



PRESS RELEASE

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The power of online music competitions A competition that stands out from the rest

International Cochran Piano Competition is the first international online piano competition, which changes the social perspective on the process of organization of similar events. In 2021 the 5th, jubilee edition will take place. The registration begins on 3rd September 2020.

In the recent weeks (due to the coronavirus situation) the majority of cultural institutions have shifted their activity to the Internet, giving their audiences an opportunity to participate in the fast-paced life of the world of art. It undoubtedly poses a significant breakthrough in the classical music environment. Yet many artists, especially musicians, rise questions about the future of their career, which is very often dependent on their participation in prestigious, international piano competitions. Unfortunately the arrangement of such events has come close to an impossibility, given the current circumstances. Many organizers of musical contests wonder whether it is feasible to conduct their competition via Internet, while maintaining its high, international standard.

International Cochran Piano Competition is an answer to this significant question. Since its establishment in 2015, this contest has been made possible through the usage of new technologies. For years, the organizers of this one-of-a-kind competition have been fighting the prejudices against the Internet, which exist in the world of music. Every organizational stage of International Cochran Piano Competition takes place online, starting from the process of registration of the participants and ending on the determination of the winner and the laureates. All previous editions of the contest have been organized thanks to the commitment of unique professionals who constitute the jury, which (with the use of new technologies) influences the course of the final phase of the competition. Through the years, the jury of International Cochran Piano Competition has consisted of many important music personalities, such as Krzysztof Jabłoński and Kevin Kenner, who will sit in the board of the upcoming Chopin Competition.

"I must say that the possibility of returning to every performance is a fantastic advantage of this system (but it is also a challenge, since it requires you to spend much more time on analyzing every performance than in a traditional live competition, where you get to hear a single presentation only one time). Yet finally it gives you much bigger chances of getting rid of any possible doubts."

Krzysztof Jabłoński

The registration for the newest, jubilee edition of the International Cochran Piano Competition will begin on 3rd September 2020 and last until 30th November 2020, yet it is already possible to look into the required repertoire. Future contestants are obliged to prepare a performance programme consisting of pieces composed by Julian Cochran (after whom the Competition is named) and pieces of their choice. Then they are required to submit their performances in the form of video recordings. To take part in the competition, one must be over 18 years old, yet the contest does not impose neither any age limit, nor any geographical barriers – all pianists from every corner of the World are welcome to register. There is also no obligation to learn the programme by heart, thus the competition's formula is favorable to every potential participant. The only cost that the entrants must cover is the registration fee. In exchange, the pianists receive full, printed versions of Julian Cochran's music scores of their choice.

The winner of the competition will receive a high-class grand piano. Among the awards dedicated to the laureates are: the opportunity of creating a professional CD recording and participation in the Warsaw Residency – a fully funded stay in the capital of Poland with an organized mentoring programme. The combined worth of the awards is €65,000.

International Cochran Piano Competition is a one-of-a-kind contest not only because of its unique formula, but also thanks to its creators, who through their love and passion for the classical music would like to tie it with modern ideals and highlight the importance of such issues as ecology, accessibility and equality in the artistic environment. The main premise and purpose of the competition is to search and discover new, unknown talents. It is possible because of the usage of the Internet-based formula, which is easily accessible for every person, regardless of one's background and dwelling place.

Stages of the International Cochran Piano Competition:

1. The registration: from 3rd September 2020 to 30th November 2020
2. The deadline for uploading the performance recordings: 30th April 2021
3. The announcement of the laureates and the winner of the competition: 20th June 2021

Julian Cochran

Julian Cochran (born 1974) is an Australian pianist, composer and mathematician. Since a young age he has shown incredible musical sensibility, which inspired his first attempts to play various instruments and allowed him to attend piano classes. At the age of 14 he was granted a scholarship in the Elder Conservatory of Music in Adelaide. His numerous talents came through his passion for experimenting and self-development – not only in composing, but also in programming. Cochran's pieces refer to the spirit

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of musical traditions which are characteristic of Liszt's, Balakirev's, Ravel's and Prokofiev's works. He also finds inspiration in the folklore of Central and Eastern Europe. Julian Cochran's music is played all around the world from Carnegie Hall to Het Concertgebouw Amsterdam and the Saint Petersburg Philharmonia, thus his works don't cease to inspire a visibly growing number of pianists and musicians.

Julian Cochran Foundation

The International Cochran Piano Competition has started as an initiative of the Julian Cochran Foundation – an independent organization created by enthusiasts of classical music with an enormous experience in managing big cultural events. It focuses on making a change in the common perception of the world of classical music through welcoming modern technologies into it and searching for new solutions, which could facilitate the process of creating art. If you want to learn more about the Julian Cochran Foundation visit its website: www.juliancochranfoundation.com

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