



University of Music FRANZ LISZT Weimar
International LOUIS SPOHR Competition for Young
Violinists

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PRIZE WINNERS 2010

CATEGORY I (UP TO 14 YEARS OLD)

- ▶ 1st Prize: Noa Wildschut (Hilversum/The Netherlands)



At the age of nine, Noa Wildschut was one of the youngest participants of the competition. She received her first violin lessons at the age of four. This young Dutch student of the Conservatory of Amsterdam has been the soloist of the string ensemble „The Fancy Fiddlers“ since 2006. She played her first Vivaldi concert at the age of five and has performed in the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam. Noa Wildschut received a scholarship of the „VandenEnde Foundation“ in 2009.

Contact: a.wildschut@chello.nl

- ▶ 1st Prize: Stephen Waarts (Los Altos/CA, USA)



Stephen Waarts received his first violin lessons at the age of five. The 14-year-old has a scholarship at the San Francisco Conservatory where he studies violin and composition. Stephen Waarts has won many first prizes at national and international competitions for young musicians and is a member of the programme „Rising Stars of California with Lara Downes“. He has participated in master classes with Itzhak Perlman, Philip Setzer and Midori.

Contact: [stephenwaartsviolin\(at\)mac.com](mailto:stephenwaartsviolin(at)mac.com)
www.stephenwaarts.com

► 2nd Prize: Kanon Kobayashi (Tokyo/Japan)



Kanon Kobayashi was born in 1997 and received her first violin lessons at the age of six at the Toho Gakuen School of Music. Four years later she achieved success at international competitions in Italy and Japan. Since then she has performed worldwide, including the Carnegie Hall in New York. The young violonist has taken part in several master classes, among other with Igor Ozim, Zakhal Bron and Akiko Tatsumi.

► 3rd Prize: Yoo Jin Hong (Seoul/South Korea)



Yoo Jin Hong is studying in her home country Korea at the Korean National University of Arts. At the age of thirteen, she can look back at participation in many competitions. Her latest success is the first prize at the Moscow International David Oistrakh Violin Competition 2010. Yoo Jin has performed as soloist amongst others with the Kammerphilharmonie dacapo in München, the Orchestra e Coro del 700 Italiano in Italy as well as the Goro Art Valley Orchestra in Korea.

CATEGORY II (15 - 17 YEARS OLD)

- ▶ 1st Prize: Kenneth Renshaw (San Francisco/USA)



The 16-year-old Kenneth Renshaw is the concert master of the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra since 2008 and already played under the baton of Michael Tilson Thomas, Itzhak Perlman and Sir Simon Rattle. He has performed in many concert halls in California, including the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles. Kenneth Renshaw is a scholarship holder for violin at the San Francisco. At the age of eight he already performed in the Carnegie Hall as a member of the „Villa Sinfonia“.

- ▶ 2nd Prize: Milan Al-Ashhab (Most/Czech Republic)



Milan Al-Ashhab received his first violin lessons at the age of five and is currently a student at the Conservatory in Teplice. His talent was already recognisable in many competitions: he won the first prize at the International Telemann Competition in Poznan in 2007 as well as as the International Kocian Violin Competition in Usti in 2006. In 2008/09 he played as soloist with the Europera Youth Orchestra on a concert tour through the Czech Republic and Europe. He has been the concert master of this orchestra since 2009.

- ▶ 3rd Prize: Kyoko Ogawa (Tokio/Japan)



Kyoko Ogawa is studying at the Toho Gakuen Music High School in Tokyo under Prof. Akiko Tatsumi. The 17-year-old violonist has many successful competitions behind her. In 2007 she was one of the prize winners of the first category at the Spohr Competition. In 2005 she won the first prize as well as many special awards at the All Japan Student Music Competition. One year later she performed as soloist in a concert with the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra.

Contact: [kyocongrazia_717\(at\)yahoo.co.jp](mailto:kyocongrazia_717@yahoo.co.jp)

CATEGORY III (18 - 21 YEARS OLD)

- ▶ 1st Prize: Marie-Christine Klettner (Goldegg/Austria)



Marie-Christine Klettner is a student at the Mozarteum in Salzburg since 2005. At the age of six she received her first violin lessons and made her debut as a soloist at the age of eleven. The 18-year-old has already performed with the Junge Philharmonie Salzburg and the Halleiner Kammerorchester. Furthermore she has gathered international concert experience with performances in Italy, France and the USA. At the last Spohr competition in 2007 Marie-Christine Klettner reached the final round.

Contact: [marie.christine.klettner\(at\)sbg.at](mailto:marie.christine.klettner@sbg.at)

- ▶ 2nd Prize: Min-Kyung Sul (Seoul/South-Korea)



The violinist Min-Kyung Sul is currently studying at the Korean National University of Arts. Although she is only 19 years old, she has already won six first prizes at competitions in her home country Korea. In addition, she was a finalist of the Yehudi Menuhin International Violin Competition in 2005 and won the first prize at the All Japan Art International Competition in 2010. Min-Kyung Sul performed as soloist with the Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra as well as the Kangnam Symphony Orchestra.

Contact: [sulkim90\(at\)hanmail.net](mailto:sulkim90@hanmail.net)

► 3rd Prize: Shiori Terauchi (Tokio/Japan)



Shiori Terauchi is currently enrolled at the Toho Gakuen School of Music where she is studying under Akiko Tatsumi among others. Additionally, she also studies baroque violin and is an active chamber musician. The 20-year-old has had many successes at several national and international competitions. She has won the third prize as well as the audience award at the seventh Tokyo Music Competition. At the seventh International Violin Competition Leopold Mozart in 2009 in Augsburg, she received a special award for the best interpretation of a contemporary work.

► Special awards

Stephen Waarts

- Special award for the best interpretation of a romantic concerto, donated by the violin maker Brückner & Brückner, Erfurt Kenneth Renshaw
- Special award for the best interpretation of a violin concerto by W. A. Mozart, donated by Jürgen Schumacher, Erfurt
- Special award for the best interpretation of a Beethoven sonata, donated by master luthier Matthias Cressin and Christiane Helmreich, Musikhaus 19, Weimar Milan Al-Ashhab
- Special award for the best interpretation of a virtuoso work, donated by violin maker Burghard Göllner, Meiningen, and the bow-maker Dana Zakowsky, Weimar Marie-Christine Klettner

- Special award for the best interpretation of a work by J. S. Bach, donated by the Friends and Supporters of the LISZT SCHOOL of Music Weimar and the LISZT FOUNDATION WEIMAR Yurina Otsuka
- Scholarship for the participation at the Weimar Master Classes 2011 Fuga Miwatashi
- Special award for the best interpretation of the contemporary work, donated by the LISZT FOUNDATION WEIMAR The additional first prize (category I) was donated by Ulrich Bergmann and the LISZT FOUNDATION WEIMAR