

PRIZE GIVING AWARDS AND RECIPIENTS FOR CYSP 2016:

CATEGORY ONE: (6-9Y)

First Prize: Anastasia Lim (cello)

Second Prize: Jifei Shao (cello)

Third Prize Equal/shared: Emily Grant (violin) and Lianne Kim (violin)

All prize winners in this age group received lessons with members from the adjudicating panel before performing in the finals.

CATEGORY TWO: (10-13Y)

First Prize: Benedict Lim (violin)

Second Prize: Esther Lee (cello)

Third Prize: Esther Oh (violin)

CATEGORY THREE: (14-17)

First Prize: no prize given

Second Prize: no prize given

Third Prize: TaHee Kim (cello)

CATEGORY FOUR: (18-25)

First Prize: Shauno Isomura (violin)

Second Prize Equal: Sally Kim (cello) and Lauren Bennett (violin)

Third Prize: No third prize given

SPECIAL ADJUDICATORS AWARD:

Prize: Benedict Lim (violin)



THE PETTMAN NATIONAL JUNIOR ACADEMY *of Music*

2016



REPORT:

COMPETITION FOR YOUNG
STRING PLAYERS 2016

4-6th March 2016

University of Auckland School of Music Theatre

REPORT ON THE COMPETITION FOR YOUNG STRING PLAYERS 2016

The Pettman National Junior Academy of Music is currently celebrating its 10th year anniversary of providing support towards young musicians around New Zealand, all courtesy to the generous support of Professor Barrie and Maureen Pettman. To help mark the special anniversary, the academy held its very first annual Auckland 'Competition for Young String Players' (CYSP). This competition has been held instead of the annual Special Scholarship auditions. It's slightly different than the auditions were, much more competitive, in age groups and with substantial amounts of repertoire that needed to be prepared.



We thought, that after 10 years of excellent education, we could risk moving towards a real competition.

The competition was held between Friday the 4th and Sunday the 6th March 2016 at the University of Auckland School of Music Theatre and was open to violinists, violists and cellists from within New Zealand. The adjudicators included

guest international artist Ramon Jaffé (Professor for cello at the Carl Maria von Weber Hochschule in Dresden and the artistic Director of the Hopfgarten Chamber Music Festival) Professor Martin Rummel (Head of the School of Music; University of Auckland); Wolfgang Kraemer (Director of the Pettman National Junior Academy); Edith Salzmann (Artistic Director of the PNJA); and Stephen Larsen (Head of violin of PNJA).

The competitors were split into four categories, according to their age group and performed round one across two days, with the finals and prize giving held on the final day. This was a very tightly packed weekend of students coming and going to sign on for their performance and handing in their scores for the adjudicators, then dashing off to the green room for their allocated warm up time, before being called upon to walk on stage and perform. All performers followed the structure very well, helping the event to run smoothly.

On **Friday the 4th March**, round one of category one began at 3pm (ages 6-9), followed by category two at 7pm (ages 10-13). At the completion of category two, all students had a meeting with Edith Salzmann, who discussed the overview of master classes and chamber music for 2016/2017.

On **Saturday the 5th March**, round one of category three began at 10am (ages 14-17), followed by category four at 3pm (ages 18 and over). The students and staff were then delighted to attend a concert in the evening with International artist Ramon Jaffe, as well as renowned artists Edith Salzmann and Rachel Fuller. After the concert, all students were notified of the selected finalists, which would be held throughout the following day, with two to four competitors taken from each category.

At 7pm, the competitors put their bows to rest and enjoyed an evening of a beautiful music from the concert 'Cellissimo!'. This concert was held in the school of Music and featured guest international cello artist Ramon Jaffé, German cellist Edith Salzmann and New Zealand pianist Rachel Fuller. The concert featured a stunning programme of the 'Cello Sonata No. 1 in e minor, Op. 38 for piano and cello' by Johannes Brahms (1833-1897); 'Duo for two cello in G major' by Jean Barriere; 'Two Flamencos for cello solo'; as well as 'Graciela y Buenos Aires' by José Bragato.

