopin Piano Competition is organized in partnership with the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Washington, D.C.

Thank you to our media partner Classical Radio WETA

Thank you to the generous support of St. Ann Catholic Church

Special Thanks to Dr. James Trefil and Dr. Wanda O'Brien-Trefil for funding the third prize and hosting a contestant.

Thank you to all host families for supporting the contestants!

Thank you to all to all individual sponsors who donated to help the competition.

Polish American Arts Organization

IMF/WB Polish Club

Anna Abgarowicz

David Connick

Linda Formella

Elzbieta Marchut Michalski

Marcin Platkowski

Elzbieta Vande Sande

Prizes

1st - \$5,000

2nd - \$3,000

3rd - \$2,000

Szymanowski Prize - \$1,500

Performance Engagements during 2024-25 Season

OPENING RECITAL

With 2022 First Prize Laureate

Yun-Chih Hsu

Wednesday, February 28 at 7:00 PM
St. Ann Catholic Church
4001 Yuma St. NW Washington D.C. 20016

CHOPIN	Barcarolle in F-sharp major, Op.60
CHOPIN	Andante Spianato et Polonaise Brillante, Op.22
SZYMANOWSKI	Theme and Variations in B-flat Minor, Op.3
RACHMANINOFF	Sonata No.2 in B-flat minor Op.36



Yun Chih Hsu, was praised as “One of the most potential young pianists” as well as “The mature performance and stage charm are beyond her age”. “Her control over pianissimo is astonishing. She has an absolutely precocious sense of duration and keyboard geography” (Drimityr Bashkirov), award winning-pianist Yun Chih Hsu performs as a soloist and chamber musicians throughout Europe, North America, and Asia, at venues such as Taiwan National Concert Hall, Lincoln Center, Barcelona Palau de la Música Catalana.

Yun-Chih Hsu Recital

Hsu was also invited to give concerts at the great Braunschweig International Music Festival and Grotrian Steinway in Germany, and Kulturkontakt Eppan in Italy. Hsu was the youngest first-prize winner of the 12th Taipei International Chopin Piano Competition, and the semi-finalist of the 11th International Paderewski Piano Competition in Bydgoszcz, Poland. In 2011, Yun Chih won the IMA music award in JAPAN and she was invited to perform in the IMA Rising Star Concert. In 2014, she was the first prize winner of the Norman Piano Competition and Bachauer Piano Scholarship Competition in the United State and was invited to perform in the "From the Top Radio Station" in Jordan Hall, at New England Conservatory, Massachusetts. In 2015, Yun Chih was awarded the Juilliard Commencement Award with honor and was accepted to the Juilliard School music division with a full scholarship, in the same year, she was the winner of the Young Artist Concert Competition and was honored to be invited to perform with Forth Worth Symphony Orchestra in Texas, United State. 2016, Hsu was awarded as an outstanding artist and performed in the Prize winner concert of the Salzburg Music Festival and Leipzig International Felix Bartholdy Mendelssohn Music Festival. In 2017, was honored to be the winner of the Music Star Concert in Taiwan. 2019, Hsu was honored to be the finalist in the Bachauer Scholarship Competition. In 2020, Hsu was invited to be the endorser of the Rising Music Star in Taiwan. In 2022, Hsu won the first prize in the 67th Kosciuszko Foundation Chopin Piano Competition and was honored to be invited to perform in the embassy of the Republic of Poland in Washington, DC. Hsu is currently pursuing her doctoral degree in piano performance and literature with Professor Alexander Kobrin at the Eastman School of Music.



Piotr Gajewski *Jury Chair* **United States**

“Immensely talented and insightful conductor, whose standards, taste and sensitivity are impeccable,” raves The Washington Post. Piotr Gajewski, a student and disciple of the late Leonard Bernstein, continues to thrill audiences all over the world with inspiring performances of great music.

“His courtly, conservative movements matched the music’s mood. A flick of the finger, and a fanfare sounded. He held up his palm, and the musicians quieted. It was like watching a race car in the hands of a good driver,” reports The Buffalo News.

Maestro Gajewski has one foot in the United States, as music director & conductor of the National Philharmonic at the Music Center at Strathmore (metropolitan Washington, DC), and the other in Europe, as a frequent guest conductor in his native Poland. His immense repertoire, most of it conducted without a score, amazes critics and audiences alike.

