



THE CLIBURN

2019 CLIBURN JUNIOR COMPETITION ANNOUNCES FINALISTS

Contact:

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DALLAS, Texas, June 6, 2019—Alessio Bax, jury chairman of the **2019 Cliburn International Junior Piano Competition and Festival**, announced the three pianists advancing to the Final Round.

The finalists are (in performance order):

Eva Gevorgyan, Russia/Armenia, 15

Shuan Hern Lee, Australia, 16

JiWon Yang, South Korea, 17

FINAL ROUND SCHEDULE

Saturday, JUNE 8, 2019 at 2:30 PM CDT

- **Eva Gevorgyan**, Russia/Armenia, 15—RACHMANINOV Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, op. 43
 - **Shuan Hern Lee**, Australia, 16—RACHMANINOV Concerto No. 3 in D Minor, op. 30
- INTERMISSION
- **JiWon Yang**, South Korea, 17—TCHAIKOVSKY Concerto No. 1 in B-flat Minor, op. 23

AWARD CEREMONY at 6:00 PM CDT

Each of the six competitors performed both a 40-minute recital and one movement of a concerto in the Semifinal Round, which took place June 5–6. They performed live at Caruth Auditorium at SMU, before the seven-member jury and hundreds of patrons, as well as to a worldwide audience via the Competition's live, fully produced webcast. Views have now topped 350,000 across more than 100 countries. **All Competition performances can be watched on demand at [YouTube.com/thecliburn](https://www.youtube.com/thecliburn). The Final Round concert will be webcast live at Cliburn.org and on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com).**

In the Final Round, each of the three finalists will perform one complete concerto with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra conducted by Ruth Reinhardt at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center.

The winners of the 2019 Cliburn International Junior Piano Competition will be announced at the Awards Ceremony, which will be held at approximately 6:00 p.m. CDT on the Meyerson Symphony Center stage.

ABOUT THE 2019 JUNIOR COMPETITION AND FESTIVAL

The 2019 Cliburn International Junior Piano Competition and Festival was established in 2015 as another means for the Cliburn to use its standing and expertise to encourage tomorrow's great artists, to provide a valuable forum for them to express themselves, and to give them an entrance to the next step of their journeys. Key ingredients are top competitors, international jurors, worldwide media coverage and webcast, Final Round performances with orchestra, and festival atmosphere, which includes performance experience and artistic workshops—all put into place to make the program significantly useful for students with aspirations of being professional musicians.

QUICK FACTS

- **[MRS. LAURA BUSH, HONORARY CHAIRMAN](#)** The esteemed former First Lady—Dallas resident, proud SMU alumna, and longtime friend to Van Cliburn—continues her lifetime commitment to education on the highest level through this honorary association with the 2019 Cliburn Junior Competition.
- **[COMPETITION](#)** Four riveting rounds of Competition take place **May 31–June 8, 2019**: Preliminary Round (23 pianists each performing 20-minute recitals to include a virtuosic etude and one Bach Prelude and Fugue), Quarterfinal Round (14 pianists each performing a 30-minute recital to include one movement of a Classical sonata and one lyrical work), Semifinal Round (6 pianists each performing a 40-minute recital to include a work by a living composer and one substantial work of at least 18 minutes in length (phase one), and one concerto movement with piano accompaniment (phase two)) at SMU; and the Final Round (3 pianists each performing one complete concerto with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Ruth Reinhardt) in a stunning conclusion at the Meyerson followed by the Awards Ceremony directly after jury voting. **[TICKETS ON SALE NOW](#)**.
- **[INTERNATIONAL](#)** Applicants and competitors hail from all around the world. 2019 applications totaled 230, with pianists representing 32 countries, and the **[37 selected competitors and participants](#)** represent 13 countries. Widespread media coverage is expected; 2015 outreach resulted in over 100 stories in North America, Europe, and Asia with a potential reach of 83 million.
- **[ALESSIO BAX, JURY CHAIRMAN](#)** This remarkable pianist, winner of both the Leeds and Hamamatsu International Piano Competitions, and SMU artist-in-residence oversees an international jury, including: **Philippe Bianconi** (France), **Angela Cheng** (Canada), **Valery Kuleshov** (Russia), **Lowell Liebermann** (United States), **Aviram Reichert** (Israel), and **Uta Weyand** (Germany).
- **[SMU](#)** Meadows School of the Arts is a leader in developing innovative outreach and community engagement programs, challenging its students to make a difference locally and globally. The university serves as home to the 2019 Junior Competition, hosting most performances and festival events, and housing the competitors.
- **[DALLAS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA](#)** The largest performing arts organization in the Southwest, the DSO is committed to inspiring the broadest possible audience with distinctive classical programs and more. For the first time, the orchestra partners with the Cliburn to perform in the Final Round at the Meyerson Symphony Center under the baton of **Ruth Reinhardt**.

