



*MÁRIA HEMERKOVÁ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OF ARTS
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XV. edition of Peter Toperczer International Piano Competition in Košice 2017

Peter Toperczer International Piano Competition in Košice, which this year celebrates 24th anniversary since it was established in 1993, has successfully finished the jubilee XV. edition. Its promulgator is the **Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic** and its organizer is **Mária Hemerková elementary School of arts** seated in Hlavná 68 in Košice. It is the only international competition for young pianists under 17 in Slovakia which is held in four age categories – under 11, under 13, under 15 and under 17 years of age in two rounds. The competition is organized under auspices of the Mayor of the city of Košice, MUDr. Richard Raši, PhD., MPH.

In 1998 at the general assembly in Oslo the competition was admitted to the European Union of Music Competitions for Youth (EMCY), which has promoted its reputation due to the fact that each of its members has to fulfill demanding criteria for international competitions.

XV. edition of International Piano Competition Košice 2017 was held between 28 April and 1 May 2017 at the concert hall of Mária Hemerková Elementary School of Arts /1. and 4. category/ and in the Great Studio of Slovak Radio and Television in Košice /2. and 3. category/.

The competition featured 44 children from 15 countries of Europe and Asia (Czech Republic, Republic of Korea, Lithuania, Macedonia, Hungary, Poland, Portugal, Austria, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine and United Kingdom) who were judged by 10 members of the international judges panel made up of renowned piano artists and pedagogues in this composition: Alena Vlasáková – Czech Republic /jury chairperson for 1. and 4. category/, Peter Toperczer – Czech Republic /artistic director of the competition/, for his sudden illness and absence the jury chairperson for 2. and 3. category was Mária Dravecká – Slovakia, Viktorija Hanžlíková Kraf – Russia, Melánia Hermanová - Slovakia, Artur Jaroń – Poland, Jan Jiraský – Czech Republic, Marian Sobula – Poland, Mária Dravecká – Slovakia, Éva Csipkay - Hungary, Vencislava Ilievska – Bulgaria.

Slovak Radio and Television has been the main media partner and co-organizer of International Piano Competition Košice during all editions of the competition.

In the first round contestants play compositions from the period of Baroque and Romanticism, in the second round compositions from the period of Classicism and 20th or 21st century within the prescribed number of minutes for each age category. Playing by memory is a condition.

In the 1st category won 10-year-old **Ryan Martin Bradshaw** who has got dual citizenship (Slovak and Australian) but studies at University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna in the class for particularly talented children under 15, in the second place finished **Ildikó Rozsonits from Hungary**, in the third place finished **Ko Hyun Seo from Korea**, in the fourth place finished **Marcelina Malgorzata Pietruszka from Poland**, and in the fifth place it was **Maja Walusińska from Poland**, who was the youngest competition participant /9 years/.

The winner of the 2nd category was **Anastasiia Kliuchereva from Russia**, in the second place finished **Radek Bagar from Czech Republic**, in the third place finished **Pavol Bohdan Zápotočný from Slovakia**, the fourth place went to **Julita Emilia Niedzielska from Poland**, and the fifth place went to **Maria Normantaite from Lithuania**.

The winner of the 3rd category was **Tellian Kiron Atom from Austria**, a great talent with outstanding music presentation, the second place went to **Jan Čmejla from Czech Republic**, the third place went to **Ören Idil from Turkey**, in the fourth place finished **Kristionas Megelinskas from Lithuania**, and in the fifth place finished **Lena Emilia Michjłow from Poland**.

In the 4th category won **Lee Geonhee Korea/Austria** and the jury labelled him as a genius talent, in the second place finished **Pavol Praženica from Czech Republic**, the third place went to **Ugne Grinkevičiute from Lithuania**, the fourth place went to **Kamila Wawreńczyk from Poland**, and the fifth place went to **Filip Martinka from Czech Republic**.

Due to extraordinarily high level of the competition the jury decided to award the title Laureate of the Competition to two contestants - **Tellian Kiron Atom – Austria** and **Lee Geonhee Korea/Austria**.

PRIZES awarded at XV. edition of PT IPC 2017

Financial rewards: 1.-5. place in all categories

SPECIAL PRIZES

Slovak Music Fund – diploma + financial reward 100,- €

Pavol Bohdan Zápotočný – 3. place in 2. category (Martin, Slovakia) for the best interpretation of the current Slovak composition – Ivan Parík: Tri klavírne skladby – Tanec, Intermezzo, Unisono

pedagogue: Karla Kočálková

Cena EMCY – diplom

Tellian Kiron Atom (Vienna, Austria) – 1. place in 3. category (Vienna, Austria) – Laureate of the Competition

pedagogue: Alma Sauer

Prize of the Mayor of Košice – gift prize

for the most successful Slovak contestant – Pavol Bohdan Zápotočný (Martin, Slovakia)

3. place in 2. category

pedagogue: Karla Kočálková

Prize of State Philharmonic Košice – concert with the State Philharmonic Košice

Geonhee Lee – 1. place in 4. category (Vienna, Austria - Korea) – Laureate of the competition

pedagogue: Vladimir Kharin

Prize of Marian Sobula – participation in a piano course within music courses Master and Students in Poland **Ryan Martin Bradshaw – 1. place in 1. category (Vienna, Austria - Bratislava, Slovakia)**

pedagogue: Vladimir Kharin

Prize of the Mayor of city ward MČ Košice Ťahanovce – gift prize

Adam Zakrzewski – 6. place in 2. category (Warsaw, Poland)

pedagogue: Justyna Galant-Wojciechowska

Prize of the Rizman family – gift prize

for the youngest contestant: **Maja Walusińska – 1. category, 9 years (Kielce, Poland)**

pedagogue: Jolanta Jaroń

The accompanying event of Peter Toperczer International Piano Competition Košice 2017 was the Concert of the Laureate of X. edition of the competition in 2007, **Nikita Volov from Russia**, who is currently studying in Berlin. According to his statement it was this Peter Toperczer International Piano Competition where he won EMCY prize that had helped him to move to world concert stages. Compositions by A. Scriabin and F. Liszt could be enjoyed at the concert.

A great finale of Peter Toperczer International Piano Competition Košice was the Concert of Winners of XV. edition of the competition and the prize award ceremony for both contestants and their pedagogues held in the Palace of Art.

A lot of gratitude goes to all sponsors, donors and contributors who had helped organiser to prepare the competition complying with international standards.

Peter Toperczer International Piano Competition Košice 2017 once again managed to keep a high professional level, with highly positive feedback and response from professionals as well as the wide public. During 24 years of existence of this competition Košice has been visited by contestants and pedagogues from as many as 33 different countries.

According to the international jury, Peter Toperczer International Piano Competition Košice is ranked among top European competitions in terms of brilliant performances by young talented pianists and also in connection with high level of organisation of the competition and its smooth course. Particularly heart-warming was participation of four Slovak pianists in this challenging competition and top finish of two of them.

Peter Toperczer International Piano Competition Košice receives extraordinary feedback from professional as well as the general public, helps to promote the city of Košice and Slovakia in foreign countries and brings huge artistic potential to the city, as well as contacts and friendships. It deservedly belongs among most significant competitions in Slovakia and in Europe.

In Košice on 4 May 2017

Jana Fričová
Director of Mária Hemerková
Elementary School of Arts
Chairperson of Committee of PT IPC KE