He is one of a select group of American conductors equally at home in nearly all musical genres. A recent season saw him conduct Bach at the Northwest Bach Festival, Prokofiev with the South Florida Symphony, and Copland in Jelenia Gora, Poland. While Gajewski freely admits that Mozart is perhaps his favorite composer, he ventures as far as the music of ABBA, Barry Manilow and beyond at pops concerts, and has also led several dozen world premieres, including a recent one of the opera *Lost Childhood* by the American composer Janis Hamer.

A committed arts educator, Maestro Gajewski is the muscle behind the National Philharmonic’s groundbreaking “All Kids, All Free, All The Time” initiative, as well as the creation of summer institutes for young string players and singers, masterclasses with esteemed visiting artists, and a concerto competition for high-school students.

Working with the local school system, Gajewski also established annual concerts for all second-grade students in Maryland’s Montgomery County—some 12,000 each year.

In Poland Gajewski has appeared with the Warsaw, Wroclaw, Krakow and Silesian philharmonics, among others. Since 2007, he has regularly served as the only American on the jury of the prestigious Grzegorz Fitelberg International Competition for Conductors. Gajewski began studying piano at age four. After emigrating to the United States, he continued his studies in the Preparatory Division of New England Conservatory, at Carleton College in Minnesota, and at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, where he earned B.M. and M.M. degrees in orchestral conducting. His conducting mentors, in addition to Bernstein—with whom he studied at the Tanglewood Music Center on a Leonard Bernstein Conducting Fellowship—include such luminaries as Seiji Ozawa, André Previn, Gunther Schuller, and Maurice Abravanel.

Maestro Gajewski's many honors include Poland's Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit, bestowed on him by the former president of Poland, and a prize at New York's Leopold Stokowski Conducting Competition. A true Renaissance man, Gajewski continues to play competitive soccer, holds a law degree and a license to practice law in two states, and from 2007 to 2011 served on the City Council in his hometown of Rockville, Maryland. Piotr Gajewski is represented worldwide by Sciolino Artist Management samnyc.us



Akiko Ebi Japan

Akiko Ebi, the first prize at the National Piano Competition in Japan, launched her international career as the winner of the Grand Prix in the International Long/Thibaud Competition in Paris with 4 special prizes given by A. Rubinstein etc. and as a finalist in the International Fryderyk

Chopin Competition in Warsaw, earning the recognition of Martha Argerich. She continued her training at the Paris Conservatoire with A.Ciccolini, V. Perlemuter, C. Hansen, C.Zerah and L.Kentner.

She has performed throughout the world at Berlin Philharmony Hall, Gewanhaus concert Hall, Suntory Hall, Teatro Colon, Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, Salle Pleyel, Wigmore Hall, with outstanding orchestras and conductors such as Skrowacewski,

F.Bruggen, Janowsky, Sinaisky, Foster, Sado, Gushulbauer, Pedro Ignacio Calderón, Milanov etc. As a chamber musician, she has given two-piano recitals with Martha Argerich and performed with Ivry Gitlis, Augustin Dumay, Regis Pasquier, Angela Hewitt, Michel Dalberto, the Morauges Quintet and the Parisii and Manfred Quartets. She appears regularly at festivals in La Roque d'Anthéron, Menton, Echternach, Nantes, Nice , Lugano, Lisbon, Toledo, New York ,Tokyo, Salt Lake City and Warsaw etc.

Her discography includes Chopin's complete etudes, preludes, nocturnes and impromptus, as well as Chopin concerto No.1. Also works by Fauré, Franck, Grieg, Lekeu, Pierné, Ravel, Webern and Dynam-Victor Fumet (world first recording) . She was awarded twice Grand Prix d'Or for her recording of the works of her discs of compositions by Hikari Ōe, which brought international attention to this gifted composer, who was born mute and mentally handicapped.

For her services to French music, Ebi was named a Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres in 1993, and in 2002 she received Japan's prestigious ExxonMobile Music Prize.

She is often invited to give master classes in many countries as France, Spain, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Finland, many cities in USA , Canada, Argentine, Japan. She is often invited as a jury member at the international competitions such as Chopin International Piano Competition in Warsaw in 2010, 2015 & 2021, also was the president of jury at Hamamatsu International Piano Competition in 2012 & 2015. President of Chopin Society in Japan & Chairman of Yokohama City International Piano Concerts for young pianists.