- **[PARTY BUS](#)** Cruise to the Cliburn Junior Finals in style! For patrons who live in Fort Worth and want to attend the Finals, we are offering a ticket package that includes a ticket to the Final Round concert and a round trip to the Meyerson Symphony Center from downtown Fort Worth on our Party Bus.
- **[WEBCAST](#)** Thousands of people around the globe will get to experience the thrill of the Cliburn Junior Competition from home as it unfolds in real-time online at [Cliburn.org](#), and on **Vimeo Live**, **YouTube Live**, and **Facebook Live**. The Cliburn Live webcast provides a professionally produced, multi-camera live stream experience, including interviews and behind-the-scenes features, as our webcast hosts provide insight and expertise for each performance. This year's webcast is hosted by Buddy Bray, Rachel Naomi Kudo (Preliminary & Quarterfinal Rounds), and Sean Chen (Semifinal & Final Rounds). Views for the first edition of the Cliburn Junior in 2015 topped 300,000, with over 1.7 million minutes watched across 170 countries.

THE PRIZES

The first-prize winner will receive a cash award of \$15,000; second prize is \$10,000; and third prize is \$5,000. All three top prizes will also include \$2,000 scholarships, and community residency and mentorship opportunities with the Cliburn.

ABOUT THE CLIBURN

The Cliburn advances classical piano music throughout the world. Its international competitions, education programs, and concert series embody an enduring commitment to artistic excellence and the discovery of new artists. Established in Fort Worth, Texas, in 1962, the quadrennial Van Cliburn International Piano Competition (sixteenth edition, May 27–June 12, 2021) remains the most visible expression of that mission and is, as always, committed to its original ideals of supporting and launching the careers of emerging artists, ages 18–30. It shares the transformative powers of music with a wide global audience, through fully-produced webcasts and by providing comprehensive career management and concert bookings to its winners. Rounding out its mission, the Cliburn also produces the Cliburn International Junior Piano Competition and Festival for exceptional 13- to 17-year-old pianists (second edition, May 31–June 8, 2019), and the Cliburn International Amateur Piano Competition for outstanding non-professional pianists age 35 and older (eighth edition, May 24–30, 2020).

Over a four-year cycle, the Cliburn contributes to North Texas' cultural landscape with over 170 classical music performances for 150,000 attendees, through competitions, free community concerts, and its signature Cliburn Concerts series at Bass Performance Hall, the Kimbell Art Museum Piano Pavilion, the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, and Scat Jazz Lounge. It presents 1,000 in-school, interactive music education programs for more than 200,000 area elementary students. During the same time period, it garners the world's attention with over five million visits from 170 nations for live concert and competition webcasts; 300 concerts worldwide booked for competition winners; more than 5,000 news articles about the Cliburn and its winners; and regular national radio broadcasts to 245 public radio stations. Detailed information about the Cliburn and its programs is available at [cliburn.org](#).

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