

## **XIV. Edition of Peter Toperczer International Piano Competition Košice 2015**

Peter Toperczer International Piano Competition Košice, which celebrates the 22nd anniversary this year since its establishment (1993), has successfully entered its XIV. edition. Its promulgator is the **Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic** and the organiser is **Mária Hemerková Elementary School of the Arts** seated in 68 Hlavná street in Košice. It is the only international competition for young pianists under 17 years of age (XIII. edition saw the introduction of the 4th, under-17 age category) in Slovakia which is held in four age categories – under 11, 13, 15 and under 17 years of age in two rounds, again under the auspices of the Mayor of Košice - MUDr. Richard Raši, PhD., MPH.

**XIV. edition of Peter Toperczer International Piano Competition Košice 2015 was held during 23-26 April 2015** in the concert hall of Mária Hemerková Elementary School of the Arts /1. and 2. category/ and in a Great Studio of Slovak Radio and Television /3. and 4. category/.

In the competition contested 52 children from 15 countries of Europe and Asia (Belarus, Bulgaria, China, Croatia, Lithuania, Hungary, Germany, Poland, Austria, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Italy, Ukraine, Great Britain), judged by 10 members of the international jury composed of renowned piano artists and pedagogues, namely: Alena Vlasáková – Czech Republic /head of jury for 1. and 2. category/, Peter Toperczer – Czech Republic /artistic director of the competition/, Viktorija Hanžlíková Kraf – Russia, Melánia Hermanová - Slovakia, Mayuko Takine – Japan, René Adámek – Czech Republic /head of jury for 3. and 4. category/, Marian Sobula – Poland, Mária Dravecká – Slovakia, Éva Csipkay - Hungary, Venceslava Ilievska – Bulgaria.

The main media partner and a co-organiser of the International Piano Competition Košice has been, throughout all editions, Slovak Radio and Television.

In the first round all contestants play compositions from the period of barocco and romanticism, in the second round compositions from the period of classicism and the 20th and 21th century, within a minutage depending on the respective age category. Playing by heart is a requirement.

In the 1st category won an 10-year-old **Roman Andriyovich Fedyrko from Ukraine**, the second place went to **Una Miljuš from Serbia**, in the third place finished **Alessandro Dipaola from Italy**, the fourth place went to **Matsvei Liapich from Belarus**, the fifth place to **Ilinka Dimitrova Petrova from Bulgaria**. Honorable mentions were awarded to **Alexander Adam Blaželonis from Poland**, **Ilyya Oleksandrovich Kalashnikov from Ukraine**, **Natalia Monika Maj from Poland** and **Nikol Alegavna Rogatnikova from Belarus**.

The winner of the second category became **Riccardo Martinelli from Italy**, in the second place finished **Valeriya Aleksandrova Vasilenko from Bulgaria**, in the third place finished **Dávid Fančovič from Slovakia**, the fourth place went to **Sergej Cavič from Serbia**, the fifth place to **Viktor Nikolajevič Stefanenko from Belarus**. Honorable mentions were awarded to **Piotr Lukasz Orlow from Poland**, **Vaiva Mitkutė from Lithuania**, **Anastasia Aliksandravna Petushkova from Belarus** and **Júlia Bakos from Hungary**.

In the third category won **Alexa Jankovič from Serbia**, in the second place finished **Angelina Andreevna Kuznetcova from Russia**, in the third place finished **Stanislau Hrynkevich from Belarus**, and in the fourth place finished **Kasparas Mikužis from**

**Lithuania**, in the fifth place it was **Emily Vanessa Hermann from Germany**. Honorable mention was awarded to **Sani Magnus Kuhn from Germany**.

In the 4th category won **Huang Jingzi China/Austria** who became an absolute winner of the competition and is considered by the jury to be a genius and an amazing talent, compared to Marta Argerich, Krystian Zimerman or Jevgenij Kissin at the time of their beginnings, in the second place finished **Marvin Pechcer from Germany**, the third place went to **Balázs Fazekas from Slovakia/Košice**, the fourth place went to **Velimir Vladimirov Kiosev from Bulgaria**, the fifth place to **Malgorzata Sylvia Kruczek from Poland**.

Financial rewards and material prizes went to top three places in each category, contestants in fourth and fifth places in each category received material prizes.

Additional awards:

- The prize of the director of State Philharmonic Košice was received by **Riccardo Martinelli from Italy**,
- The prize of Music Fund for the best rendition of the current Slovak composition /Eugen Suchoň: Muzikanti s gajdošom from a cycle Preletel sokol was received by **Dávid Fančovič from Slovakia /Bratislava/**. He also played this composition at the Concert of Winners.
- The prize of Marian Sobula – participation in a piano course within music courses – Master and students, was received by **Alexa Jankovič from Serbia**,
- The prize of the Mayor of Košice, for the best Slovak contestant was received by **Balázs Fazekas from Slovakia /Košice/**,
- The prize of the Mayor of Košice, for the youngest contestant was received by **Stella Mária Bachledová from Slovakia /Bratislava/**,
- The prize of Petrof company – visit and excursion at Petrof company with the chance to play on concert grand pianos was received by **Balázs Fazekas, Dorota Molčanová and Dávid Fančovič from Slovakia /Košice, Bratislava/**.

Contestants who will be supported in the future by the European Union of Music Competitions for Youth – EMCY – are **Balázs Fazekas Slovakia, Marvin Pechcer Germany, Alexa Jankovič Serbia, Angelina Andrejevna Kuznetcova Russia** and the winner of EMCY prize **Huang Jingzi China/Austria**.

The accompanying event of Peter Toperczer International Piano Competition Košice was the Concert of the Laureate of X. edition of the competition in 2007 **Bára Valentová Handzušová from the Czech Republic**. At the concert also performed the orchestra of Mária Hemerková Elementary School of the Arts – **Musica Iuvenalis**, under the baton of **Mgr. art. Igor Dohovič, PhD**. The concert comprised works by L. van Beethoven, F. Chopin, J. Sibelius and B. Britten.

A great finale of Peter Toperczer International Piano Competition Košice was the Concert of Winners of XIV. edition of the competition and the prize award ceremony 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 2015 once again managed to keep a high professional level, with highly positive feedback and response from professionals as well as the wide public. During 22 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.

Jana Fričová  
Director of Mária Hemerková  
Elementary School of the Arts,  
head of technical committee of PTIPC