Krzysztof Jablonski Canada/Poland

Krzysztof Jablonski is a Laureate of the F. Chopin International Piano Competition in Warsaw in 1985. He has won numerous top prizes at international piano competitions in Milan, Palm Beach, Monza, Dublin, New York, and Calgary, and a Gold Medal at the Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Master Competition in Tel Aviv.

For more than 30 years, Jablonski has been active in performing solo and chamber music as well as with orchestras on stages in Europe, the Americas, Asia, and Israel in prestigious concert halls, including appearances on the Master Concert Series at Berliner Philharmonie. A frequent guest of many orchestras, performed under the baton of V. Gergiev, A. Boreyko, K. Penderecki, M. Pijarowski, J. Semkow, J. Kaspzyk, J. Maksymiuk, G. Nowak, F. Brueggen, W. Bothe, Y. Tezuka, T. Shimono, A. Wit, J. Krenz and with prominent ensembles such as Orchestra of the 18th Century, Berner Symphonie-Orchester, Radio-Sinfonieorchester Stuttgart des SWR, Duesseldorfer Symphoniker, Hamburger Symphoniker, Jenaer Philharmonie, Festival Orchestra of the Grand Teton Music Festival, Helsinki Philharmonic, Lahti Symphony Orchestra, Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra, Kyushu Symphony Orchestra, Kirishima Festival Orchestra, National Philharmonic Orchestra in Warsaw, National Polish Radio Symphony Orchestra in Katowice. As a chamber music recitalist, he performed with Tomasz Strahl, Tsuyoshi Tsutsumi, Arto Noras, Konstanty Andrzej Kulka, and Teng Li - to name just a few. He is a "Warsaw Piano Quintet" member, founded by W. Szpilman in 1962.

Jablonski's somewhat romantic nature shaped his taste and interest in music. Besides the most famous works Jablonski has in his repertoire, he also plays some less-known compositions such as Concertos by F. Riess, H. Litolff, and E. Dohnanyi. He was invited to perform for ballet, opera, theatre spectacles, and spectacular, multi-discipline projects with multimedia presentations and lights, such as Scriabin's "Prometheus" with Duesseldorfer Symphoniker. A special place in his career has many collaborations with ballets: "Chopin - The Romantic Artist" choreographed by Patrice Bart, Ballet "Fortepianissimo" choreographed by Lorca Massine, "The Lady of the Camellias" choreographed by John Neumeier and "Our Chopin" choreographed by Liam Scarlett and Krzysztof Pastor at the National Opera in Warsaw. They were shown to the public multiple times; some were even played outside of Poland. Jablonski also performed the original piano version of Debussy's Pelleas et Melisande. He was invited to perform during the opening of the Wiener Opernball in Vienna together with the Vienna State Opera Ballet, choreographed by Giorgio Madia. He played for a crowd of twelve thousand with

the Grant Park Orchestra and K. Urbanski at the Jay Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park in Chicago.

In February 2013, Jablonski performed Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto with Maestro Valery Gergiev and the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra during the fundraising event "Clean Baltic Sea Concert" in Helsinki. This performance was streamed live over the Internet and recorded by Finnish Radio and TV.

2013 also brought Jablonski to Japan, where he performed Beethoven's Concerto with the Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra following his successful appearances with the Kirishima Festival Orchestra in 2012. In 2014, he played during the Kirishima Festival again. In 2015, celebrating 30 years of his artistic career, he performed Chopin's Concerto No. 1 with the Yomiuri Nippon Symphony Orchestra - the same Piano Concerto he played during the Finals of the F. Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw in 1985, where his international career began. Also, in 2015, he performed Chopin's E minor Concerto once more with the Warsaw Philharmonic under the baton of Maestro Jacek Kasprzyk. Jablonski concluded his anniversary year performing Saint-Saëns's 2nd Piano Concerto in G minor with Warsaw Philharmonic under the direction of Patrick Fournillier in February 2016.

He has made live recordings for radio and television in many countries and numerous CDs in Germany, Japan, and Poland. The F. Chopin National Institute invited him to record complete works by Chopin both on modern and historical pianos. Two first CDs (Etudes) were released in 2016 and 2017, and more will come soon. Jablonski himself says it is his once-in-a-lifetime project, but he hopes to be able to complete this work in a few years.

