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Department of Piano

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WELCOME TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PIANO

Recording of the concert exam of Teodora Oprisor, Artistic Song Interpretation (class of Prof. Thomas Steinhöfel)

Ádám Zsolt Szokolay Wins Prestigious 1st Prize at the Bartók Piano Competition in Budapest



Ádám Zsolt Szokolay | Photo: Andrea Felvegi

Recently, Ádám Zsolt Szokolay won 1st prize at the International Bartók Piano Competition 2019 as part of the “Bartók World Competition and Festival” in Budapest. The **30,000 Euro 1st Prize** is one of the world’s most lucrative competition prizes. It was a particular pleasure for the 23-year-old Hungarian bachelor student, from Prof. Grigory Gruzman’s piano class, to be able to earn this renown prize in his city of birth.

“The International Bartók Competition is equivalent to the Chopin Competition in Warsaw, the Hamamatsu

Competition in Japan, or the Queen Elizabeth Competition in Brussels, in terms of renown and level. World class!" says Szokolay's teacher **Prof. Grigory Gruzman** excitedly.

After the video preliminaries, the nine-person international jury invited a total of 28 participants to Budapest from all over the world. Participants played for the prize at the Franz-Liszt Music Academy in Budapest over **four judging rounds** between the 8th and the 15th of September. Ádám Zsolt Szokolay performed works by Joseph Haydn, Béla Bartók, Franz Liszt and Claude Debussy - and in the finals, Bartók's Piano Concerto No. 1 with the Hungarian Philharmonic Orchestra under the direction of Zsolt Hamar.

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