



Eight winning tips

Prague (23 May 2023) – Concertino Praga 2023 now has its finalists.

In recent days, the two international juries have reached their decisions on the finalists for the 57th year of the Antonín Dvořák International Radio Competition for Young Musicians Concertino Praga, who will perform for the Prague public in September at the Convent of Saint Agnes and the Dvořák Hall of the Rudolfinum.

The organisers received a total of 36 competition recordings in the solo category. The Concertino Praga competition continues to use an exceptional approach where the competitors send in recordings that the jury then assesses anonymously. The jury members only know the instrument and the piece. Every jury member listens to the recordings individually and sends in their points evaluations independently of the opinions of the others. The jury members only learn the results at the final online meeting, when the competitors' performances are discussed.

This year's finalists are the pianist/flautist Fabian Johannes Egger (Germany), the violinist Margaryta Pochebut (Ukraine) and the pianists Denis Stefanov (the Czech Republic) and Adam Znamirovský (the Czech Republic).

Jan Vobořil, a horn player at the Czech Philharmonic, wrote the following in his comments about one of the finalists: *"An unbelievable performance. Unreal musicality and the ability to merge with the piano, understanding and coalescence with the unique nature of the instrument. Excellent rhythm, tone and interpretation of all the pieces."*

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The jury assessed recordings from 14 ensembles in the chamber category, of which the following ensembles received the most points for advancement to the final: Duo Comenius (the Czech Republic), Duo Jaklová-Mráček (the Czech Republic), Duo Matejčka-Schulmeister (the Czech Republic) and Trio Florestan (Germany).

Martin Kubik, a violinist with the Wiener Philharmoniker, wrote the following on the performance of one of the ensembles:

“In my opinion, the best of all the ensembles. A very difficult repertoire, almost flawless, absolutely the highest level. I had to listen to it twice, because it was so good!”

The other members of the jury for the first round of the Concertino Praga were, for example, Jan Mráček, Martin Kasík, Ondřej Roskovec, Karel Košárek, Karl-Heinz Schütz, Tamas Varga or Wolfgang Vladar.

Both public final concerts will take place under the auspices of the Dvořák Prague festival. Participation in the final jury has been promised, for example, by the Spanish cellist Pablo Ferrández, the British violinist and historical first laureate of Concertino Praga Dmitry Sitkovetsky, the British horn player Sarah Willis or the Israeli pianist Roman Rabinovich or members of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, Albena Danailova, the orchestra's concertmaster and Luc Mangholz, principal flautist. Also participating on the Jury will be the Czech pianist Ivo Kahánek.

The final in the solo category will take place on Saturday 16 September 2023 at the Rudolfinum accompanied by the Czech Radio Symphony Orchestra under the baton of

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Jan Kučera. The finalists in the chamber category will perform one day earlier on 15 September 2023 at the Convent of Saint Agnes.

The jury has already decided to award the Bohuslav Martinů Foundation Prize to Duo Matejčka-Schulmeister for the best performance of a work by that composer. The Viktor Kalabis and Zuzana Růžičková Foundation Prize for the best performance of a piece from the 20th or 21st century has been awarded to Matejčka-Schulmeister. The Karel Komárek Family Foundation Prize for the Czech participant who made the best impression in the first round has been awarded to Adam Znamirovský.

In conclusion, a quote from the pen of the conductor Marek Šedivý:

“The performance standard was very high. I listened to a number of the recordings with real joy. I wish all the competitors the best of luck in their careers and hope that they never lose their love of music.”

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