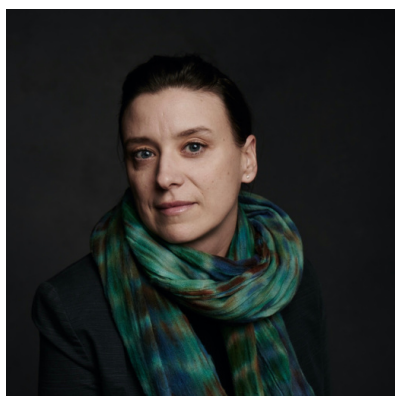
Studied with Janina Butor and Prof. Andrzej Jasiński, he has worked during master classes with R. Kerer and N. Magaloff. He graduated with honors in 1987 from the Academy of Music in Katowice and later earned his Doctorate in 1996. He was a tenured professor at The F. Chopin University of Music in Warsaw from 2004 to 2017 and a piano faculty member at the Mount

Royal University - The Conservatory in Calgary and the University of Calgary. He has been a Morningside Music Bridge Program faculty member since 1998.

He was also a Professor at the Faculty of Fine Arts of the University of Lethbridge from 2016 to 2017. In addition to academic responsibilities, he presents master classes and lectures. He has delivered seminars for piano teachers. Jablonski specializes in piano technique, helping many people achieve better results. He is a jury member at international piano competitions, including Chopin Piano Competitions in Warsaw, Toronto/Mississauga (Chair of the Jury), Miami, Tokyo, and Foshan in China.

He was recently on the Jury of the Lang Lang Shenzhen Futian International Piano Festival Competition, the 3rd International Competition of Polish Music in Rzeszów, Poland (Chair of the Jury), the 5th China Shenzhen International Piano Concerto Competition, The 12th Gulangyu Piano Art Week Competition, 2023 ZJCM & DEQING International Piano Festival Competition, and RNCM James Mottram International Piano Competition.

Jablonski is the Head of Piano and keyboard and Academic Leader of Piano and keyboard at The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen. He performed with the Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra in January 2023 during the final GBA Festival concert and during the 2023 Belt and Road International Music Festival opening concert in September 2023.



Linda Petrikova Czech Republic

Linda Petrikova is an Artist Manager and Senior Vice-President at IMG Artist. For more than a decade, she has overseen the international careers of conductors, instrumentalists and vocalists from the company's New York office. Her personal roster includes pianists Murray Perahia,

Evgeny Kissin, David Fray, violinist Julia Fischer, the Emerson and the Calidore String Quartets, the conductors Juanjo Mena, Francesco Lecce-Chong, the late André Previn and the soprano Renée Fleming. As an artist manager, she has served on competition juries, given talks at international conferences as well as academies for aspiring musicians and other young professionals, advising them on career paths in performing arts.

Ms. Petrikova studied piano in her native Czech Republic and while actively pursuing piano performance, she earned a doctorate degree at Charles University in Prague with a dissertation on literature and cinema. In 2008, Ms. Petrikova was a Visiting Global Scholar at the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University. Prior to artist management, she had worked at the Prague Spring International Music Festival.



Ewa Pobłocka Poland

Ewa Pobłocka is a prize-winner of the 10th International Fryderyk Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw (1980), the International Viotti Music Competition in Vercelli (1977) and the International Festival of Young Laureates in Bordeaux (1979). She studied at Academy of Music in Gdańsk, graduating with honours (1981).

She completed post-graduate studies with Conrad Hansen in Hamburg (1982), and benefited from consultation with Rudolf Kerer, Tatiana Nikolaieva and Martha Argerich. Ewa Pobłocka has performed throughout Europe and the Americas, as well as in China, Indonesia, the RSA, Singapore, South Korea, Japan, and Australia, not only as a soloist, but also as an accomplished chamber musician. She has given numerous first performances and made world premiere recordings of works by Polish contemporary composers. She has worked with European radio stations and recorded more than 50 discs for Deutsche Grammophon, Polskie Nagrania, CD Accord and Bearton, among others. Many of her recordings have won prizes and critical acclaim. She is the first Polish pianist in history to record both volumes of *Das Wohltemperierte Klavier* by Bach. Recently she has performed both the volumes during the recital series in many venues in Europe. She is a distinguished pedagogue, teaching at the Academy of Music in Bydgoszcz. Pobłocka has given numerous master classes all around the world. She has been a jury member of many international piano competitions, such as the Chopin Competition in Warsaw, Artur Rubinstein Competition in Tel-Aviv and Competition in Hamamatsu, among many others. Ewa Pobłocka also willingly devotes herself to literary activities – her first book, *'Forte-piano'*, was released in 2021. Since 2020, she has been running the broadcasts *'Start with Bach'* and *'Bach's Cases'* in Polish Radio.