The concert attracted a large audience who enjoyed the spectrum of melodies, harmonies and rhythms from the programme which largely consisted of Latin American Music, a musical culture unfamiliar to most of the listeners. This therefore made the concert both inspiring and challenging for the audience, who were taken aback by the incredible standard of musicianship by the performers. The audience were then delighted to be welcomed by platters of food displayed in the foyer, which we had ordered from Dawson's Catering. This included breads and dips, Spanish Tapas and an assortment of fruit.

Amongst the audience members were the 28 musicians who competed in the first round of the CYSP competition across Friday and Saturday (this included a total of 19 violinists and 9 cellists). The students eagerly stayed behind in the theatre to be informed on the callbacks for the final rounds, to be held across Sunday. The list of finalists included for category one: Emily Grant (violin), Anastasia Lim (cello), Lianne Kim (violin) and Jifei Shao (cello); for category two: Benedict Lim (violin), Emily Carr (cello), Esther Oh (violin) and Esther Lee (cello); for category three: Ta-Hee Kim (cello) and Sophie Zheng (violin); for category four: Sally Kim (cello), Britta Balzat (violin), Lauren Bennett (violin) and Shauno Isomura (violin).

The concert came at a perfect time to inspire both the musicians moving forward in the competition, as well as those who's competing came to an end.

On **Sunday the 6th March**, the selected finalists competed within their categories, starting with category one at 10am, quickly followed by category two. After a short morning tea break (in which the adjudicators discussed their decisions over coffee), category three then began promptly at 11:30am, with category four directly after. By 2pm, the adjudicators had finished listening to the finalists and met all competitors for a brief announcement of the selected prize winners, which would perform once again in the evening, with selected works from their programmes.

The adjudicators then had a much deserved lunch break at a lovely café in Britomart called 'The Store'.

After the lunch break, the certificates were printed with the selected finalists' names and the evening's 'Prize Giving' programme was published. By 6pm, the finalists began to return and warm up in the green room.

At 7pm, the Prize Giving Concert was underway. We had a wonderful vibe from a near full house of a supportive audience, which even included a pleasant number of the performers who did not receive prizes. This showed some a true level of sportsmanship amongst the musicians, of all categories. We also decided to take a different approach for this concert, where the students stayed seated as long as possible to watch each other perform. We did this by having all student initially seated for the beginning of the concert, with all junior students (category one) standing to perform one after the other, after being individually introduced by Edith. This was a lovely moment where the older students gave a large supportive applause to the shy young students, to help encourage them along. The young students were especially gorgeous in their sparkly frilly dresses.

The older students from category two and above were given permission to leave two-three people before their time in the programme, to subtly go out into the green room to warm up, then return through the stage door entrance, as a slightly more formal approach. They would then return to their seats after performing.

At the end of the concert, the awards were presented by the adjudicators including Wolfgang Kraemer (director), Edith Salzmann (Artistic Director), Stephen Larsen (head of violin, PNJA) and Ramon Jaffe (professor of cello, Germany). International guest artist Ramon Jaffe gave comments on how impressed he was by the standard of the performances from the age categories and Edith explained how difficult it was to come to a decision for the final prizes, due to the high level of competitiveness amongst musicians (please see on the following page, the full list of the prize winners and recipients).



Amongst the many awards given out was the special 'Adjudicators Award', given to only one selected competitor which the panel felt stood out the most for the highest level of artistry. This award was given to Benedict Lim, which stood out to Ramon Jaffe as a remarkable young musician with outstanding technique and musicianship. Prior to his prize giving performance, Benedict received a lessons from Ramon, who was able to give him plenty of advice on his programme of gypsy style works, such as his finale piece 'Tzigane' (Hungarian Gypsy) by Maurice Ravel. This is due to Ramon's worldwide experience of being exposed to different musical styles from various cultures, amongst which he focused a great deal of his time on Gypsy and Spanish- style music.

The evening finished on a high note, with plenty of positive feedback. Amongst the gushing comments from teachers and supporters were many compliments towards Benedict Lim's outstanding level of performance.

After such a successful first time running the Competition for Young String Players, we look forward to the second annual competition in 2017.