

PRESS RELEASE

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The Prague Spring Competition has its first ever winner in the viola category

The first ever winner of the Prague Spring International Music Competition in the viola category was the Frenchman **Sào Soulez Larivière**. The second place went to **Kyungsik Shin** from the Republic of Korea. The third finalist, **Eric Seohyun Moon** from the Republic of Korea, was not evaluated by the jury in accordance with the rules of the competition because he did not meet the requirement of performing the Ligeti Sonata by heart. The third prize was therefore not awarded.

The results were announced by the jury late on Saturday evening in Prague's Rudolfinum, which was the venue of the final. All three competitors played for the jury and the audience a selection from *György Ligeti's Sonata for solo viola* and, accompanied by the Hradec Králové Philharmonic and conductor Robert Kružík, *Bohuslav Martinů's Rhapsody-Concerto for Viola and Orchestra*.

"Music is the individual expression of each artist. The subjectivity of music judging and the objectivity of competition can be seemingly at odds. As we're at a music competition, we have to deal with this contradiction. It took a lot of effort to set the rules, to decide on the programme and, of course, to discuss the performances of the candidates in a competition that is as artistically free and fair as possible. It was not an easy task but it was a wonderful challenge. Although I am the chairman of the jury, I consider us to be one team with open discussion and the ability to listen to each other. The opinion of all the jury members was important because everyone comes with a different experience. We kept this in mind when deciding together," said jury president **Antoine Tamestit** (France) at the awards ceremony). Other members of the international jury were violists Kristina Fialová (Czech Republic), Cynthia Phelps (USA), Tabea Zimmermann (Germany), Garth Knox (Ireland), Pavel Nikl (Czech Republic) and Lars Anders Tomter (Norway).

"A music competition cannot be a race where the finish line determines who finishes first. It's more important to see new perspectives, to learn and to communicate. I am proud that the task of our excellent jury did not end with just awarding points but that they shared their insights and experiences with the contestants. This is evidenced by the fact that



there was such interest in the masterclasses and meeting the non-advancing candidates,” said **Pavel Trojan**, the director of the Prague Spring Festival.

Seventy-eight young people from all over the world applied for the viola category of the 74th Prague Spring International Music Competition, and 31 of them traveled to Prague based on the listening preliminary round. On Sunday 14 May 2023 the competition continues with the final round in the trombone category. It starts at 6 p.m. in the Municipal House and will be broadcast live on the Prague Spring YouTube channel: youtube.com/live/jXzICNb5dIlg. The results will be announced after 10pm.

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Photographs of the Prague Spring 2023 concerts are available here:
https://bit.ly/PJ2023_foto

Photographs from the festival concerts can be found [here](#).