Athean Deng, 21 Canada

Athena Deng currently studies with Professors Dang Thai Son and Stanislav Loudenitch at Oberlin Conservatory of Music. She made her orchestral debut at age 11, playing Prokofiev Piano Concerto No. 3 in C major with the Vancouver Metropolitan Orchestra. Athena has also collaborated with

orchestras such as the Volgograd Philharmonic Orchestra, the Uzbekistan National Symphony Orchestra, the Richmond Orchestra, and the Virginia Waring Festival Orchestra. Moreover, she has been awarded many important national and international prizes, including the concerto first prize and solo second prize at the 2015 Virginia Waring International Piano Competition, the first prize in the 2017 National Canadian Music Competition, third prize in the 2021 William Knabe International Piano Competition, etc. Athena has been selected and awarded scholarships to participate at the Miami Frost Chopin Academy, the Lake Como Summer Festival, the Beijing International Music Festival and the Southeastern Piano Festival. She was a member of the Young Artist Program in Cleveland Institute of Music from 2017 to 2020 and has received extensive training in chamber music as well.

Semifinal Round

SZYMANOWSKI from *Métopes*, Op. 29 No. 1 *The Isle of the Sirens* and No. 3 *Nausicaa*

CHOPIN Mazurka in B major, Op. 63 No. 1

CHOPIN Sonata No. 2 in B-flat minor, Op. 35

CHOPIN Nocturne Op. 37 No. 2 in G major

CHOPIN Polonaise-Fantaisie in A-flat major, Op. 61

Final Round

CHOPIN Concerto No. 2 in F Minor, Op. 21



Derek Hartman, 26 United States

Derek Hartman is a pianist from Minneapolis, Minnesota. He is currently a Doctor of Musical Arts candidate at the Yale School of Music, at which he also received his Masters of Music in 2021 under the instruction of Boris Slutsky. He completed his undergraduate studies in piano performance

and music theory at Northwestern University in 2019, whilst studying with James Giles. Derek has appeared as a soloist with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, and he was awarded top prizes in the Music Teachers' National Association Young Artist Piano Competition, the PianoArts North American Competition, and the Thaviu-Isaak Endowed Piano Competition. His performance engagements have taken him to such diverse locations as the Bowdoin International Music Festival, the Kravis Center of the Performing Arts in West Palm Beach, Florida, and the Ruïnekerk in Bergen, The Netherlands. He is a recipient of numerous scholarships, including the 2023 Evelyn Bonar Storrs Scholarship, and he was awarded the 2023 Yale School of Music Alumni Prize and the 2020 Elizabeth Parisot Prize in recognition of his contributions to the Yale community. A dedicated music educator, Derek is currently a faculty member at the New School for Music Study at the Frances Clark Center, and he has served as a teaching assistant in the Analysis and Musicianship curriculum at Yale. Since 2018, Derek has partnered with PianoArts of Wisconsin to design and present dozens of music educational programs across Milwaukee. Derek is also an avid chamber musician, a harpsichordist and continuo player, and he pursues endeavors in music theory and pedagogy

Semifinal Round

CHOPIN Mazurkas Op. 59 No. 1, No. 2, and No. 3

CHOPIN Piano Sonata No. 2 in B-flat minor, Op. 35

SZYMANOWSKI Mazurkas, Op. 50 No. 4, No. 6, No. 3, and No. 14.

CHOPIN Ballade No. 4 in F minor, Op. 52

Final Round

CHOPIN Piano Concerto No. 1 in E minor, Op. 11



Antoni Kleczek, 17 United States

Antoni Kleczek has been described by Katarzyna Popowa-Zydroń as a pianist who plays each piece with "deep understanding...natural expression, communicativeness of emotions and all this while playing with apparent ease."

Antoni has performed in such concert venues as Carnegie Hall, the Lincoln Center, the DiMenna Center for Classical Music, Gusman Hall in the Frost School of Music, and the Chopin Center in Szafarnia, Poland. In 2022, Antoni was awarded the Grand Prix in the 29th edition of the International Fryderyk Chopin Piano Competition for Children and Youth in Szafarnia. Antoni was also the 1st prize winner at the 6th Rosalyn Tureck International Bach Competition in 2019 where he also received the Rosalyn Tureck prize for contemporary works as well as the Olga Kern Aspiration Award. Antoni participated in the 2022 Frost Chopin Academy where he had the privilege of working with Garrick Ohlsson, Kevin Kenner, and Ewa Pobłocka. Antoni also has worked with such artists as Horacio Guti rrez, Jeffrey Swann, Kirill Gerstein, Krzysztof Jabłoński, Piotr Paleczny, among others. Antoni is a recipient of the 2023-2024 Chopin Foundation Scholarship and is currently studying privately with Dr. Martin Labazevitch in Washington D.C.

Semifinal Round

SZYMANOWSKI "S r nade de Don Juan" from Masques Op. 34

CHOPIN Variations on "L  ci darem la mano" Op. 2

CHOPIN Mazurkas Op. 50 No. 1, No. 2, and No. 3

CHOPIN Nocturne Op. 55 No. 2 in E-flat major

CHOPIN Ballade No. 4 in F Minor, Op. 52

Final Round

CHOPIN Piano Concerto No. 2 in F Minor, Op. 21



Yuya Nishimoto, 21 Japan

Yuya Nishimoto was born in 2002, Japan. He graduated from the Music High School Attached to the Faculty of Music, Tokyo University of the Arts. He is studying at Tokyo University of the Arts with professor Susumu Aoyagi. He won first prize in the 12th International Chopin Piano Competition in Asia, the

Salzburg-Mozart International Competition in Tokyo 2022 and the Asia International Music Competition 2022, second prize in competitions in Lugano and at his alma mater 2022, and also fourth prize in the 5th Takamatsu International Piano Competition 2023. He took part in the 2nd International Chopin Competition on Period Instrument 2023 in Warsaw and broadcasted his performance and interview on Polish Radio. He was awarded the Yamaha Music Foundation Scholarship in 2019–2021. He has worked with such ensembles as the Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra, Tokyo Symphony Orchestra, Seto Philharmonic Orchestra and Geidai Philharmonic Orchestra and Takamatsu Symphony Orchestra. He has performed Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 1, Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 5, and Rachmaninov's Piano Concertos Nos. 2 and 3. He has given many recitals in Tokyo, Takamatsu, Hokkaido and Hiroshima. He has participated in masterclasses given by such great pianists as Dang Thai Son, Dina Yoffe, Katarzyna Popowa-Zydroń, Wojciech Światała.

Semifinal Round

SZYMANOWSKI from Masques Op .34 No. 1 Shéhérazade

CHOPIN Sonata No. 3 in B minor Op. 58

CHOPIN Variations in B-flat major on "Là ci darem la mano" Op. 2

Final Round

CHOPIN Piano Concerto No. 1 in E minor Op. 11



Oliver Moore, 22 United States

Oliver Moore is currently completing his Masters of Music degree under the tutelage of pianist Garrick Ohlsson at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. He has been featured with orchestras including the North State Symphony and Hollywood Chamber Orchestra, and in 2022 substituted at late notice for the Bear Valley Music Festival performing Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue under the baton of Alexander Mickelthwate. He has played in master classes and lessons for artists such as Boris Slutsky, James Giles, Shai Wosner, Yoheved Kaplinsky, Stanislav Ioudenitch, Arie Vardi, and Fabio Bidini. In July 2023, Oliver presented a recital of works and transcriptions by Liszt, Busoni, Saint-Saëns, and Brahms inspired by composers Bach and Handel for the American Bach Soloists' San Francisco Bach Festival. Oliver has attended the Piano Texas International Festival, and has served on faculty at the Butte MTAC Summer Chamber Music Festival. Oliver completed his undergraduate degree under Garrick Ohlsson at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and has previously studied with John McCarthy.

Semifinal Round

CHOPIN Impromptu No. 1 in Ab Major, Op. 29

CHOPIN Scherzo No. 3 in C-sharp minor, Op. 39

CHOPIN Nocturne Op. 9 No. 2 in Eb Major

CHOPIN Mazurka Op. 24 No. 4 in Bb Minor

SZYMANOWSKI Mazurkas Op. 50 No. 13 and No. 16

CHOPIN Sonata No. 3 in B Minor, Op. 58

CHOPIN Waltz in Ab major, Op. 42

Final Round

CHOPIN Concerto No. 2 in F minor Op. 21



Mikołaj Seroka, 20 Poland

Mikołaj Seroka was born in 2003 in Warsaw and began his training in piano performance at age 5. He is presently a student of professor Krzysztof Jabłoński – laureate of The XI Chopin Competition in Warsaw in 1985 – at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen. Mikołaj Seroka is laureate of many national and international piano competitions, including the Orbetello International Piano Competition in Italy (May, 2021) and Romantic Music Festival in Toronto (Grand Prize, 2021). In April 2021 his trio was awarded the Grand Prix Prize at The Centre of Art Education Competition in the ensembles category. Since his earliest youth, Mikołaj Seroka has successfully concertized at many prestigious venues, including the Philharmonic Halls in Warsaw, Łódź, Opole and Rzeszów, Witold Lutosławski Concert Studio S-1 of Polish Radio, Royal Łazienki, Royal Castle in Warsaw and Żelazowa – The house of the birth of Fryderyk Chopin, Polish Academy of Science in Vienna, Vigyazo Sandor Music Centre in Budapest, Maison de la musique in Switzerland. He took part in masterclasses with Andrzej Jasiński, Michał Woskriesiński, Natalia Trull, Hubert Rutkowski, Piotr Paleczny, Ewa Pobłocka, Aleksander Kobrin and Wojciech Świtąła.

Semifinal Round

SZYMANOWSKI Mazurkas op. 5s No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, and No.4

CHOPIN Mazurkas Op. 33 No. 1 and No. 4

CHOPIN Waltz in A-flat major Op. 42

CHOPIN Polonaise in A-flat major Op. 53

CHOPIN Sonata No.3 in B minor Op. 58

Final Round

CHOPIN Concerto No. 2 in F minor Op. 21



Krzysztof Wierciński, 20 Poland

Krzysztof Wiercinski was born on February 22, 2003 in Warsaw. He studies at the Fryderyk Chopin University of Music in Warsaw in the class of Prof. Joanna Ławrynowicz-Just and with assistant Mateusz Krzyżowski. His work has resulted in many awards at national and international piano

competitions: at the 13th International Chopin Competition in Narva, Estonia (2nd prize and a diploma for artistry and inspiration), at the 51st Frederic Chopin National Piano Competition in Warsaw (3rd Prize), and at the 2nd International Karol Szymanowski Competition in Katowice (2nd Prize). He has given concerts in various cities in Poland, Europe and Asia, including the National Philharmonic in Warsaw, the Tallinn Philharmonic in Estonia, the Polish Embassy in Vienna. He has performed many times at the Royal Baths Park or Zelazowa Wola. At the beginning of March 2022, he played 21 Chopin recitals in 7 days at the Polish pavilion at EXPO 2020 in Dubai, being also the youngest of the Polish pianists. He benefited from masterclasses with such eminent artists and pedagogues as Prof. Dang Thai Son, Prof. Arie Verdi, Prof. Nikolai Demidenko. He was a multiple recipient of scholarships from the National Children's Fund and the Minister of Culture and National Heritage.

Semifinal Round

SZYMANOWSKI from Masques Op. 34, No. 1 Sheherazade

CHOPIN Scherzo in B-flat minor, Op. 31.

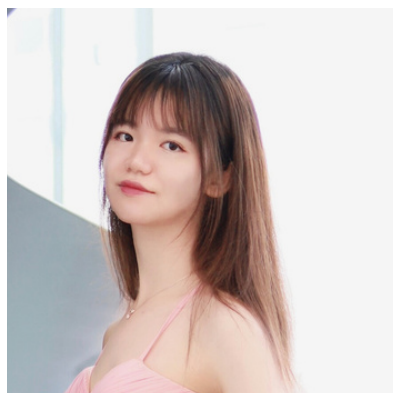
CHOPIN Mazurka in A minor, Op. 17 No. 4

CHOPIN Andante Spianato et Grande Polonaise, Op. 22.

SZYMANOWSKI Variations in B-flat minor, Op. 3

Final Round

CHOPIN Piano Concerto No. 1 in E-minor Op. 11



Victoria Wong, 26 United States/Canada

Named as one of “Canada’s Top 30 Under 30 Classical Musicians” by CBC (Canadian Broadcast Corporation), American-Canadian pianist Victoria Wong first made her orchestral debut at age five, and has since performed on tour with orchestras including the New Brunswick Symphony, Hong

Kong Symphonia, Canadian Sinfonietta, Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra, and Millersville Symphony Orchestra. She holds a Bachelors from New England Conservatory, and a Masters from The Juilliard School. Victoria is First Prize winner of Lancaster International Competition, EPTA International Competition, San Francisco International Competition, and the Canadian Music Competition. She is also a top prizewinner at the Canadian Chopin Competition, Orford Music Award, and the Russian Music International Competition. In 2021, she participated in the main stages of the 18th International Chopin Competition in Warsaw. She is often invited as guest artist to perform at festivals, including the 5th Shenzhen Piano Music Festival in China, Note in Citta Festival in Italy, and Westben Arts Festival and Mississauga Polish Festival in Canada. Victoria’s performances have been broadcasted by Canadian Broadcast Corporation, Radio Television Hong Kong, Guangdong TV in China, Polskie Radio (Polish Radio), and Sino TV in USA. She currently studies with Horacio Gutiérrez at Manhattan School of Music.

Semifinal Round

SZYMANOWSKI Prelude Op. 1 No. 1 and No. 8

CHOPIN Piano Sonata No. 2 in B-flat minor, Op. 35

CHOPIN Ballade No. 4 in F minor Op. 52

CHOPIN Scherzo No. 4 E major Op. 54

Final Round

CHOPIN Piano Concerto No. 1 in E-minor Op. 11



Angie Zhang, 27 United States

Hailed as "warmly expressive, sensitive, and polished" and "a valuable advocate for classical music" by NY Concert Review, American pianist Angie Zhang has concertized globally as a soloist and chamber musician professionally since age eight, and made her orchestra debut under GRAMMY-nominated conductor Niel DePonte to an audience of 3,000 people age ten.

In demand as both pianist and teacher, she has performed all over the USA and Canada, Poland, England, Germany, Italy, France, Austria, China, and the Dominican Republic. She has been a featured performer at the Kennedy Center, Metropolitan Club of D.C. and NYC, Harvard Club of NYC, LACMA, Aspen Art Museum, Lotos Club, Explorers Club, and others. Accepted into the Juilliard Pre-College division at age ten, she has since performed over 35 times with orchestras, conducted Mozart K.271 from the keyboard at Lincoln Center, and has appeared at major festivals including La Jolla Music Society, Aspen Music Festival, Bravo! Vail, Music Academy, Bowdoin, and Perlman Music Program. She was a top prize winner at the 2023 International Chopin Competition on Period Instruments in Warsaw and 2022 Honens International Piano Competition. She has also won the Juilliard Concerto Competition a record three times. Her expansive concerto, chamber, and solo repertoire has allowed her to step in for esteemed artists such as Abbey Simon and subscription concerts. In February 2024, she made her debut with the Ann Arbor Symphony playing Chopin Concerto No. 1. She received her BM and MM at The Juilliard School and is currently a doctoral candidate at the University of Michigan. Influential mentors include Yoheved Kaplinsky, Robert Levin, Joseph Kalichstein, Logan Skelton, Emanuel Ax, Jerome Lowenthal. Next season includes engagements with orchestras and recitals around the world including performances in Krakow and Żelazowa Wola. She has taught at the collegiate level for over ten years and was the youngest ever at Juilliard to teach in all three divisions. She will be Distinguished Guest Artist-Faculty at Krakow Piano Summer 2024.

Semifinal Round

SZYMANOWSKI Preludes Op. 1, No. 1 and No. 7

CHOPIN Ballade No. 1 in G minor Op. 23

CHOPIN Waltz in A-flat major, Op. 42

CHOPIN Sonata No. 3 in B minor, Op. 58

Final Round

CHOPIN Piano Concerto No. 1 in E-minor Op. 11

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 28

Opening Concert with 2022 First Prize Laureate Yun Chih Hsu at 7:00 PM

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 29

Semifinal Round Session 1

1:30 PM Contestant 1

2:30 PM Contestant 2

3:30 PM Contestant 3

4:30 PM Break

5:30 PM Contestant 4

6:30 PM Contestant 5

7:30 PM Contestant 6

FRIDAY MARCH 1

Semifinal Round Session 2

2:30 PM Contestant 7

3:30 PM Contestant 8

4:30 PM Contestant 9

SATURDAY MARCH 2 CHOPIN PIANO ACADEMY

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM Masterclasses with competition jury

SUNDAY MARCH 3

3:00 PM - 5:30 PM Final Concert Round with Members of
National Philharmonic and Maestro Piotr Gajewski

7:00 PM Awards Ceremony at the Residence of the Ambassador to Poland.

This event is invitation only.

**ALL COMPETITION EVENTS HELD AT ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH
4001 YUMA ST. NW WASHINGTON D.C. 20016**